



# Prayer Poems

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



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## Bullet Control Law

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on [02/13/2014](#)  
in [ORDINARY TIME](#)

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time–Cycle A**  
**February 16, 2014**

*“You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.”*  
(Matthew 5:21b)

### Bullet Control Law

Seems many are debating the gun laws in America.  
But I have been hearing, “guns don’t kill; people kill!”  
Those words got me thinking.  
Gun-lovers stash their guns and their bullets.  
There is no Bullet Control Law!  
“Funny,” I thought. “Isn’t it the bullet that strikes the vital parts of life in humans?”  
But a staunch debater shouted back, “That’s crazy; bullets don’t kill; people kill!”

My stubborn mind could not let the thought go.  
Here is why, if you care to know.  
My experiences in life (as I aged in grace.)  
felt many a bullet hit my face

## 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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perhaps this bullet was “misplaced.”  
That wounding bullet pierced my heart!

Have you ever experienced such bullets?

- Shooting the look that kills
- Peeking at a watch and not at your face as one speaks
- Turning away of a head when you pass by
- Ducking for cover by another as you walk a hall
- Ignoring that you even exist in a group
- Interrupting bullets disturbing others in conversation
- Crossing the road to avoid contact

Let your own experiences add to the stash of ammunition that harbors in minds and hearts.

Remember the old adages:

“Actions speak louder than words.”

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

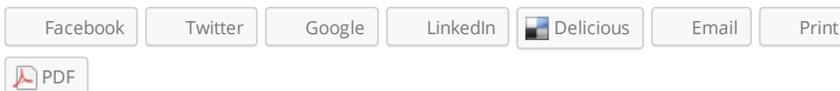
Or, just think with an “out-of-the-box mentality” about these words of Jesus,

*“You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.”*  
(Matthew 5:21b)

### For Reflection and Sharing:

1. What kind of positive “bullet proof vest” helps when killing bullets hit your heart?
2. Which of the bullets need to be controlled in your own life?
3. Why is a wounding bullet just as devastating as a killing bullet?
4. Do you have a gnawing bullet wound you would like to share with anyone?
5. Why do you keep your stash of bullets?
6. How can you keep from wounding others?
7. Is there a special prayer of compassion you pray for those you wound or for those who wound you?

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**Sister Kathleen Tobin** February 14, 2014 at 3:28 pm



I'm sorry that some people have hit you, perhaps unknowingly, with their bullets of unkindness or evasion. May you once again feel welcome wherever you go. I try to remember that most people who do things that you mentioned are preoccupied with their duties, responsibilities, or something else that distracts them. Just the other day I lost my gloves and all my thoughts were on where they could be, where I had been and what could have happened to them.

REPLY

**Sister Mary Helen Chasar** February 17, 2014 at 11:06 am



Dear Sister Juliemarie,  
Thank you for your down to earth prayer poem.  
“Jesus, cut the cords that bind me, set me free,  
Extend your Healing Heart to all who have hurt me and to all I have hurt as a sign of my forgiveness.”  
With God’s grace,I am trying to keep my thoughts beautiful, loving and positive.  
God bless you and continue to inspire you to witness His Unconditional Love always.

REPLY

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