

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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Angels on High and on Earth

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [DECEMBER 23, 2015](#)
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The Christmas story is replete with angels: The Angel Gabriel delivers the startling news to teenage Mary that she was chosen to be the Mother of God. An angel (probably Gabriel) breaks the life-changing news to Joseph, her espoused, in a dream. At the birth of Jesus, an angel sends shepherds to find a savior in a manger, and then a host of angels appear and praise God. An angel directs Joseph to flee to Egypt, and later an angel tells him it's safe to return home.

Sometimes we speak of people turning into angels when they die. That isn't true. Angels are a whole other form of being. They are pure spirits with no bodies. In heaven we will still have bodies but glorified ones. Moreover, angels are magnificent, awe-inspiring creatures, wiser, stronger, and more beautiful than we are. Ironically, because of the incarnation, angels now worship Jesus, who is human as well as divine. Although we can never really be angels, we can be angelic on earth by doing three things angels do.



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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First, angels are worshipers. That is number one in their job description. In heaven angels constantly proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest." When we praise God alone or with a host of other people, when we sing the Gloria and the Holy, Holy at Mass, we are like angels—albeit without halos. Besides praising God in word and song, we can offer God our deeds as acts of praise. We praise God for who he is. We praise God for the wonderful things he has done for us. What can you praise God for today?

Second, angels are messengers. They tell people what God wants them to know. In particular, they proclaim the Good News. In fact, the word *evangelist* is based on the word *angel*. In this world where so many people are in need of hope, we can speak to them the consoling words that God loves them. Prisoners, the addicted, the afflicted, the needy and perhaps someone in our own family can be heartened by a message of Good News from our lips. To whom can you share the Good News today?

Third, angels are vessels of God's love and mercy. After Jesus was tempted in the desert, angels ministered to him. When he was enduring the agony in the garden, angels comforted him. In the Old Testament, when the prophet Elijah flees to the desert for his life and wants to die, an angel brings him food. In the Acts of the Apostles, when the apostle Peter is imprisoned, an angel comes at night, unshackles him, and leads him out. Certain angels called guardian angels are charged with protecting us. How can you be a ministering angel today?



One day I was delivered late to the sprawling Atlanta airport. After getting a ticket, I had no idea where to board the plane. The ticket agent said, "Follow that man. He's going to the same terminal." The young man, who had his little nephew in tow, led me to the train and to the right terminal. Then, because I was going to miss the plane, he took my carry-on and told me to run up the escalator to the gate. A few minutes later, as I stood in line for the plane, which luckily had been delayed, he caught up and handed me my suitcase. "You're an angel!" I proclaimed.

Every day people act like angels. Who has been an angel in your life?

Would you like to know more about angels? You might read my book *The Catholic Companion to Angels* (ACTA Publications). It comes with three different covers because the publisher couldn't decide which one to put on!



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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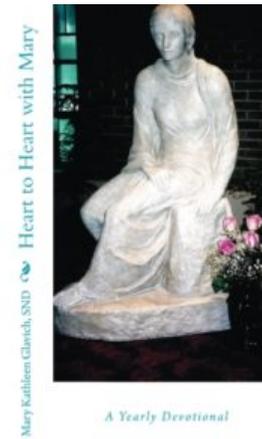
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Newest Book

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.

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?")

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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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