

# Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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## Catholic Interviews: Stephen Colbert's, Mine, and Yours

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [MARCH 11, 2015](#)  
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Salvador Dalí's "Christ of St. John of the Cross"

Last week on the Internet I saw James Martin, S.J., interviewing Stephen Colbert, who is Catholic. Fr. Martin asked the following four questions. Colbert's answers follow. For fun I answered the questions too. I wonder if Colbert was prepared in advance. It took me awhile to think of my responses. My answers are in parentheses. I've also added a few more questions. You might enjoy reflecting on how you would answer all of these if you were being videotaped for the world to see:

1. Who is your favorite saint? St. Peter. My Confirmation name is Simon. (St. Catherine of Siena)
2. What is your favorite hymn? "Here I Am, Lord;" "O come, O come, Emmanuel" ("Christus Vincit," with four-part harmony)
3. What is your favorite scripture verse? Matthew 6:25-34 "Do not worry." (Isaiah 46:1-3 "I have called you by name, you are mine. . . . When you walk through waters you shall not be burned" and similar ones)



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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4. If you had one thing to ask Pope Francis what would you say? What would you do to get that smile on your face in the morning? What's your first five minutes? (Would you pray for me?)

#### MY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

What is your favorite prayer? (St. Francis Xavier's "O God, I Love Thee for Thyself")

What is your favorite name or title for Jesus? (King-- My feast day is Christ the King.)

What is your favorite religious book other than the Bible? (Right now, my own book: The Fisherman's Wife: The Gospel According to St. Peter's Spouse)  [Peter's Wife cover copy](#)

What is your favorite place to pray? (On the grounds of Bethany, our retreat house)

What is your favorite church? (St. Francis of Assisi, my home parish that burned down)

What is your favorite religious piece of art? (Salvador Dali's "Christ of St. John of the Cross")

What is your favorite title for Mary? (Mystical rose)

What is your favorite feast day? (My own, of course: Christ the King)

What site in the Holy Land would you like to visit? (The Sea of Galilee)

Who is your favorite spiritual writer? (Richard Rohr. As a youth I loved the books of Louis de Wohl who wrote biographies of the saints.)

What is your favorite Catholic custom? (The Easter Vigil traditions: carving of the Easter candle and then the lighting of individual candles from its flame in the dark church,

On whose feast day is your birthday? (St. Martha)

What is your favorite parable? (The prodigal son)

What is your favorite Old Testament story? (Esther)



#### 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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What is your favorite New Testament story? (Besides the Resurrection, the Samaritan woman at the well)

If you have taken the time to figure out your answers, you will be all set to be interviewed on your faith!

Are there any of your answers you would like to share here, perhaps with a brief explanation?

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**Mark Misencik** March 11, 2015 at 9:48 am



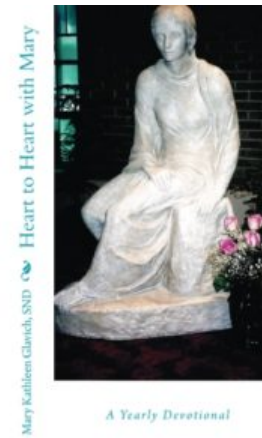
Hey Sister,

My head is spinning with all the questions you asked. Again, very thought provoking. Answer all those question and you've defined yourself. Which is a good thing.

But what struck me was the choice of your religious piece of art. I didn't take you as a controversial person.

Mark

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.

**Kathleen Glavich, SND** March 11, 2015 at 10:26 am



I'm glad you liked the questions, Mark. I found them a challenge to answer too, but an interesting task. Why do you find Dalí's crucifixion controversial? It is based on a picture drawn by St. John of the Cross.

REPLY

**Mark Misencik** March 11, 2015 at 12:53 pm



Hey Sister,

Dalí was a bit of a polarizing person, to say the least. Some of his artwork was blasphemous and yet some of it was absolutely full of reverence, which apparently reflected his upbringing. His father was a staunch atheist and his mother was a devout Catholic.

The painting that you love, and so do I, has a few characteristics that stand out. We could probably spend a whole afternoon discussing them and what they represent. Good stuff.

Where I have a bit of a problem with Dalí, besides some of his paintings, is what he said, "I believe in God but have little faith. Mathematics and Science tell me that God must exist but I don't believe it". So there is the controversy that rests in my mind.

Anyways, if Monet did a painting of the manger, that would be a picture that I think you'd like. Look at the cover of your new book and then look at Dalí's painting. You just caught me a left hook! I didn't see that one coming.

Mark

REPLY

**Kathleen Glavich, SND** March 12, 2015 at 8:09 am



Yes, Dalí was eccentric and an enigma: a Roman Catholic and an agnostic. Yet, he produced a poignant and powerful depiction of the crucifixion. God works in strange ways! I'm trying to imagine what Monet's manger scene would look like. Probably unearthly and breathtaking.

