

# Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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## The Assumption: Mary's Crossing Over

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [AUGUST 14, 2013](#)  
in [BLOGS](#)



In honor of the Assumption, here are excerpts about this mystery from my book *The Catholic Companion of Mary*.

“Regardless of how long Mary lived after Jesus’ death, surely she missed her son and husband and yearned to be reunited with them. Did Mary die? Most theologians think that Mary underwent death—just as her son did and as we all will do. The Church has no formal teaching about Mary’s death. What it does believe is that when Mary’s life on earth was ended, she was immediately taken body and soul into heaven. In this way, God preserved her body from corruption—that

body which had served his Son so well.

“The Assumption was declared a doctrine of faith in 1950, although the church has believed it since the early centuries. One significance of the timing of this declaration is that it came right after World War II and the Holocaust, when the value of the human body was held in such low esteem. By insisting that Mary’s body had been assumed



**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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into heaven, the Church was saying that the human body was sacred and important to God.

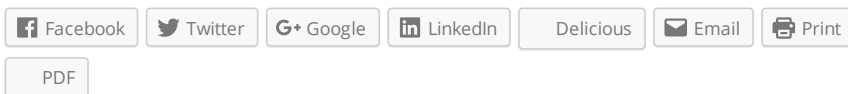
“Remains of several saints were discovered to be incorrupt, but these bodies are still on earth. There are no mortal remains of Mary, and the Church does not expect to find any. Unlike the rest of us, Mary didn't have to wait until the end of the world for her body to be glorified and reunited with her soul. Right now she is already with her son in body and soul in heaven, worshipping God and enjoying eternal bliss. In this state, Mary is a sign and a promise of what awaits us. How Mary is now, God intends everyone to be someday. This truth gives us hope and consolation as we struggle with the trials, crises, sickness and death of physical life on earth.

“In this one woman, who is the mother of us all, the ultimate destiny of the human race has already been realized. A helpful analogy is that we humans are like a fleet of ships in a storm at sea, and Mary is the first ship to reach the safe harbor. Mary is the first flowering of the Church. In the words of theologian Karl Rahner, ‘God's grace is doing is us what he did in her.’

“St. John of Damascus said that as Mary enters heaven, the Temple of God, ‘David, her ancestor and God's relative, dances for joy (2 Samuel 7:14); the angels dance in unison, the archangels applaud, and the powers of the heavens sing her glory.’”

How do you picture Mary in heaven?

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**Kathy OFS** August 14, 2013 at 7:33 pm



This was a wonderful book. I was given this book with your signature and a blessing. Sister Renetta gave it to me. And I treasure it. You had come to Our Lady of Lourdes Church to speak, and you truly inspired us about Mary. From cover to



### 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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cover the book was read and very hard to put down. I must read it once again, it has been awhile. Mary is in heaven setting about doing the motherly things God has given her to do, particularly praying for us as she does best. She has beautiful eyes and long brown hair. And welcoming arms to greet us once we have seen Jesus. She is unblemished. And I am proud to have her name as my middle name. God Bless Siochan Agus Maitheas. Kathy OFS

REPLY

**Kathleen Glavich, SND** August 14, 2013 at 8:12 pm



As a Sister of Notre Dame, I'm always happy to know I was instrumental in drawing someone closer to Mary. Thank you for your comment, Kathy.

REPLY

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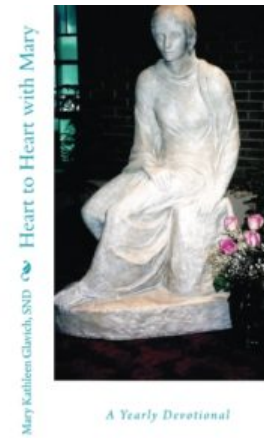
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### Newest Book

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](mailto:kglavich@ndec.org).

### A Bit of Humor

A Kind Assist Sister had told her first graders a story about a coming feast day. Intending to review the lesson, she asked if anyone wanted to help her tell the story. Alphonse, the tallest boy in the room, raised his hand and came shuffling up to the front from the last row. Standing before the teacher's desk, he turned to her and said, "I'd like to help you, Sister. Where are you stuck?"

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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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