

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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Year of Mercy, part 3: Jesus, Mercy Incarnate

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on OCTOBER 5, 2016

in [BLOGS](#)



Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND



Jesus is the Face of God: He is God made visible. He is the incarnation of mercy. Moreover, mercy is the principle theme of his preaching and is manifested in how he treated people. We could say his middle name was Mercy. Jesus met people's physical needs. In a synagogue he read his job description: "He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (Luke 4:18).

When John's disciples asked who he

was, Jesus replied, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Matt 11:4-5).

The gospels tell of times Jesus showed compassion:

- He saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. (Mt. 14:14)
- Two blind men: "Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes." (Mt. 20:34)
- "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat." (Mk 8:2)
- "A leper came to him. Moved with pity Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him." (Mk. 1:40)
- Widow of Nain whose son died: When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." (Lk. 7:13)

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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[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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Yes, Jesus, the divine physician, healed bodies, apparently thousands of them. The second aspect of his mercy was that he healed diseases of the soul. He remarked, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners" (Mark 2:17). Jesus associated with sinners, called them to repentance, and forgave them. Here are a few instances:

The Paralytic. As Jesus is preaching in a house, a hole in a roof opens and a paralyzed man on a stretcher is lowered. Jesus says to the man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Then Jesus says, "Stand up, take up your mat and go home." And the man did so.

The Woman Caught in Adultery. As Jesus is preaching, Scribes and Pharisees bring a woman caught in adultery and stand her in front of everyone. They point out that according to Jewish law, the punishment for adultery is stoning to death. They ask Jesus, "What do you say?" Jesus replied, "Let anyone who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." One by one, the accusers leave until only Jesus and the woman are left. St. Augustine wrote, "Only misery and mercy are left." Jesus asks, "Has no one condemned you?" "No one," she answers. And Jesus says, "Neither do I. Go your way but do not sin again."

Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector, who, like other tax collectors back then, probably cheated people. When Jesus was passing through town, Zacchaeus wanted to see him. Because the man was short, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree. When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and told Zacchaeus to come down for he intended to stay at his house that day. The crowd didn't understand why such a sinner would have that privilege. Jesus explained, "The Son

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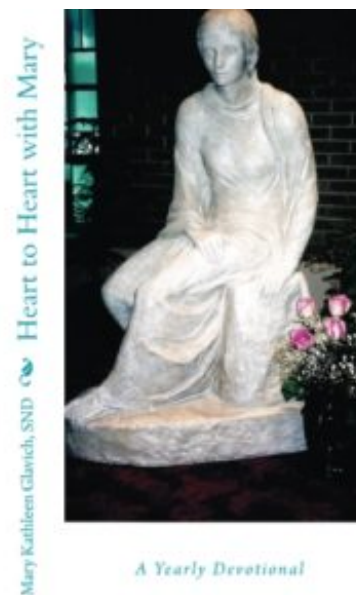
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[Newest Book](#)

In "Heart to Heart with Mary: A Yearly Devotional" Our Blessed Mother speaks to us every day of the

of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

The Adulterous Woman. When Jesus was eating at a Pharisee’s house, a sinful woman crashed the affair. She was weeping and her tears fell on his feet. She dried them with her hair and then kept



kissing his feet and anointing them with ointment from an alabaster jar. When the scandalized host complained, Jesus explained, “Her sins, which were many, have been forgiven.” Then he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Good Thief. From the cross, Jesus cried out, “Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.” A man who was either a thief or a rebel was crucified next to him. This man asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom. And Jesus promised, “This day you will be with

me in paradise.” The man stole heaven.

Jesus also forgave his executioners. He prayed, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). He also forgave the apostles who left him in his time of

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

need. After he rose from the dead and walked through the locked door into the room where they were hiding, his first words to them were "Peace be with you." In fact, he said this three times.

He never accused the apostles of being disloyal cowards.

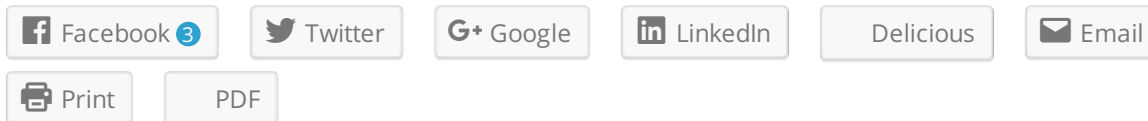
Three times Peter had sworn he didn't know Jesus. Still, Jesus provided him with three chances to profess his love and then made Peter leader of his Church.



We do not always realize what we are doing and we sin. Jesus forgives us: We ask God's mercy at the beginning of every Mass: "Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy." Again before Communion we ask the Lamb of God, sacrificed to atone for our sins, to have mercy on us. Our Father forgives us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. No sin is so terrible that God will not forgive. His mercy is greater than the sin. It is infinite.

What is your favorite story of Jesus extending mercy?

Share this:



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

Improvised Band Music Sister Marisa's second graders were having a science lesson. Holding one end of a rubber band in their teeth, the children were to stretch it and then pluck it to hear different tones. As the children did this, the room was filled with rubber band music. Suddenly there was an odd "Plink." One lad's loose front tooth had shot out onto the floor.

Of Interest

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Mark Misencik October 6, 2016 at 11:01 am



Hey Sister,

For me, the story of the Woman with a Hemorrhage is my favorite example of Jesus extending mercy. (Mt 9:18, Mk 5:21 and Lk 8:40)

Why? Well, if you study the story just a little, you find it very interesting and unique (maybe a future post or book for you Sister?). Reconciliation is a wonderful sacrament, but it does come with a hitch. As you say, we must “ask” for God’s mercy. This can be very difficult for many of us to do. Jesus give us a simple command, “Courage!” That first step is the hardest...

Mark

REPLY

Kathleen Glavich, SND October 6, 2016 at 11:36 am



Thanks for your observations, Mark. I too like the story of the woman with a hemorrhage as well as the miracle that followed it: the raising to life of Jairus’s little girl. In a few weeks I have a post coming up about Jesus and his relationship with woman. Stay tuned!

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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