Prayer Poems

Poetic Reflections for Sundays and Feastdays
by Sister Juliemarie McDonald, SND

Baggage

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND *on* 07/12/2012
in ORDINARY TIME

"He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—" (Mark 6:8a)

Prayer Poem for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time–Cycle B
July 15, 2012

(Jesus) "began to send them out two by two…" (Mark 6:7a)

No food, no sack, no money, one tunic you say,
Grant me this simplicity today.
I trust and believe you will provide,
and you will be my faithful guide.

Each day we journey with two bags,
         one we see, one is invisible.
         both slow the journey down.

Most have been to the airport
         with bags some big or small,
         some with wheels, or no wheels at all.

About Sr. Juliemarie McDonald, SND

Sister Juliemarie McDonald joined the Sisters of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio in 1951. She holds an MA in English Studies from John Carroll University MA in Scripture from St. Charles Seminary. After 32 years of teaching classes ranging from first grade to college level, she then became a researcher, campus minister, director of religious education and a pastoral minister in Mease Hospital in Dunedin, Florida. In her semi-retirement, Sister Juliemarie writes reflections and faith sharing sessions for the young sisters in formation in Africa, Philippines, Korea, India and the USA. Her spare time is spent as a crafter.

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

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Teachablility

They are heavy and cumbersome and
    weigh us down. Why did we pack so much
    to go to that next town?

Do you ever stop to consider the inner bags
    you tote, though invisible they be?
These are bags which keep you from
    true simplicity.

Some of the bags are old and dusty
    carrying years of piled up dirt,
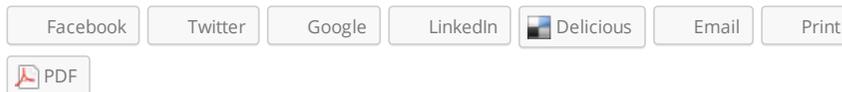   hurts and hard feelings that crusted up
    your heart.
Why don't you start unpacking them now,
    before you take your final bow.

No hatred, revenge or anger remain,
    no weight to hold you down,
Be free to travel with great joy the
    true simplicity you have found.

For Reflection and Sharing:

1. Who is your walking stick?
2. What is your inner baggage?
3. How will you simplify your life style?

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dion   July 12, 2012 at 6:17 am

Julie,
I love your phrase, "Be free to travel with great joy the true simplicity you have

found." It is a beautiful invitation of being with and trusting God...like a little child on its mother's lap...taking to heart Jesus' words to be like the birds of the air and the lilies in the field."

Thanks so much.
Dion

REPLY

Juliemarie McDonald   July 12, 2012 at 7:51 am

Dion, it is truly amazing the freedom true simplicity brings into one's life.

REPLY

gia   July 12, 2012 at 8:22 am

Beautiful reflection of trust, truth, and simplicity....I still have much difficulty with simplifying the interior.

Thanks for sharing!!!!

REPLY

Sr. Juliemarie McDonald   July 12, 2012 at 11:26 am

The inner is where it all happens. Get there in quiet prayer.

REPLY

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