

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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The Beauty of God

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [JANUARY 2, 2019](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



In this Christmas season, we can't help but be stunned by beautiful scenes: a church festooned with poinsettias and garlands, snow-covered mountains and frosted trees, a starlit sky, a dance in the *Nutcracker*, the faces of small children aglow with joy. We are programmed to thrill at beautiful sights. We take photos of them to capture and preserve them. We take pride in calling our country "American the Beautiful." We also drink in beauty when gazing at certain artwork like the Pieta and when hearing certain pieces of music like Fauré's "Requiem." Beauty has power to take our breath away and bring tears to our eyes. It is a reflection of the beauty of God, the Creator. In a poem, John Keats praised beauty, saying

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never



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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Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.
The Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote that the whole world is “charged with the grandeur of God.” It can lift our minds and hearts to God.

In writing my book “I Am Going,” about the last words of the saints, I discovered that when Steve Jobs was dying, his last words were “Wow! Oh wow!” And he said them three times. What was he beholding? I’m guessing that it was something of supreme beauty.

Most of us strive to be as beautiful (or handsome) as we can. We style our hair, clothe ourselves in lovely outfits, and workout and diet in order to maintain good figures. These are attempts to achieve perfection, in other words to reflect that quality that resides in its fullness in God—beauty. St. Augustine in his book *Confessions* addresses God this way: “Late have I loved you, beauty so ancient and so new.” In Psalm 27:4 we pray, “One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: . . . To gaze on the Lord’s beauty.”

A good New Year’s resolution might be to spend more time with beauty.

What thing of beauty has moved you recently?

Click below to go to a hymn about God’s beauty.

[Beauty Ever Ancient song](#)

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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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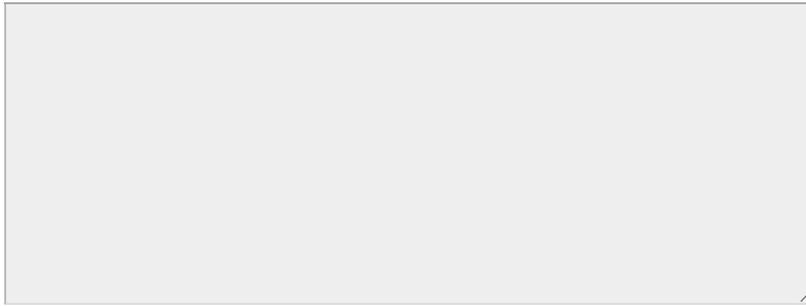
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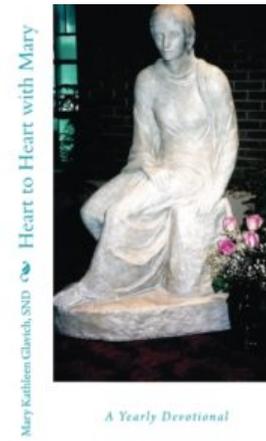
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Newest Book

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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