

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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God Speaks Through Nature, His Creation

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [SEPTEMBER 24, 2014](#)
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Now that the trees are about to burst in autumn glory, I thought the introduction to the first book I ever had published (*Voices*) would be appropriate. (It's out of print now.) Here it is:

Creators are mirrored in their creations, A song reflects the composer; a painter, the artist; a book the author. In the same way the universe, the masterpiece of the supreme Creator, reveals God. Its variety, its intricacy, and its magnitude attest to God's wisdom and power. Every created thing is an epiphany, echoing some aspect of the divine Being.

To behold a snow-topped mountain, its massive rocky slopes jutting boldly into the sky, is to know God's majesty. To sit at the foot of a waterfall and watch its refreshing rush of water cascade into a clear, deep pool is to see God's purity. To stroll through woods of lovely ferns, mosses, and lofty trees is to be enveloped with the peace and serenity of God. The fragile daisy and its velvety white petals and bright yellow center tells of the Creator's gentleness, while the shimmering, iridescent rainbow arched across purple-gray clouds bespeaks his beauty. A newborn baby is evidence of God's tenderness. Fire is a reminder of the



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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energy of God's love. A monkey shows God's sense of humor and a giraffe, his unpredictability.

The psalmist is attuned to the speechless voices of the universe. He sings of the stars (Psalm 19:1-4):

The heavens declare the glory of God,

the vault of heaven proclaimed his handiwork;

day discourses of it to day,

night to night hands on the knowledge.

No utterance at all, no speech,

no sound that anyone can hear;

yet their voice goes out to the ends of the world.

In the same tradition, St. Francis of Assisi, the lover of nature, exclaims in his "Canticle of the Sun":

Praise be to Thee, my Lord, with all Thy creatures

Especially to my brother sun

Who brings us the day and through him thou dost brightness give;

And beautiful is he and radiant with splendor great.

Of thee, Most High, he speaks.

More recently, in the writings of the French theologian and philosopher, Teilhard de Chardin, the notion of creation manifesting the Creator is a mighty refrain, especially in *The Divine Milieu*: "...the great mystery of Christianity is not exactly the appearance, but the transparence, of God in the Universe."

The universe resounds with the glory of God.



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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When the Word became flesh and lived with us among color, roughness, scent, and warmth, the Son of God reveled in the things of earth, the handiwork of the Father. Jesus saw that they were good, so good that he redeemed them along with us at the price of his life Furthermore, he assigned them prominent roles in the act of redemption. During his public life, Jesus used concrete objects to teach. His audiovisuals were the birds of the air, the bread women baked, the Temple in Jerusalem, and the roadside fig tree. Today, from the dimension where he dwells, he reaches out in the sacraments and touches us with things: water, bread, wine, and oil. Matter has been christened by his presence.

Which piece of creation speaks to you? What does it say?

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Grace Mazza Urbanski September 24, 2014 at 9:31 am



Today I was able to hang out laundry on the line before heading off to work. Knowing my family's clothes are drying slowly, blowing softly, consoles me. God fills me with gratitude.

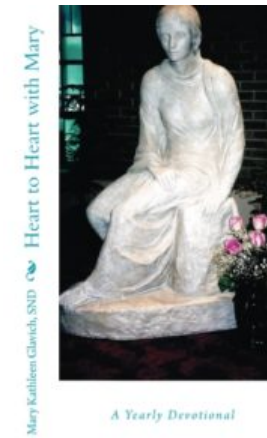
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Lux Ganzon September 24, 2014 at 12:36 pm



Beautiful. I love the way you romanticized the words. So poetic.

REPLY



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.

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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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