

# Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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## Ordinary Time in the Church Year (or Extraordinary)

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [JANUARY 14, 2015](#)  
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According to the Church calendar, this is the first week in Ordinary Time. The weeks are referred to by ordinal numbers, which is why they are called ordinary. There are 34 of them. In the usual sense of the word *ordinary*, these weeks are not special seasons like Advent or Easter. But is any week actually “ordinary”? Considering that out of the zillion or so planets and other things floating in the limitless universe, our little planet daily sustains our lives, I’d say that

any week is extraordinary. The fact we human beings can think, create, imagine, choose, and love, unlike other creatures such as the billions of insect species, I’d call that extraordinary. Every morning that we wake up to a new day and find our earth still here and not destroyed by wayward asteroids, the supervolcano sleeping under Yellowstone National Park, or a nuclear disaster is extraordinary.

On a personal level, we are alive and breathing because in God’s design a particular man and woman met and their union culminated in our birth and our genes donated from each partner make us who we are each day. That’s extraordinary. We dwell in bodies in which blinking keeps eyes lubricated, stomachs digest food, and hearts send oxygen to cells, and so many other marvelous things go on without us even being aware of them. That’s extraordinary. Each day (whether it has a special title or not) affords us twenty-four hours in which anything could happen and in which we could



**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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do anything. How extraordinary is that? Unless we are hermits, every day we encounter and interact with beings like ourselves. They enlighten us, help us, encourage us, love us, and challenge us. If that's not special, what is?

On the spiritual plane, too, every day of ordinary time is extraordinary. God is an abiding presence around us and within us. Far from being an absentee landlord, he loves us like a father or mother and gives us grace to help us make our way to heaven. Moreover, Jesus lives in our churches and daily sacrifices himself on our altars. We can even consume God. That is so stupendous that writer Annie Dillard said we should wear crash helmets to church.



Every day is extraordinary—even those drab winter days with gray clouds and dirty snow. Every day is reason to celebrate . . . and be grateful.

What makes your ordinary days extraordinary?

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**Johan Persyn** January 14, 2015 at 1:04 pm



Indeed, The Joy of The Gospel makes everyday extra blessed. Great post Kathleen

REPLY

**Kathleen Glavich, SND** January 15, 2015 at 7:33 am



Thank you, Johan. And I heartily agree that the Gospel, the Good News, is a blessing. It makes life worth living.

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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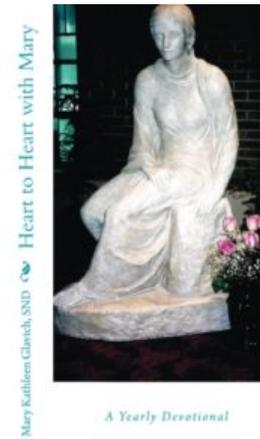
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In "Heart to Heart with Mary: A Yearly Devotional" Our Blessed Mother speaks to us every day of the year and a suggestion is provided for a response. It is similar to the popular book "Jesus Calling" and can be found on Amazon or purchased from me.

### 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](mailto: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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## 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.



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