

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](#)



What's in a Name? God's and Yours?

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [JUNE 3, 2015](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



My niece and her husband are in the process of thinking of the right name for their next baby boy. It's a crucial decision, for the lad will carry that name throughout life. Mary and Joseph were exempt from this duty because the Angel Gabriel gave them orders from heaven that Mary's son should be called Jesus. Now that's an appropriate name: it means "God saves." One day my mother informed

me that she and my sister had learned the meaning of my name. "Kathleen means pure," she said. "No wonder you entered the convent." Do you know the meaning of your name?

Names stand for us. Knowing someone's name gives us a kind of power over him or her. Moses was privileged to learn the personal name of God, which is translated Yahweh. Our Jewish brothers and sisters have so much reverence for God that they do not dare say or write this name. Wouldn't it be nice if all Christians handled the name of Jesus with such care? After all, "At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 1:10). There is a whole



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 →](#)

commandment devoted to honoring God's name. And in the church year there is a day in honor of the Holy Name of Jesus (January 3) and one for the Holy Name of Mary (September 12).

Names are significant. How frustrating it is when we can't remember someone's name. (I've started saying, "I don't remember your name, but I know I like you.") And misspelling someone's name is considered an insult.

It used to be the custom to christen children with a saint's name, at times with the saint whose feast was celebrated on the day of birth. (Pity the child born on the feast of St. Walburgis or St. Kunegunda!) This was a beautiful custom because the saint became the child's patron saint, a special friend, someone to imitate and to turn to in times of need. Confirmation was another opportunity to adopt a saint, although today it is fine simply to "confirm" the name given at baptism.

In the Bible God had a habit of changing people's names to signify a new role in life. Abram and Sarai became Abraham and Sarah, Simon became Peter (the Rock), and Saul became Paul. It's said that we like to hear people say our name. One of my favorite Scripture verses is "I have called you by name. You are mine" (Isaiah 43:1). This Easter we heard again the account of how Mary Magdalen realized that the "gardener" was Jesus risen from the dead when he said her name. Imagine the day when you awake from the dead and hear Jesus pronounce your name!

People in love often have nicknames for each other, sometimes private ones. What do you think Jesus would call you?

Scripture says that in heaven we will be given a new name. What name would you like?

Muslims speak of the 99 beautiful names of God. In your spare time, you might draw up a list of 99 beautiful names for Jesus.

Share this:



Tagged as: [identity](#), [Jesus](#), [Mary](#), [names](#)

{ [3](#) 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](#)

Gabrielle Renoir June 7, 2015 at 11:43 pm



I've heard several meanings for the name "Gabrielle," but the one most often given is "God is my strength." I think Jesus would call me "Gabrielle" as well since I've always said anything good I have or am, any strength or goodness I possess comes as a gift freely given to me from God. By myself, I am/have nothing.

Some people give their children such strange names I feel sorry for the children because one knows they are going to be teased. "Apple," "Sunshine," and "Gatsby" are three I can think of right now. One actor names his son Kal-El which is Superman's name on Krypton!

In France, we do not celebrate our birthday on the day we were born, but on the feast day of the saint we were named after. Since my actual birthday falls "in the bleak midwinter" I don't mind one bit celebrating on September 29th when it's still usually warm and sunny.

REPLY

Kathleen Glavich, SND June 10, 2015 at 8:54 am



How fortunate you are to have an archangel as a patron, Gabrielle! This week's Time magazine gives these new baby names in 2014: Royaltee, Socchi, Payzley, Payshance, Londynne, Wizdom, and Llewyn, and Princecharles!

REPLY

Gabrielle Renoir June 23, 2015 at 7:47 am

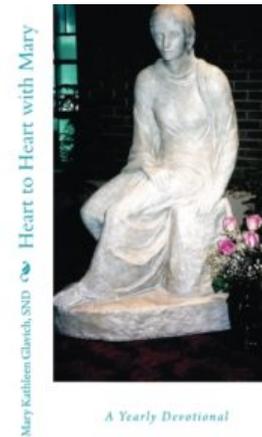


I mean no disrespect for anyone with one of those names, Sister, but they sound more like names for dogs and cats. I guess I'm too much of a traditionalist.

REPLY

Leave a Comment

Name *



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.

E-mail * Website

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

[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](#)

[Mindfulness, Being in the Present Moment](#)

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](#)