

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise

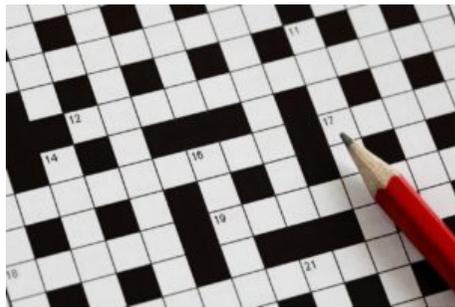


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Perseverance Pays Off for Us and Jesus

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [MARCH 21, 2018](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



Recently a video on Facebook showed a little girl about six-years-old trying to jump onto a green stool almost her height. She falls to the floor over and over again, but never stops trying. Finally her dad stands behind her, holds her shoulders, and says something to her we can't hear. I thought he was going to lift her onto the chair. But no. He disappears. The

girl gives one mighty leap and stands on top of the stool, triumphant. What a lesson in perseverance! Better than Aesop's fable of the hare and the tortoise. It made me think of times I persevered...and times I didn't. For example, sometimes when I start a crossword puzzle, many of the clues stump me, and I think, I can't do this one. But as I tackle it, little by little the grid is filled in, sometimes without even cheating! But then there are the times I tried to learn Spanish and quit. Even now the books and tapes are gathering dust.

Working at our spiritual like takes perseverance. We have to keep renewing our attempts to break a bad habit like saying "Oh, God" or worse. We have to repeat our resolutions to do good, such as exercising every day, being patient with people who



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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irritate us, or resisting unhealthy food. When we are engaged in a difficult task, we may grow weary or frustrated and be tempted to “throw in the towel.” We can rationalize, “I don’t have to do this” or “Let someone else do this.” But then we never experience the joy of the little girl who conquered the stool.

As young nuns we were told to pray for the grace of perseverance. This summer will mark my 50th jubilee, fifty years since first vows. (I think the three novitiate years before the reforms of Vatican II were implemented should also count. They were comparable to marine boot camp!) All of us jubilarians can attest that it was only sheer grace that kept us in the convent.

Jesus knew it would be hard to pray and gives us not one but two parables to encourage us to keep at it: the woman who pesters the judge until he hears her case and the man who knocks at his neighbor’s door at night until he gives him bread.

Speaking of Jesus, he was challenged to persevere. I imagine there were plenty of times when he might have thought, “This race is not worth saving. The hell with them (literally); I’m going back to heaven.” His neighbors and relatives tried to throw him off a cliff. People called him crazy and possessed. His handpicked apostles were slow to understand him. People didn’t trust him or believe his words. Even his miracles were attributed to the devil. The religious leaders criticized him and attacked him.

In the face of torture and ultimately crucifixion, Jesus could have given up. In the Garden of Olives, he could have said, “I’d rather not, Father” instead of “Your will be done.” When he was hanging on the cross and people passing by including the Jewish leaders said, “If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross,” Jesus could have, but he stayed there suffering.

In a painting of the crucifixion, Salvador Dali placed no nails in the hands and feet of Jesus. Someone explained, “Love kept him there.” Jesus persevered, fortunately for us. Now it’s up to us to persevere in faith until we attain the eternal life he made possible for us. We can also pray for the grace of “final perseverance.”



When have you successfully persevered at something?



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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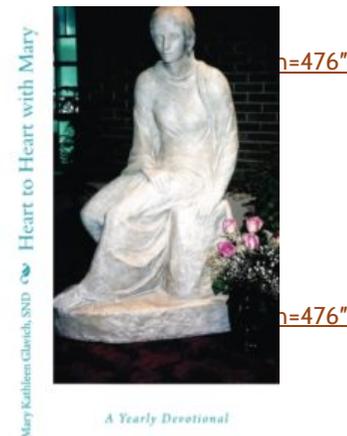
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Newest Book

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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