

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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Perseverance and Determination

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [SEPTEMBER 11, 2013](#)
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The world was awed last week when 64-year-old Diana Nyad swam 110 miles from Cuba to Florida. What awed me was that this woman never gave up. This swim was her fifth attempt. A person with less gumption would have said after the fourth try, *Why bother?* or *It's impossible*. Now Diana serves as a model in perseverance. She shows that human beings are capable of performing remarkable feats if they only keep at it. Discouragement and lack of self-confidence can extinguish our dreams if we let them.

Being successful can entail a number of failures first. Those who have the most home runs probably also have the most strike outs. Thomas Edison invented the light bulb only after numerous trials. An optimist, Edison claimed that his failures taught him something. He said, "We now know a thousand ways not to build a light bulb." He also said, "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." Right now I'm involved in a mission to market my novel, *The Fisherman's Wife*, without paying thousands of dollars to do so. Many of the avenues I've tried so far haven't panned out. But I can't quit. I must keep hoping that somehow the book will land in hands that will make it a bestseller, maybe a movie! As Diana swam, she repeated the mantra "Find a way." This is good advice for anyone tackling a daunting task.



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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Looking over my past life, I can find times when I surprised myself by doing incredible things: entering the convent right after I turned eighteen (and hanging in there), speaking at conventions although I seldom spoke as a student, and traveling to Arabia alone twice. Somehow I found the way. No doubt it was because I turn to the Way for the grace to persevere.

Looking back over your life, when have you done “the impossible?” What or who helped you? What dream are you currently working toward?

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smjames September 11, 2013 at 1:07 pm 

Yes! If only we would “hang in there” with peace talks before we go violent so quickly.
Loved The Fisherman’s Wife. I picture Meryl Streep starring:)

REPLY

Kathleen Glavich, SND September 12, 2013 at 9:43 am 

I heartily agree...with both of your ideas!

REPLY

Juliemarie McDonald September 12, 2013 at 10:33 am 

Perseverance is a very difficult virtue to practice in seemingly impossible situations. In my own life if I didn’t have faith and trust in God and Jesus’ “Way, Truth and Life,” I would have given up after the first attempt at writing reflections. I had horrendous problems to work through when we didn’t have technicians to iron out the “changes” to our computer changes. I think God helps me to hang in there. As I finished the last page of Cycle B minus the bibliography, Sr. Barbara told me the computer crashed and everything was lost! Thank God, I had learn to use the flash drive. I had no idea what this item was, but this piece saved me hanging all



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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up. Your reflection gave me back that flash-back to that day. I loved your thoughts on perseverance. Juliemarie

REPLY

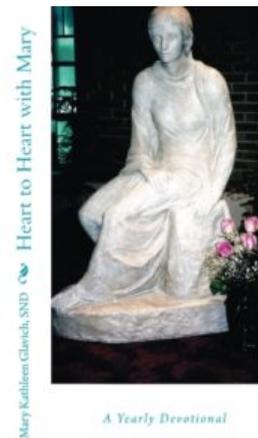
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Newest Book

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.

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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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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