

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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The Challenge of Spontaneous Prayer

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [OCTOBER 1, 2014](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



A Catholic convert from an evangelical tradition asked me this week, “Why don’t Catholics pray spontaneously?” This is a good question. My friend proposed that it was because no one taught us to offer personal prayers out loud. I wonder, though, how it happened that our Christian brothers and sisters find it so easy to do, and we Catholics don’t. The closest thing we come to it is saying “God bless you” when someone sneezes. When asked to offer a prayer, we feel tongue-tied and self-conscious. Yet, imagine if instead of just promising someone, “I’ll pray for you,” we stopped and right then and there spoke to God about the person’s concerns.

That person would be consoled and strengthened by hearing our prayer—and we wouldn’t risk forgetting to pray for him or her.

Another friend of mine, also a convert, prayed spontaneously for me on the day I met her. As we walked to the parking lot, I asked her to pray that I would meet what looked like an impossible writing deadline. Immediately she stood still on the sidewalk and prayed aloud for me. Wow! Later, during our long-distance phone calls,



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.

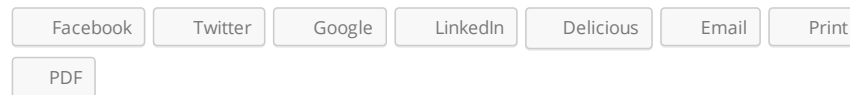
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she always prayed aloud for the project we were working on, not caring about the cost of the call.

Jesus was comfortable praying aloud. Before raising Lazarus from the dead, he spoke to his Father in front of a crowd. When his disciples joyfully returned from ministering, Jesus thanked the Father out loud for revealing things to little ones. At the last supper he prayed a lengthy prayer straight from his heart. Jesus is our model and told us once to learn from him, so it appears that we should be practicing this kind of prayer too. Why do you think we don't? How could we get started? Maybe by teaching our children to pray spontaneously.

Has anyone ever prayed spontaneously for you? Do you ever pray this way?

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melanie jean juneau October 2, 2014 at 6:34 pm



yes!

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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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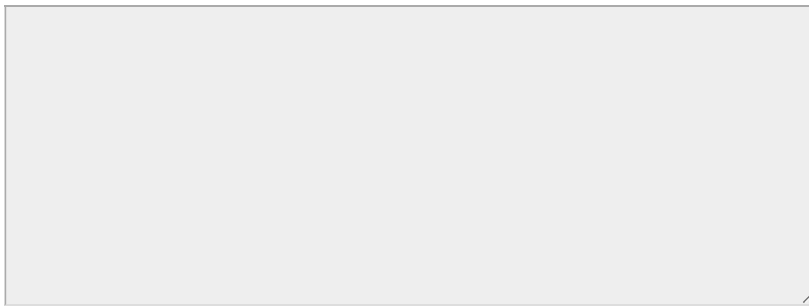
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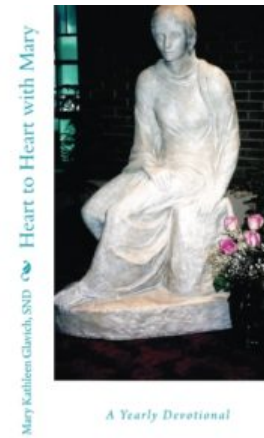
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Featured Book

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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