

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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Words That Wound

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [SEPTEMBER 5, 2012](#)
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I think most people right now are fed up with the negative political ads polluting the media. Those ads that attack a competitor personally are the most offensive. We have an innate sense that this is wrong. Maybe the name callers and slanderers should watch the movie *Bambi* again. In it Thumper quotes his mother: "If you can't say anything nice about a person, don't say nothing at all." Yes, the word is mightier than the sword . . . and words can cut another person's reputation into shreds.

Politicians aren't the only ones who wreak harm by pointing out another person's faults (or perceived faults!) Probably each of us has been guilty of this at some time, or at least tempted. Otherwise we wouldn't find such strong cautionary words in the Bible about the dangers of the tongue. There we read, "The tongue is a fire" which "is itself set on fire by hell" (James 3:6) and, "Do not speak evil against one another" (James 4:11).

What we say about another person affects our listeners for good or ill. It forms an impression of the person spoke of that may be difficult to dispel. And that impression may be incorrect. Badmouthing a person has no good consequences. When I was preparing to teach, I was told not to listen to a class's previous teacher who made comments like, "This class is nothing but trouble." Perhaps that teacher had a problem, and the class would turn out to be a dream class for me. I also remember when a Jewish editor was terrified to call me with a question. (He wanted to know



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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how to spell Poor Souls!) Someone at the publishing company had described me as a witch, which I don't think I am. Speaking ill of someone has another unwelcome effect. It leaves the listeners wondering what the speaker says about *them* behind their backs.

Why do some people speak of other's faults? Not only to win elections. Maybe seeing faults in others makes us look better, as though we had no faults. If someone sins or has a glaring fault, because we are all one, it makes all of us a little less. Then rather than talk about the flaw, we should feel bad about it, keep still, and recall St. Francis's words when he saw a sinner: "There for the grace of God go I." And as someone said, "If you can't say anything nice about a person, try harder to find something nice."

What are your thoughts on these "uglies"—slander, gossip, badmouthing, and the like?

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Sr. Kathleen Tobin September 5, 2012 at 2:22 pm



During our recent retreat, Father asked us to write down what we most dislike in others. We shared those things, then Father said that the thing that we detested was in ourselves. Yes, we should have guessed it.

REPLY

Kathleen Glavich, SND September 5, 2012 at 2:31 pm



Kathleen, when Sister Mary LeRoy was our junior director she told us the same ironic thing. Ever since then whenever someone irritates me, I recall her words. It's very revealing!

REPLY

Cheryl Zellhoefer September 6, 2012 at 2:52 pm



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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I graduated from NDC in 1976 and am now Director of Religious Education in a small town in Nevada. I just sent this to my Confirmation students as "food for thought". With the new school year beginning in Faith Formation and academic classes, it is good to be reminded to be kind to everyone.

REPLY

Kathleen Glavich, SND September 6, 2012 at 3:02 pm



What a great idea, Cheryl. Thanks for letting me know about it. And thanks for being a DRE, one of the most important and challenging ministries in our Church today. Always good to get in touch with a fellow alum!

REPLY

Cheryl Zellhoefer September 6, 2012 at 4:52 pm



Dear Sr. Kathleen,

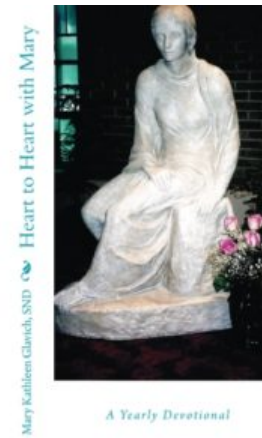
Thank you!

I insist on getting everything you publish. My catechists really find the ideas practical, easy to implement, and on point for the students.

REPLY

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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.



Submit

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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