

# 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](#)



## Tapping into the Active Word of God

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [JANUARY 28, 2015](#)  
in [BLOGS](#)



Scripture says, "The Word of God is living and effective." It speaks to us personally. In the terrific book *The Greatest Reformer*, a biography of Pope Francis, there is an incident that illustrates this. Shortly after Pope Francis was made pope, a few evangelical pastors he used to pray with in Argentina visited him. One confided that God had given him a word for the new pope. From his iPad he read from Jeremiah, chapter 1: "Before I formed you in the womb, I

knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations . . . . See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." With that, another pastor handed the pope a paper with a word he had brought for him. It had the same word on it. Neither pastor had known about the other. Pope Francis laughed and said that two days before he left Argentina for the conclave, another evangelical who prayed with him came and said, "Yesterday I was praying for you, and God gave me a word: Jeremiah, chapter one."

Having God speak directly to us, addressing our particular situations through Scripture is not unusual. This may happen during the proclamation of Scripture during the Eucharist. Or it may occur when we open the Bible, ask God to speak, and with faith and confidence read a passage. What we hear might give us goosebumps! St. Francis



**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.

[View Full Profile →](#)

of Assisi called this practice the First Opening. It's also been called the Lucky Dip and Bible Roulette. When he opened the Bible this way, he found the three basic rules for his new community, the Franciscans. When Thomas Merton was discerning whether or not to join the Trappists, known for their strict silence, he opened his Bible and read, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm He obeyed and became an esteemed spiritual writer.

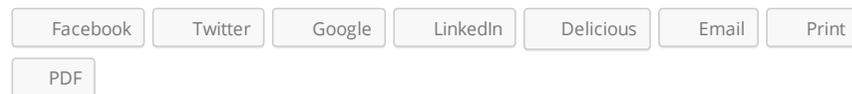


One striking experience I had with God speaking to me like this happened one day when I was greatly distressed. I opened my Bible and my eyes fell on the verses, "When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you. For I, the Lord, am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior." (Isaiah 43:2-3) Needless to say, these words comforted and encouraged me.

Some might say that this practice of using Scripture to contact God is superstitious. It is not if it is done as an act of faith. Louis Evely in his book *That Man Is You* urges us to be like the woman with the incurable hemorrhage who stealthily stretched out her hand to touch the cloak of Jesus. She was cured because of her faith and expectancy. Some might say that this practice is childish. Well, I've noticed that God tends to humor us. And didn't Jesus hold up a child as a model, a child who is simple and trusting?

When have you heard a word from the Lord? How did it affect your life?

Share this:



Tagged as: [Bible](#), [Pope Francis](#), [prayer](#), [Scripture](#), [Word of God](#)

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



### 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](#)

**Mark Misencik** January 29, 2015 at 5:45 pm



Hey Sister,

Great question.

A similar question was proposed at our St. Joseph men's renewal meeting. We were asked what event happened that caused you to deepen your faith. It could be anything. Answers varied.

When it came to my turn I explained that I've been a lifelong Catholic, never leaving the Church. I could never leave. I was always afraid I would miss something, what that something was, I did not know.

Well, one Sunday 10 or 15 years ago, I was at mass and one of the readings was from Jeremiah 17:5-11, the verses from "True Wisdom." I don't know why, but verses 7-8 just seemed so perfect. (Maybe I was thirsty?) Well, the priest didn't include that reading in his homily. So, after mass, I went home and looked up the verses again, keeping them in the back of my mind.

I'm not sure if that is the reason I became interested in scripture, but ever since then I've become more and more involved with the Church. Becoming an Altar Server, joining the Men's renewal team, leading Living the Eucharist meetings, daily catechism and scripture readings with discussion, Men's Bible study and attending a Poustinia last fall are now part of my religious life. If you would have told me I would be this involved with the Church 10 years ago, I would have called you a nut. Now I can't see myself doing anything else.

For some of us, isn't it funny how God slowly works His way into your life with just a couple of verses of scripture?

Thoughts?

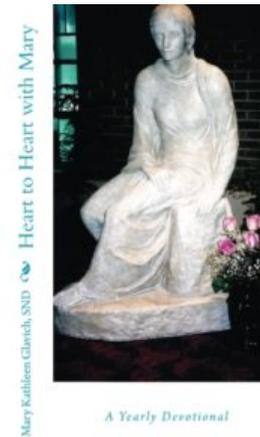
Mark

REPLY

**Kathleen Glavich, SND** January 30, 2015 at 8:31 am



Mark, I just had to look up Jeremiah 17! Your story is another proof that God works mightily through his word. It also reminded me of the role Jeremiah 15:16 played in my life—"When I found your words, I devoured them. They



### 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.

became my joy and the happiness of my heart.” Our novice director told us that the readings for our birthday held a special message for us. My birthday is the feast of St. Martha, so I figured every year I would hear God rebuke me for being a workaholic. But one year I paid attention to the first reading, which contained that verse from Jeremiah. “Coincidentally” for years I had been beginning my talks on Scripture with that prayer. Moreover, speaking and writing about the word has been the dominant work (and joy) of my life.

REPLY

### Leave a Comment

Name \*

E-mail \*

Website

Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

Notify me of new posts by email.

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?")

### Of Interest

[The Fisherman's Wife](#)

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

[Ideas for Church fundraising](#)

### Recent Posts

[Humility: Realizing the Truth about Oneself](#)

[Choices: How to Discern](#)

[Creation, a Springboard to God](#)

[A Clay Pot in God's Hands](#)

[Meaning of Names and Patron Saints](#)

## 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](#)