

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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Halloween or the Hallowed?

by [KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND](#) on [OCTOBER 24, 2018](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



In the excitement of creating elaborate Halloween displays, designing costumes, carving pumpkins, and buying enough candy to last the night, the original meaning of Halloween might be forgotten or overlooked—except at schools where children dress up as saints! Halloween is the eve before the feast of All Saints. Hallowed means holy, as in the Our Father’s “hallowed be Thy name.” Halloween = Hallowed eve. November 1 is the day we celebrate all of the saints from the oldest to the youngest, the most popular to the forgotten, the powerful to the meek and humble, those canonized centuries ago, and those canonized this month like St.

Pope Paul VI and St. Oscar Romero. We Catholics regard those who have shown the way to be holy on earth as models and inspirations but also as friends. We ask them to pray for us for trivial things such as losing our key for the umpteenth time and for serious matters like conquering cancer.

Formerly children were named for the saint on whose feast they were born, unless parents objected to naming their child an outdated name like Pachomius or Cupertino.



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.

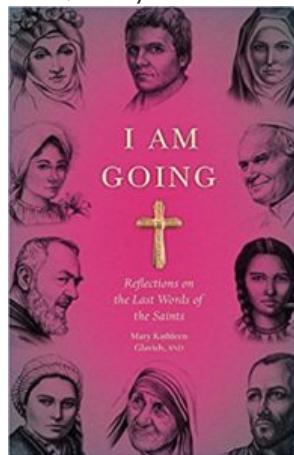
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These holy people then became special patrons of the children, someone who could pull strings for them in heaven. Otherwise, parents could name their children after favorite saints. Today when children are likely to bear names such as Fallon and Dejeanna, they can choose a patron saint. I was named Kathleen, which is related to Catherine, so I had my choice of Catherine of Alexandria, Catherine Laboure, and Catherine of Siena. I chose the latter, probably because I like Louis de Wohl's book about her, *Lay Siege to Heaven*.

St. Catherine is a great woman, one of the first women to be named Doctor of the Church. Refusing to be married (against her parents' wishes) Catherine became a kind of hermit, living at home and serving her family, and also praying so intensely that she was bonded to Christ in a mystical marriage. Then when he sent her out into the world, she became spiritual "Mother" to dozens of people. Most notably, she was instrumental in seeing that the pope left Avignon and returned to Rome where he belonged.

I have the picture of St. Catherine shown here in my living room. She's carrying the ship that stands for Christ's Church. We show devotion to our patron saints, not only by displaying their image and celebrating their feast days, but also by asking them to pray for us. St. Catherine is a good one to pray for Pope Francis, don't you think?

By the way, one of my newest books is about the saints. I researched their dying words and came up with the last words of 89 saints. The book has a brief bio of each saint, the dying words, and then a reflection on the words. You might buy a copy for yourself or someone to celebrate the feast of All Saints! It's called *I Am Going...* and sells for \$13.00. Contact me for a copy: kglavich@ndec.org.



Who is your favorite saint or saints? Why? How do you honor him or her?

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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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Manny October 24, 2018 at 8:12 am



Obviously my name is not Catherine, nor am I female, but I consider her my patron saint. I fell in love with Catherine of Siena after I read a biography of her, the one written by the Nobel winning author, Sigrid Undset, who by the way was a third order Dominican. What a brilliant woman Catherine was. Even though she was uneducated, she became a Doctor of the Church through her writings. Not only are they theologically insightful, but they are masterpieces of literature. In my opinion she was a natural born poet. Here are some of her quotes. "Love follows knowledge" "Beauty above all beauty!" "The soul is in God and God in the soul, just as the fish is in the sea and the sea in the fish." "Every step of the way to heaven is heaven!" She was a mystic, theologian, preacher of the faith, and caregiver. She combined all elements of the Christian life. She was not shy about telling religious and aristocrats when they were wrong, and bluntly so, even the Pope. And yet she must have had a charming personality because she attracted a large following devotees, including me now across time and space. Excuse my exuberance, every time her name comes up somewhere, I can't help extolling her.

REPLY

Mary Collins-Smith October 29, 2018 at 3:45 pm



My favorite Saint is The Blessed Mother.

Not surprising, my mother named me Mary.

I feel the Blessed Mothers presence daily and especially after praying to her.

Mary Collins-Smith

REPLY



Mary Kathleen Glavinich, SND [Heart to Heart with Mary](#)
A Yearly Devotional

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.

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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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