



Prayer Poems

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



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The Vinedresser

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on [05/03/2012](#)
in [EASTER](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.
He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit,
and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.
(John 15:1-2)

**Prayer Poem by Sister Juliemarie McDonald, SND
for the 5th Sunday of Easter, Cycle B
May 6, 2012**

Divine Vinedresser,
What lessons do branches on a vine teach?
Listen, they will tell you.

“I need to be:
 well trained and
 planted in drained soil.
Dig deep the planting hole.
I am a deep rooter.
Place me in full sunlight and

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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let me lean on a trellis;
If not, since I am a creeper,
I will run wild and wind around anything convenient.
Prune me in the dormant season.
Make sure I remember always I am a branch, not the vine.
Follow these lessons and I will produce delicious fruit.”

Thank you, Jesus, the Vine, for this parable of the Vinedresser.
What insights are contained in the story for me.

I was planted in the deep hole of faith at Baptism,
taught and trained with each sacrament received.
I am rooted now in faith, hope and charity and
given “Son-light” from your Holy Spirit.
I lean upon the trellis of your:
Tradition,
Words and the Eucharist,
The Church’s teachings and dogmas.

(Only you know how far I have run wild and
followed the winds of time and convenience.)

In dormant times diseased branches of sinfulness
were lopped off and
laid beside the Vine
to be burned and consumed in the fire of your love.
My sufferings and pains were your pruning tools.

In this journey of faith, this growing in the Spirit
May I produce the precious and delicious fruits of:
truth, humility and walking justly with you, the Vine, and
me, the branch, to be a pleasing fruit for the Vinedresser.

For Reflection and Sharing:

1. How do silence and solitude prepare the soil of our souls to bear fruit?
2. To what kinds of relationships does today’s Gospel passage call us?

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Sister Helen Chasar May 3, 2012 at 10:05 am



Dear Sister Juliemarie,
Thanks a million for your inspirational poem on the Divine Vinedresser,
Who loves us more than we can imagine.
May all of us take to heart your beautiful expressions of God's goodness
and provident care as we make our journey of faith to His Kingdom.
Love and prayers,
Sister Mary Helen Chasar, SND

REPLY

Gia Turella May 3, 2012 at 12:00 pm



Sometimes I forget that I am part of the Divine Vinedresser's Plan...thank
you for the reminder!

REPLY

Valerie Pinney May 3, 2012 at 2:01 pm



Very touching poem Sr. Julie. I have grapes vines over my kitchen cabinets
which remind me of this very scripture. It is one of my most favorite. It helps me to
understand why there is human pain and suffering. Thank you

REPLY

Sr Juliemarie McDonald May 3, 2012 at 3:51 pm



Dear Helen, you have been vine dresser to many beginning teachers. My mom used to say, "You can't teach what you don't have." You have taught many the truths of the faith and the virtues of a good Christian. Thank you.

REPLY

Sr Juliemarie McDonald May 3, 2012 at 3:53 pm



Gia, o yes, all are part of God's mysterious plans to give him wonderful fruits. Whatever we have done to his least, is sweet fruit to him, too.

REPLY

Sr Juliemarie McDonald May 3, 2012 at 3:54 pm



Val, what a wonderful daily reminder! Don't forget besides pruning us there are so many ways He cares for us and produces wonderful fruit in us.

REPLY

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GOD'S GOODNESS AND PROVIDENT CARE.

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