

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise

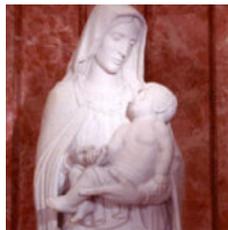


[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [ARTICLES](#) [BOOK LIST](#) [BOOK REVIEWS](#) [SPEAKING/EVENTS SCHEDULE](#) [TALKS](#) [CONTACT](#)



Mary, A Consecrated Virgin

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [DECEMBER 10, 2014](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



The Year of Consecrated Life, which began on November 21, casts the spotlight on religious vocations, such as the calls to be a sister, brother, nun, monk, or priest. Consecration is the setting aside of persons (or objects) exclusively for God and divine service. The word is derived from the Latin for "to make sacred." The thought occurred to me that the Blessed Virgin Mary was the first consecrated Christian. Her vocation as Mother of God aligns with religious vocations

today.

Religious perceive a call, a tugging at the heart, a conviction to dedicate themselves entirely to God, to live in a way quite different from the vast majority of people. They may spend years discerning whether or not their perceived call is real. Mary's call was undeniable. An archangel delivered the message from God that she was chosen to spend her life as a virgin devoted to the Son of God. Some religious are called as children. A friend of mine said she knew that she was to be a sister in the first grade. There is a legend about Mary found in an apocryphal Gospel (the *Protoevangelium of James*) that recounts that her parents took her to the temple when she was three years old to dedicate her to God, and charmingly Mary danced up the stairs.



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.

[View Full Profile →](#)

Most religious make vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in order to better imitate the poor, chaste, and obedient Jesus. They live poverty by owning things in common. When I entered, this was ingrained in us by the custom of referring to things as “our” book, “our” veil, and “our” car. (Some novices would comically slip and say things like “Our knee hurts.”) Mary lived poorly. She wasn’t destitute, but as a first-century villager, she didn’t have much, otherwise she wouldn’t have given birth in a stable or cave. She probably gave away the gold, frankincense, and myrrh that the magi brought (if they really did). Religious are celibate, a strange thing to be in our sex-saturated society. Mary’s engagement to Joseph the carpenter blossomed into a relationship of platonic love. The Holy Spirit’s action that brought about the conception of Jesus in Mary left her a virgin, a miracle which a poet compared to sunlight streaming through a window without changing the windowpane. The Catholic Church teaches that Mary remained a virgin her whole life. Religious vow obedience in which they promise to seek out and follow God’s will in all matters, guided by the needs of their community and the voice of God within them. When Mary learned of God’s plan for her, she obeyed God instantly and wholeheartedly, responding, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord.” She always heard the word of God and kept it.

Religious are free to deepen their relationship with God in prayer, personal and communal. In my community every day we celebrate the Eucharist, pray the Liturgy of the Hours, meditate for an hour, pray the rosary, and read from a spiritual book. We make a holy hour before First Fridays and come together for faith sharing once a month. We make a mini-retreat each month and a week-long one each year. Mary prayed in the Nazareth synagogue and traveled to Jerusalem for the Jewish feasts. She probably knew psalms, the Jewish prayers, by heart. Luke’s Gospel recounts that after finding the lost Jesus in the Temple, Mary pondered these things in her heart. No doubt, she was pondering, or meditating on God and his works all her life.

Religious strive to be channels of Christ’s love for the world and have an exceptional love for the poor on the bottom and the margins of society. Despite being pregnant with Jesus, Mary made a long, perilous journey to aid her elderly relative Elizabeth who was also pregnant. Later at the wedding at Cana, it was Mary who rescued the bride and groom and their parents when the wine ran out by jump-starting Jesus’ ministry.

As religious, we work to spread the Good News and God’s kingdom of peace and justice. Mary, who was the first to hear the Good News, brought into the world the Savior, who is the Prince of Peace and the Teacher of Justice and Love. As Blessed Teresa of Calcutta succinctly said, “No Mary. No Jesus.” Someone pointed out that besides asking WWJD we could also ask WWMD (What would Mary do?)



