

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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Communion of Saints at Mass

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [JULY 25, 2012](#)
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In preparing to give a workshop on the liturgy, I was struck by a truth that seldom comes to mind: As we praise and thank God at Mass, all of the angels and saints are with us. This includes all of our loved ones who have “crossed over” and are now with God. They are all present but in another dimension, worshipping God right along with us: St. Francis, Mary Magdalen, the Blessed Virgin Mary,

Michael the Archangel, our grandparents, and deceased friends. Actually, it's not so much that these holy ones join in our liturgy as that we join in theirs.

There's a story about a parish priest on a small Greek island. One day a visitor asked him, “How many people usually worship here on Sunday?” The priest replied, “Oh, about ten to twelve thousand, I suppose.” Bewildered, the visitor said, “This is a tiny island. Where do all these people come from, and how can they possibly fit into so small a church?” The priest smiled and said, “All the people who ever lived on this island since it received the gospel message are still here. In the sacred liturgy we pray: ‘And so, with all the angels and the saints and the whole company of the faithful we



Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND

I'm a Sister of Notre Dame, of Chardon, Ohio, the author of eighty-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 retreats and was a pastoral associate at St. Dominic Church. I also edit and self-publish books for others.

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praise your glory forever.' When we sing the Holy, Holy we are joining with all the holy ones who have ever worshiped in this church."

St. John recorded his vision of heaven. He wrote that multitudes, every creature in heaven and earth, sing, "To the one seated on the throne and the the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Revelation 5:13) This is our ultimate destiny, to behold our loving Creator and to worship him forever. St. Thomas Aquinas wrote that our Eucharistic banquet is only a foretaste of the eternal feast of heaven. At each Mass the sacrifice of Jesus that made eternal life possible for us is re-presented. We celebrate the mystery of his death and rising and give glory to God for it. We anticipate the day when we will number among those can thank and praise God face-to-face.

As we celebrate Mass surrounded by images of the saints in statues and stained-glass windows, we might think of these people and our own holy ones. We might imagine them filling the sanctuary and singing and praying with us.

My earliest memory is of my grandmother taking me to Mass as St. Vitus. I remember I cried because of the incense, and she and her friends tried to quiet me! My faith tells me that my grandma is still with me whenever I'm at Mass. Who do you especially wish to be aware of as present the next time you celebrate the liturgy?

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Betty Nagel July 25, 2012 at 2:27 pm



One of our priests just recently reminded us of this same theology, and it is a blessing to be aware of this communion of saints (and angels). Thanks for spreading the good news.

REPLY



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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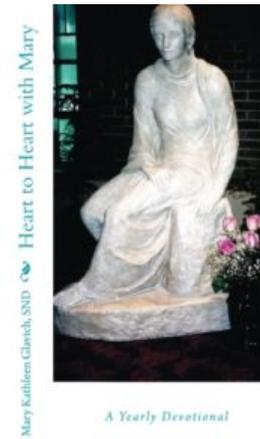
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Newest Book

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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