

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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Drawing Out Good from Suffering

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [APRIL 4, 2012](#)
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Who hasn't suffered? Suffering may stab us periodically, like a toothache or a friend's betrayal. Or we may be awash in it constantly, as when we have a chronic illness. The mystery of suffering has always tormented us—in particular, why do the innocent suffer? No answer satisfies. But we take comfort in the fact that as Jesus, God experienced suffering, both physical pain and mental anguish. He cried over Jerusalem. And Jesus infused suffering with meaning. By his agony and death, Jesus redeemed the world. When we unite our suffering with his and offer it to the Father, we share his cross, we participate in the act of redemption.

Sometimes it helps to endure suffering by clinging to the thought "This too shall pass." For Catholics there is an additional dimension to suffering. When I was writing high school textbooks and living at our provincial center, one of our young sisters was dying of cancer in our Health Care Center. I would visit her during my lunch break. One day she asked a favor: would I find out if the Church still taught that suffering could be offered for others. I researched the topic and told her yes. That day as I was leaving her room, she said, "Kathleen, I offer my sufferings today for you." What a beautiful gift!



Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND

I'm a Sister of Notre Dame, of Chardon, Ohio, the author of seventy-plus books on religious education and spirituality, including a novel, *The Fisherman's Wife: The Gospel According to St. Peter's Spouse*. I enjoy giving talks and am a pastoral associate at St. Dominic Church.

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Because of Jesus, although we don't understand suffering, we can turn it into something holy. And we can make it useful. It is rather like transforming coal into diamonds. The Catholic attitude toward suffering helps us live through it with peace, patience, and hope. We know that beyond suffering lies new life.

When we meet with suffering we can always "kiss it up" to God. When have you put your suffering to good use?

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About Sister Kathleen Glavich, SND

Jesus ordered us to make disciples of all nations and teach them. Mary Kathleen, a Sister of Notre Dame from Chardon, Ohio, responds to this call through writing, speaking, giving retreats, and teaching. Her motto, adopted from Eddie Doherty's gravesite, is "All my words for the Word!"

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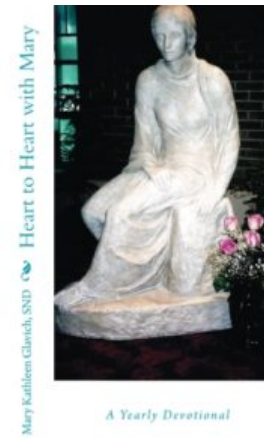
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Newest Book

In "Heart to Heart with Mary: A Yearly Devotional" Our Blessed Mother speaks to us every day of the year and a suggestion is provided for a response. It is similar to the popular book "Jesus Calling" and can be found on Amazon or purchased from me.

Featured Book

Totally Catholic! A Catechism for Kids and Their Parents and Teachers

Do you wish you had a simple, child-friendly summary of what Catholics believe? This book took first place in the Association of Catholic Publishers awards 2014 in the category of Children's Books. It can be purchased from Pauline Books and Media or from me. (\$14.95)

A Heavenly Book

Do you believe in angels? Most people do. The Catholic Companion to Angels offers heavenly facts about these majestic creatures, confirming that you can turn to them for help. Uniquely, The Angels comes with three covers (statue, stained-glass, or painting). Choose the one you like best.

Available from ACTA Publications and me.
(\$10.00)

My First Novel!

The Fisherman's Wife is the story of St. Peter's spouse, the long-suffering but delightful woman who puts up with Peter and his obsession with the itinerant preacher named Jesus. Through her we meet Peter, Jesus, and other biblical characters. In Capernaum she witnesses Jesus' healings and hears his words. The book is based on the Gospels, legends, and what is known about first-century Jewish women. The rest is sheer imagination. Order directly from me FOR AN AUTOGRAPHED COPY at kglavich@ndec.org.

A Bit of Humor

A Slow Student During indoor recess, the third and fourth graders were playing school. Taking part in the game, the teacher, Sister Janet, sat at a child's desk. Adam, who was playing the teacher, came up to her and asked, "And just how many years have you been kept back?" (from "Why Is Jesus in the Microwave?")

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About the Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon, Ohio

The Sisters of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio, belong to an international congregation of more than two thousand apostolic women religious. We are one in mind and one in heart for the transformation of the world in Christ.



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