

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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Signs of Compassion

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [APRIL 18, 2018](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



Recently a group of us Sisters met and talked about compassion. Using quotations about it as a springboard, we reflected on how Jesus told us to be compassionate as our Father is compassionate, how God's amazing compassion was shown in sending Jesus and ways Jesus had compassion, and how compassion is an infinite ocean of love that spills over into all of creation. All who

studied Latin are aware that our word "com-*passion*" comes from two Latin words meaning "to suffer with." We women especially liked the fact that the Hebrew word for compassion (*rachum*) is comparable to "womb." This implies that being compassionate is life-giving, nourishing, and protective. Compassion means being responsible for the needs of others both near and far. Sister Carol McHenry put a lot of thought into preparing for our conversation. She asked herself, What does it mean to be compassionate. Here is the list she shared with us that I found insightful and inspiring, and you might too:

To be compassionate is . . .



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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- to feel with another
- to look them in the eyes
- to listen without talking
- to love the unlovable
- to affirm someone
- to go out of my comfort zone
- to give a helping hand
- to pray for those in need
- to simply be with
- to take action
- to console and challenge
- to weep and hold
- to truly love like Jesus

Pope Francis has given us a new encyclical called "Rejoice and Be Glad." In it he makes a solid case for compassion as the key to happiness in this world and the next.

Jesus showed compassion by giving sight to the blind, healing lepers, opening the ears of the deaf, and bringing the dead back to life. Performing miracles such as these is beyond our power. And sometimes the needs of people in the world are so overwhelming that we have compassion fatigue. We feel helpless in the face of so much misery. We know we can't do much to relieve all the suffering in the world. However, we have countless opportunities to show compassion in small ways, like holding the door open for an overburdened mother or shopping for a housebound person. Even smiling at someone can be an act of compassion in that it brightens that person's day.



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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Can you add to Sister Carol's list? When have you been compassionate? When have you benefited from someone's compassion?

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Colleen Mallette April 19, 2018 at 9:16 am



So good to hear Sr. Carol McHenry's name again! We miss her at St. Michael's (especially the Wed. Book Club), where she exemplified the meaning of compassion by the way she gently led the group by listening more than talking and affirming any comment as worthy. Thank you for sharing her list, the only other thing I'd add is to "put yourself in someone else's shoes."

REPLY

Kathleen Glavich, SND April 20, 2018 at 6:48 am



Sister was happy to see your comment, Colleen, and remember you.

REPLY

Vincent Winslow April 19, 2018 at 10:52 am



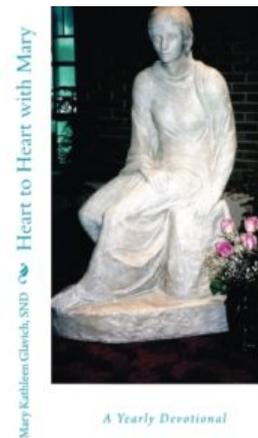
We are reading a book by Nolan, "Jesus before Christianity". His main point is the compassion that Jesus shows to those rejected by society, and to those who show a willingness to change.

REPLY

Kathleen Glavich, SND April 20, 2018 at 6:49 am



I have that book, Vince. Think I will read it again after your comment. Thanks!



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.

REPLY

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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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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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