

Catholic Faith Corner

Understanding, Teaching, and Living the Faith

Sea of Galilee at Sunrise



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A Cat Christmas Story

by KATHLEEN GLAVICH, SND on [DECEMBER 18, 2019](#)
in [UNCATEGORIZED](#)



In a Christmas letter this year, a friend whose pet cat had died recounted how she noticed a calico cat roaming her property. It was “small, skinny, and timid.” She didn’t take it into her house but let it return to the woods. Regularly the cat came around, and the woman brought it lunch by the big oak. Soon the cat grew stronger and bigger, better able to survive the winter. My friend wished that all the “calico cats” in her life were as easy to make happy and secure. Plenty of people need attention and care.



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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Yes, there are poor immigrants, the sick, and the incarcerated who call out for help. But in our inner circles, there may also be people who are lost and feeling rejected: a family member, a coworker, or a neighbor. We can “feed” them with a phone call, an invitation, or even just a friendly word. By doing this we are Godlike, for God reached out often. At Christmas he reached out to poor shepherds.

In Israel at that time, shepherds not only were lower class but had a bad reputation. They were thought to be untrustworthy and had no civil rights. They also probably smelled. Nevertheless, God sent an army of angels to these social outcasts—of all people—to proclaim that the Messiah was born. The shepherds then became the first eyewitnesses of the incarnation other than Mary and Joseph.



This outreach to shepherds is against the backdrop of an even more impressive act of God's mercy. God planted us human beings on this rock in the universe that we call Earth. After our race turned against our Creator, we were mired in sin and its effects: sadness, suffering, death, and hopelessness. Then our compassionate God reached out to us in a remarkable way. He saved us by joining us on Earth as Jesus. He adopted us wayward children and restored our inheritance. He befriended us the way my friend extended love to the stray calico cat.

Jesus himself constantly paid attention to the lowly, the forgotten, and the despised: lepers who were shunned, sinful women who were scorned, children who were overlooked, and a despised tax collector in a tree. On the cross with his dying breaths Jesus assured the criminal hanging next to him that he was forgiven.

In preaching, Jesus even raised the status of shepherds. Not only did he tell a poignant parable about a shepherd that seeks out a lost lamb, but he called himself a shepherd—the Good Shepherd.

This Christmas, the best gift you can give someone might be a little attention.

When has someone raised your spirits by thoughtful caring?



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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PATRICIA GRONICK December 18, 2019 at 4:23 pm



Thank you for sharing the Calico story . It seemed strange to see my thoughts in print. The Calico still is around, and I still view her from the window, glad to see she is surviving our second winter shared. Another small miracle. Have a Blessed Healthy New Year . In faith, love and friendship. Patt

REPLY

Kathleen Glavich, SND December 19, 2019 at 12:17 pm



The same to you, Patt! And thanks for giving me the good fodder for my Christmas post! Kathleen

REPLY

Allison December 18, 2019 at 7:23 pm



I needed this message.

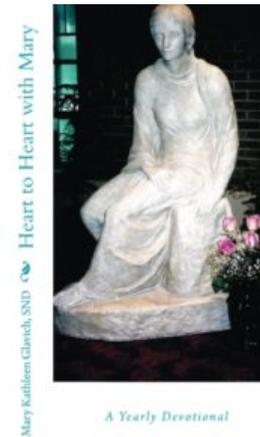
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Newest Book

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.

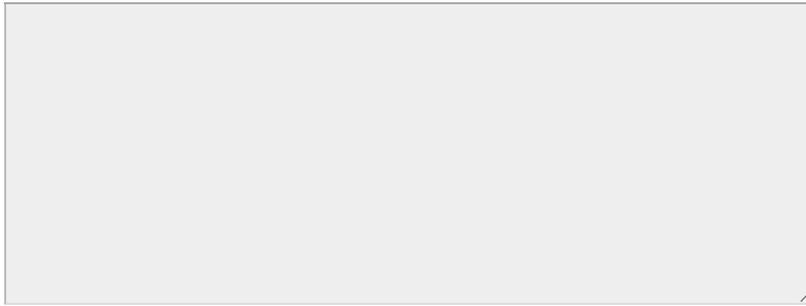
Featured Book

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?")

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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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