

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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Wonder and Astonishment at the World

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [JULY 10, 2019](#)
in [BLOGS](#)



Last week I wrote a blog about donkeys. “Coincidentally” while doing spiritual reading this week, I came across a reference to Nikos Kazantzakis’s novel *Zorba the Greek*. One day Zorba was riding on a donkey with his boss. As they met a traveler on another ass, Zorba’s eyes were transfixed on the stranger. Chided for gawking, Zorba

proclaimed his awe at the fact that there are such things as donkeys in the world. Author Wilkie Au commented, “To view reality with wonder is to see ordinary things as donkeys with a sense of astonishment—as though seeing them for the first time.”

So many marvelous things in the world we take for granted and hardly notice. We walk down a street and don’t give a thought to the butterfly flitting by or the perky dandelion on a lawn. But every once in a while we are drawn to contemplate a feature of creation and our heart is moved to thank and praise its creator. When is the last time you looked at the stars placed in the night sky for your pleasure, really looked? Have you gazed at the tree in your backyard, noticing its shape, its bark, and



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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its leaves; or the bright, delicate flower on your table? Seeing things with “real-eyes” takes time and concentration.

This summer is a good time to visit the zoo and be amazed by the variety of animals or take a slow walk in the woods to cherish mushrooms, violets, and oaks. Or just sit quietly and listen to a stirring piece of music. Let God speak to you through his gifts of love. For that matter, you might marvel at your own body. Look in the mirror at your eyes and marvel at their color, their power to see, and the lashes that protect them. Take off your shoes and wiggle your toes, reflecting on how they help you keep your balance and the ingenuity of nails on the end of them. Isn't it amazing that we can think a tune in our head and our lips will form exactly the right way to let us whistle it?

This reflection reminds me of the play *Our Town* in which the dead Emily is able to relive her twelfth birthday. She concludes, “Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it?” The theme of the play is that while on earth we are blind and ignorant when it comes to appreciating the fact that we exist.

Mary Oliver's poem “Mindful” begins, “Every day I see or hear something that more or less kills me with delight.”

Dag Hammarskjöld wrote, “We die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason.”

Here is a prayer practice that may turn into a mystical experience: Find something ordinary—a blade of grass, a paperclip, a squirrel, a glass of water—and ponder it until you marvel at it. Then let your heart love the One who allowed it to be and allowed you to experience it.



Just came across this: A French writer's dying words—“What a beautiful life I've had. Too bad I didn't notice it sooner.”

When have you suddenly seen something in bright clarity? What was your response? When have you been “killed with delight?”



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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Vincent Winslow July 12, 2019 at 7:30 pm



Beautifully articulated.

REPLY

Sue July 12, 2019 at 8:35 pm



"Killed with delight" was just recently with the 4th of July fireworks. But my real biggie was when we went to the McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis, Texas. You lay on benches and see a catrillion stars!!! And, then, the Hubble went by.... Also saw Saturn through the telescope. Talk about awe inspiring. There's just no words for it. We need a nudge once in awhile to stop and smell the roses. Thanks,
Sue

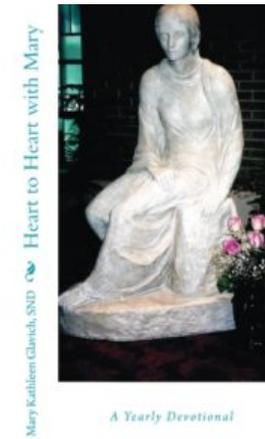
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Newest Book

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.

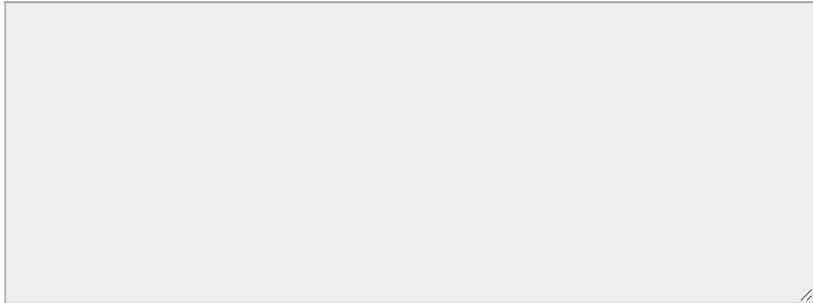
Featured Book

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.



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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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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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