

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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Bread and Wine of the Eucharist

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [JANUARY 29, 2014](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



Artist: Mary Loretta Pastva, SND

I'm in Arabia at a conference for catechists. My keynote address is on the Eucharist. It includes this delightful and thought-provoking story by Richard T. Szafransk published in *Emmanuel*, used with permission, and adapted by me.

I was a grape once. Now I'm a raisin. I'm stuck in this box with a bunch of other raisins. I live in the kitchen cupboard of the

priest's house. Our raisin box sits in here next to a box of Wheaties. The priest doesn't seem to care for either one of us.

The other day I was talking with one of the Wheaties. We agreed that we're not very happy being what we are. And we both had a chance to be something else. I could have become wine, but turned it down. The flake could have become bread, but he turned it down. We would have had to be crushed, and it didn't seem worth it. But now, I'm not so sure. People celebrate with bread and wine . . . not with raisins and



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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Wheaties. I heard the priest talking to someone in the kitchen about how even in worship people celebrate with bread and wine. But it's only out of something being crushed that these things arise.

The priest and the other person talked about someone named Jesus. It seems this Jesus suffered a lot for other people. He was crushed under the weight of their sins, they said. (Like wheat and grapes, I thought.) That's why we celebrate, they went on. We celebrate the fact that Jesus saved us by being crushed for us. We celebrate with bread and wine.

I wonder if people appreciate how much Jesus did for them. The two people went on talking about how being crushed meant dying to oneself and giving oneself to others, being nourishment for others. They said that many people are afraid to do that, but that people had to die to themselves in order to follow Jesus. They too, had to be crushed. I thought, each person is kind of like a grape or a grain of wheat then. Like me. (Well, like I was.) And it takes a lot of wheat and grapes to make bread and wine.

They went on saying that when people don't give themselves for others, don't become the living Body and Blood of Christ in the world, then they have to repent. I suppose if I were a person, I'd have to repent. I was afraid to become wine, something with which people could celebrate. I didn't know what I was doing then. Perhaps people don't know what they're doing. I wish I had another chance. People do.

What aspect of the Eucharist most appeals to you?

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Sister Kathleen Tobin January 31, 2014 at 9:47 am



Thank you for the precious story. Enjoy your time away, but get back safely.
Sister Kathleen T.

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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Sandra Mathias January 31, 2014 at 1:44 pm



Sr Kathleen,

I was just listening to your keynote address (from the recording I had done) and must tell you it was fun listening to it again. Had all the words interspersed with sprinkles of laughter – all lovely sounds. Thank you. Enjoyed the session.

Lovely!
INDNJC
Sandra

REPLY

Michelle February 2, 2014 at 4:18 pm



What a sweet story...I really like this! Thank you so much for sharing!

REPLY

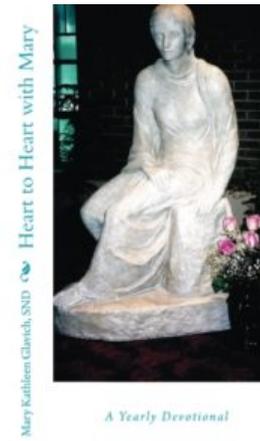
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Newest Book

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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