

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise

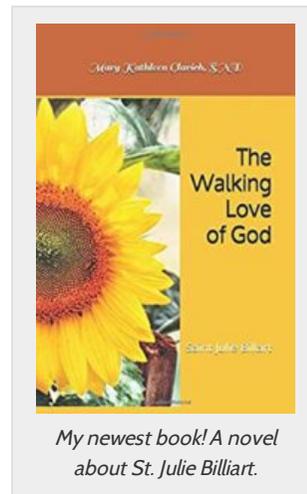


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Saint Julie Billiart: A Woman for Our Time

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [MAY 8, 2019](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



Although St. Julie Billiart lived from 1751 to 1816, several aspects of her life parallel our current world. My latest book is her biography in the form of a novel: *The Walking Love of God: St. Julie Billiart*. (It contains colored photos, which makes it more expensive, but I thought it was worth it.) Here are some features of this saint's life that are relevant:



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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Julie was an immigrant, a refugee. She was born in France and began her religious community, the Sisters of Notre Dame, there. But when the bishop evicted her from his diocese, she fled and took refuge in Belgium. She did not speak the language (Flemish), and at first people in Belgium were leery of having French sisters teach their children.

Julie lived when people's faith and hope needed to be restored. During the French Revolution, the Catholic faith was attacked. Churches and monasteries were closed. Priests and women religious (like the Carmelites) were beheaded. For years the faith was no longer practiced or passed on.

Julie focused on teaching women and children, especially the poor. Hundreds of orphans wandered the streets of France. Julie established boarding schools and free schools for the poor. At missions at French cathedrals, she taught mostly women and children.

Julie suffered psychological abuse from the clergy. A priest usurped her role as founder and superior general of her religious congregation. He spread slanderous tales about her to bishops and priests. Her own bishop banned her from his diocese.

Julie accomplished marvels as an elderly person. She began the Sisters of Notre Dame when she was fifty-three years old. After a miraculous healing, she established numerous schools and convents and made one hundred and twenty journeys, often walking for miles in all kinds of weather.

Julie's family was the victim of violence. Robbers stole goods from the family store, a crime that sent the Billiards into poverty. Later, while Julie and her father were in the shop, a rock was hurled through the store window and a shot was fired.

Julie fled for her life. While she was paralyzed, French revolutionaries hunted her, intending to burn her on a bonfire. She escaped by being hidden under hay in a farm wagon.

Julie was disabled for twenty-three years. Besides being paralyzed and bedridden, at times she could not speak.

Julie experienced the dark night of the soul, when she lost all sense of God's comforting



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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presence.

Remarkably, Julie never lost faith. Through all the ups and down of her life, her constant expression was "How good is the good God!"

If you would like to learn more about St. Julie, you might read my book. Please purchase it directly from me. Send a check for \$20.00 (which includes shipping) to Kathleen Glavich, SND, 13000 Auburn Rd., Chardon, OH 44024. Questions to go with the book can be found at <http://www.kathleenglavich.org/articles/questions-for-the-walking-love-of-god-st-julie-billiart/>

What connection, if any, do you have with the Sisters of Notre Dame, the Coesfeld or Namur congregations?

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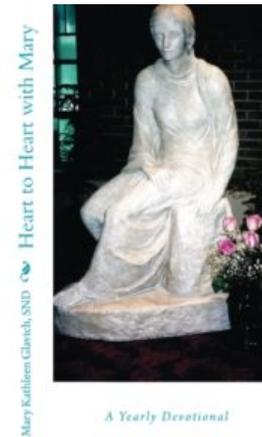


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Newest Book

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.

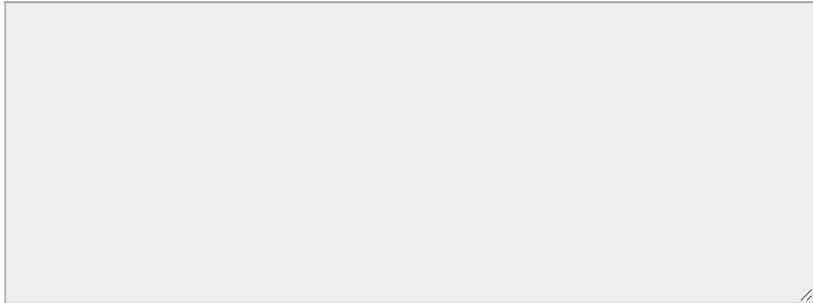
Featured Book

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.



Submit

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?")

Of Interest

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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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