REPLY

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

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**Gabrielle Renoir** March 17, 2015 at 7:22 am



I think a lot of people have trouble "feeling" their faith, Mark, and this leads them to think they don't believe. But feelings can't really be trusted. For example, I am horrified of dental impressions (and I don't think anyone has ever been harmed by one), but I have no fear of even a difficult extraction (and people have gotten deadly infections from those). Most of us, I think, have trouble believing something we cannot see or understand completely (God). If you read the writings of Mother Teresa (which she really wanted destroyed), she, herself, had trouble feeling her faith and worried about that. Her spiritual advisor, however, told her that worry and despair and desire to "feel" her faith was evidence of her great faith. It is just my humble belief, but I would bet that Dali truly did believe and just couldn't get his emotions in line with his reasoning. There are many wonderful writings on the confluence of faith and reason by many wonderful authors. Sometimes I feel, "Oh, all these wonderful things surely can't be true! I'll live again - in a perfect body in a perfect world, I'll see my parents and the priest who was my best friend, I'll see Jesus - forever!" But, when that feeling of "it can't be true" haunts me, I just dismiss it because I know it is, of course, very true. I know my faith is never in question. I think, perhaps, Dali simply didn't know enough about faith to know he possessed it. Many people are like that.

Like you, I would love to see a Monet painting on a religious subject! Monet is my favorite painter. I also like Van Gogh, and I once lived in the South of France where so many of these wonderful painters lived. I've also visited Dali's hometown of Figueras, Spain - and the Dali Museum there - many times. I've been lucky enough to travel a lot.

I wish you a Blessed Lent and a Joyous Easter, Mark!

Gabrielle

REPLY

**Kathy Gartlan OFS** March 11, 2015 at 12:23 pm



My favorite verse is John 3-16 "For God so loved the world he gave his only son." Imagine he did that so we could live and become what we are today because he loved us so much. My Birthday Apr. 28th has St. Louis De Monfort, St. Maximillian Kolbe, Blessed Luchesso, and St Peter Chanel. Ave Maria is my Favorite song. Immaculate Heart of Mary Pray for us. I have a favorite statue from

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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childhood of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Lastly "Jesus," his name called by me.  
Be blessed. Siochan Agus Maitheas (peace all good)

REPLY

**Kathleen Glavich, SND** March 12, 2015 at 8:10 am

Thanks for taking up my challenge, Kathy!



REPLY

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**Gabrielle Renoir** March 16, 2015 at 7:57 pm



Who is your favorite saint? Teresa of Avila (I gravitate to the mystics)

What is your favorite hymn? Panis Angelicus

What is your favorite scripture verse? Psalm 139 is a favorite, I don't know that it's "the" favorite

If you had one thing to ask Pope Francis what would you say? I will always pray for you.

What is your favorite prayer? St. Teresa's "Let nothing disturb you...".

What is your favorite name or title for Jesus? Lord...and Jesus, that is his name, what I would call a friend.

What is your favorite religious book other than the Bible? The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross

What is your favorite place to pray? At the church where I am now a member

What is your favorite church? St. Joseph's Cathedral, the Mother Church of our diocese...so beautiful.

What is your favorite religious piece of art? The Pieta is high on my list

What is your favorite title for Mary? Mother

What is your favorite feast day? I do not have a favorite, which leaves me free to celebrate them all!

What site in the Holy Land would you like to visit? The Via Dolorosa

Who is your favorite spiritual writer? St. John of the Cross, Meister Eckhart

What is your favorite Catholic custom? The same as Sister Kathleen's, the lighting of the Easter candle, and the individual candles

On whose feast day is your birthday? St. John Bosco

What is your favorite New Testament story? Everything from Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the Resurrection

REPLY

**Gabrielle Renoir** March 17, 2015 at 7:04 am



Goodness! I apologize for my typing errors in the above! I proofread as I typed, never a good thing for me to do.

REPLY

**Kathleen Glavich, SND** March 17, 2015 at 7:58 am



I'm glad you did a thorough job of your "homework," Gabrielle. Not long now before we practice our favorite custom!

REPLY

**Marilou** March 18, 2015 at 11:57 am



What a wonderful discussion.. such good and interesting comments. The Dali painting is one that hangs prominently in my home and has had a special place in it for 40 years... Interesting that this is your favorite!  
My favorite saint is the Little Flower... she has done great things for me and my loved ones. One of my granddaughters reminds me so much of her both physically and spiritually. The eyes in the popular image of St. Therese are so much like our beautiful girl. At 15, she is most spiritual, unworldly, and deeply devout. We are so blessed!  
Also, I did see the interview and really enjoyed that of Stephen Colbert's... quite a man..looking forward to his next assignment as Late Night Host... (though don't often stay up to watch.. but the current host upsets me with his unkind humor.)

REPLY

**Kathleen Glavich, SND** March 18, 2015 at 12:25 pm



Yes, Marilou, St. Therese keeps showering down those roses. Good to know your granddaughter is like her grandmother!

REPLY

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