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!”

[Learn more](#)

About Catholic Faith Corner

A warm welcome to Catholic Faith Corner! May its reflections help you know and live the Catholic faith, inspire you, and give you hope.

Subscribe to Catholic Faith Corner

Subscribe to Catholic Faith Corner today to receive notification of new blog posts.

 [Subscribe to Catholic Faith Corner via RSS](#)

 [Subscribe to Catholic Faith Corner by Email](#)

[Click image to purchase](#)

Is there a consecrated man or woman who has drawn you closer to God? How?

Share this:



Tagged as: [consecration](#), [Mary](#), [monks](#), [nuns](#), [priests](#), [religious](#), [sisters](#), [vows](#), [Year of Consecrated Life](#)

{ 2 comments... read them below or [add one](#) }

Marian Fatima Of The Holy Trinity June 28, 2016 at 12:11 am



Hi I am a self consecrated virgin. I chose because I did not have time to enter a convent. If Jesus doesn't return 2017, I'm becoming a Carmelite. Let me say I am self consecrated to The Lord. I was not raised catholic. But now I am catholic.

I receive the body and blood of Jesus supernaturally every day.

I made a sister name I was going to be a Carmelite but since Jesus is probably coming in a few years which I do not know.

Marian Fatima Of The Holy Trinity

I don't want to go into deep detail because I am criticized because of the age I made my vow.

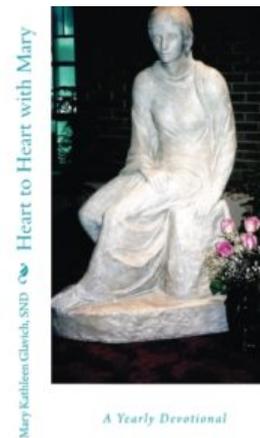
I am older now.

I am graduated from high school.

And I made a vow at 15 that all I am saying. I am a young adult. I pray God has accepted my commitment. I already made the vow and my mind was made up and God confirmed to me that I should.

Thank God with me that I will be consecrating myself to The Lord. We are having a ceremony in 2017 at a cathedral possibly or a small catholic building. My priest has to get a bishop.

But even though I have not gone through the church, I have promised already. Many anticatholic family members criticize me for this.



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.

I shall be a saint in heaven whether the pope canonizes me or not. If You got to know more of me, you would cry of pride because I have given up everything For God. I have made sacrifices for God. Even my own family has despised my beliefs.

God bless you. Amen.

REPLY

Kathleen Glavich, SND June 28, 2016 at 9:41 am



Dear Marian Fatima,
What an interesting story. What country are you from?
God bless you on your journey to devote your life to him!
Sister Kathleen

REPLY

Leave a Comment

Name *

E-mail *

Website

Submit

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?")

Of Interest

[The Fisherman's Wife](#)

[100 Catholic Blogs by Catholic Sisters and Nuns](#)

[Ideas for Church fundraising](#)

Recent Posts

[Kindness for a Better World](#)

[A Layman Answers Why Are You Catholic?](#)

[Advice for a Happy Thanksgiving Dinner](#)

[In Praise of Praise, Part 2](#)

[In Praise of Praise, Part 1](#)

About the Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon, Ohio

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.



[Learn More](#)

SND Blogs

[Catholic Web Solutions](#)

[Grace to Paint](#)

[In the Hands of the Potter](#)

[Living Justly](#)

[Prayer Poems](#)

[SND Express Blog](#)

[Sunflower Seeds](#)

[The Fisherman's Wife](#)

[What's Happening](#)

Search

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME WITNESS DAILY TO
GOD'S GOODNESS AND PROVIDENT CARE.

Join us!

Contact our Vocation
Director today.



Copyright © 2012 The Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon, Ohio | Design & Development by [Groupmind Media](#)