



# Prayer Poems

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



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## Greater Things

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on [05/15/2014](#)  
in [EASTER](#)

### Fifth Sunday of Easter–Cycle A May 18, 2014

*“The person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing, but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I have been doing.”*  
(*The Message*, E. H. Peterson, p. 1738, John 14:12)

#### Greater Things

Greater things than: healing, raising the dead, feeding thousands with two loaves of bread and  
a fish!  
How can this be?

Is this what Jesus is really promising?  
Somehow I can begin to imagine such things.  
Would my things be greater than the discovering of America, finding a passage to the East  
Indies, landing on the moon?

## 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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Where would I find such things: in medicine, in industry, in technology?

Try looking in Google for greatest things happening from 1 AD to 2014 as I did. I wonder why they stopped in 1983. Perhaps, no one took Jesus' challenge of trust. Not satisfied I tried looking for images. Here is a slogan I found: "The best things in life are not things."

If not things, then what?

What are these greater things Jesus challenges us to do that Jesus didn't accomplish in his thirty-three years of ministry? What might he be calling you and me to do?

Dreams often surface in our lives.

There is a need for the followers of the Way to dare to dream and to dare to do. "But what's the hitch," you ask.

One thing, that's all.

Trust in the promise, **"You will be able to do greater things."**

### For Reflection and Sharing:

1. List some of the "greater things" we could do if we trusted and believed.
2. What keeps us from trusting Jesus' promise?
3. How do you interpret the promise of doing "greater things?"
4. Whom do you think has done great things for her/his country?
5. When will you make a choice to make a difference?

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