

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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No Bed of Roses for Saints

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [JUNE 4, 2014](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



Writing a book on saints, I've come to realize how much they have suffered. You would think that a person who lived a good life and loved God would be blessed with a peaceful, easy life. So often this wasn't the case. Instead of enjoying a charmed life, saints endured conflict, criticism, persecution, not to mention bad health. Sound familiar? If this is the story of your life at times, take heart. You must be doing something right! Recall when St. Teresa of Avila was riding a mule and ended up sitting in mud. She prayed, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few!" Jesus did warn us that in following him we could expect persecutions and a share of the cross.

Besides the martyrs who obviously suffered physically for believing in Jesus, other saints persevered through pain and heartache. One long-suffering saint was St. Joseph of Calasanz, who lived in the sixteenth century. He began schools for the free education of the poor and from this sprung his religious order, the Piarists. Despite the good Joseph was doing, he was attacked by private school teachers who were jealous of his success, by rich people, and even by his own religious community. To top it off,



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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at the age of 86, Joseph was arrested and made to stand trial before the Holy Office in Rome. His work was stopped, and his order disbanded! Only twenty years after St. Joseph died did the pope restore his order.

St. Julie Billiart, the founder of the Sisters of Notre Dame, was not exempt from extraordinary trials. She was paralyzed from her youth until she was in her fifties and some days couldn't even speak. Then as St. Julie began and guided her new community, clergy thwarted her repeatedly and some of her own Sisters turned against her. Still, surprisingly, she was known as the smiling saint and "How good God is" was always on her lips.

Some saints suffered long, painful illnesses before their death. For the last four years of his life St. Peter Claver was too ill to leave his room, where he was neglected, physically abused and starved by the man hired to care for him. Unable to learn the language of the American Indians St. Rose Philippine Duchesne longed to serve, disappointed and sick, she returned home and lived another ten years, feeble and blind, before dying at 83 years of age. My good mother suffered one medical crisis after another in the last years of her life.

St. Jerome Emiliani noted, "This is the way God has dealt with all his saints. . . . If then you remain constant in faith in the face of trial, the Lord will give you peace and rest for a time in this world and forever in the next." In other words, being a saint is dangerous but worth it.

Those who are "blessed" with suffering are closer to Jesus, who by undergoing torture and crucifixion redeemed the world. By uniting their sufferings with his, they help bring about the kingdom of God. Jesus promised that after these labor pains we will enter new life and have the joy that no one can take from us. Anticipating this destiny already gives us joy.

What thought gives you the courage to bear with suffering?

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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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melanie jean juneau June 4, 2014 at 4:10 pm



excellent

REPLY

Gabrielle Renoir June 24, 2014 at 4:26 pm



The thought of becoming closer to Jesus allows me to bear the pains and injustices of life, and in the last few years, I've endured a lot! Some people have asked me, "How can you say you're happy when you don't have this or that?" I tell them, "Because I have God!"

REPLY

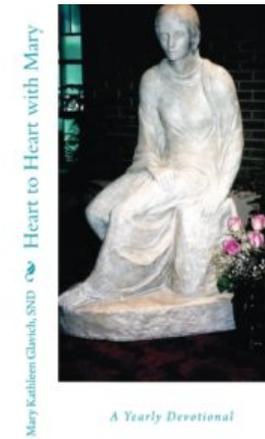
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Newest Book

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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