

Our Sunday Visitor

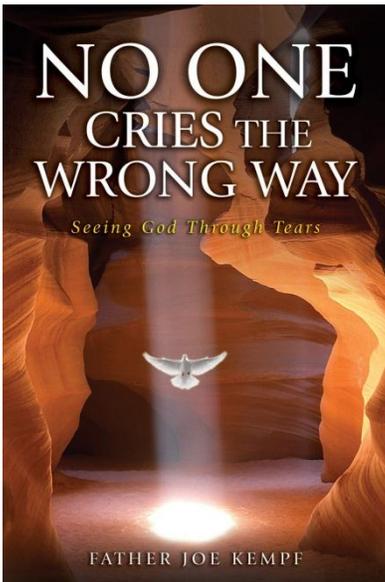
Centennial Celebration 1912-2012

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Helping young and old navigate storms of grief and loss

HUNTINGTON, Indiana, May 7, 2012 – When people are blindsided by devastation, they can become paralyzed by grief and feelings of grave loss.



A Missouri parish priest has written twin strategies for coping with grief and loss – one for adults, the other for children – that coach the broken-hearted and vulnerable through the toughest times in their lives. Because he had wrestled with his own unexplainable loss, Fr. Joe Kempf felt compelled to crystallize the help he knew people needed to survive.

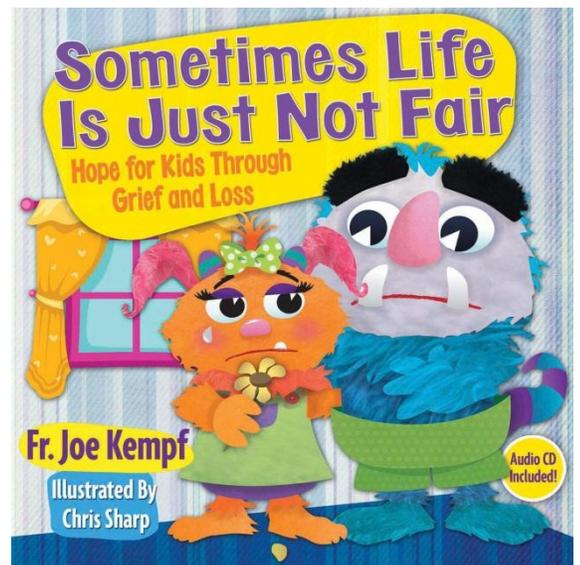
Both just released by Our Sunday Visitor, **No One Cries the Wrong Way: Seeing God Through Tears** (2012, paperback, 102 pp) and **Sometimes Life Is Just Not Fair: Hope for Kids Through Grief and Loss** (2012, hardback, 64 pp), Fr. Kempf's books accomplish essentially the same thing for each age-group – they bolster the grieving following heartbreak and desolation, and show readers how to tap the invaluable support and love of God to find their way again.

Grief and loss can occur following death, but also as result of illness and decline, estrangement, misunderstanding. Or they can follow job loss, financial stress, isolation, disappointment, moving to a strange area, collapse of a marriage, difficulty with children, betrayal, or sudden calamity or disability.

“After a good friend of mine died suddenly while we were in college,” says Fr. Kempf, “suddenly I wondered about God. Where was He in this senseless event, in a world filled with so much loss and pain? Now, after 21 years as a priest, those questions are still just as real to me. And my own struggle to understand suffering and loss continues to lead me to the humble beauty and security of God.”

In his books, Fr. Kempf offers simple glimpses into the great questions of “why” and “how” of suffering and loss, whether God is present in any of it, and helps readers understand that they never stand alone without hope or a renewed path.

No One Cries the Wrong Way clarifies the meaning of suffering for adults, typical reactions to grief and why they're necessary, and strategies for relearning how to live in a vastly changed world. The book likewise helps readers ponder



mortality, understand death as a “birth” into new life, and implement practical and spiritual transitions for both the griever and loved one. The book includes a prayer service for each chapter-topic, scriptural and other quotes for meditation, and concludes with a guided prayer for times of grief.

Children are the forgotten mourners, says Fr. Kempf.

Because there are few grief-coping resources for them, **Sometimes Life Is Just Not Fair** meets struggling youngsters in their grief. It is a splendidly illustrated book, featuring Fr. Joe and his furry fictional friends, Big Al and Annie, which helps kids tackle tough issues, grapple with the question of suffering, and find renewed hope in the midst of anguish.

“This book addresses the tears in the heart of a child — whatever our ages,” says Fr. Kempf.

It shows kids where suffering occurred in the Bible and how Jesus Christ and others handled it, gives them real-life issues to identify with, and includes a section for parents and teachers for helping children. A CD is included which is comprised of 12 prayers recited by children, and a song of farewell to a loved one, “Beyond What You Can See,” to offer children a bit of hope in the heartache of ‘goodbye.’

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York says this about Fr. Kempf’s books: “Fr. Kempf, with grace and sensitivity, helps us learn what to say – and do – in moments when people long for a word of hope and consolation.”

The world’s largest English-language Catholic publisher, Our Sunday Visitor serves millions of Catholics globally through its publishing, offertory, and communication services. Established in 1912, Our Sunday Visitor has grown into the largest supplier of offering envelopes, parish and diocesan mailings, books, periodicals, curriculum, address management, and stewardship services. Our Sunday Visitor is a not-for-profit organization, returning a portion of net earnings back to the Catholic community through the Our Sunday Visitor Institute. For more information, visit www.osv.com.

Title: **No One Cries the Wrong Way: Seeing God Through Tears**
Publisher: Our Sunday Visitor
Author: Fr. Joe Kempf
Release Date: March 2012
Length: 102 pages, paperback
Price: \$ 14.95
ISBN: 978-1-61278-602-5
Order: www.osv.com
1-800-348-2440

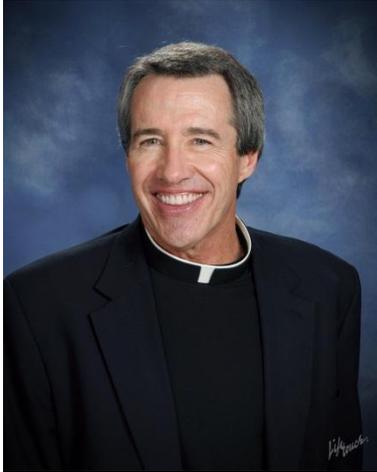
Title: **Sometimes Life Is Just Not Fair**
Publisher: Our Sunday Visitor
Author: Fr. Joe Kempf
Release Date: March 2012
Length: 64 pages, illustrated, paperback
Price: \$ 19.95
ISBN: 978-1-61278-592-9
Order: www.osv.com
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About The Author

Fr. Joe Kempf



Fr. Joe Kempf is the second of six children, and the pastor of Assumption Parish in O'Fallon, Missouri (Archdiocese of St. Louis). He is founder of "Gospel Values," a non-profit company dedicated to proclaiming the beautiful message of Jesus for children of all ages.

He is the author of several books, including **No One Cries the Wrong Way: Seeing God Through Tears** (Our Sunday Visitor) , and four books of prayers for children; *My Sister is Annoying... and Other Prayers for Children*; *You Want Me to Be Good ALL DAY?*; *Don't Drink the Holy Water - Big Al and Annie Go to Mass* (Liguori Publications); and **Sometimes Life Is Just Not Fair: Hope for Kids through Grief and Loss** (Our Sunday Visitor).

Fr. Joe is perhaps best known for his video works which include a series of DVDs for children called "Big Al LIVE", as well as recent DVDs on the Eucharist: "Feeding Hungry Hearts ... Celebrating the Eucharist" and "A Child's First Communion ... and So Much More!" Fr. Joe brings a love of storytelling with down-to-earth wisdom, a heart for God's people, and a desire to help them remember the things that truly matter.

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