Prayer Poems

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

Ideal Family Life

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND *on* 12/25/2014
in CHRISTMAS

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph–Christmas & Epiphany
December 28, 2014

"Whoever reveres his father will love a long life; he who obeys his father
brings comfort to his mother."
(Sirach 3:1)

Ideal Family Life

Joseph, head of the household,
Mary, heart of their home,
Jesus, the obedient Son,
Ideal model for families.

Joseph, righteous bread winner in hard times,
Mary, soon to be named Mother of God,
        Both traveling to Bethlehem to be counted by an enthroned jealous King.

Ideal model for 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

Showing not by words, but actions what it means to:

Leave your job,

Walk miles with pregnant wife riding on a donkey,

Birth Jesus in a cattle cave.

Yes, ideal!

Moving again, this time to Egypt to escape a conniving King,

No job, learning a foreign language, house hunting migrants on the run,

Joseph, ideal father, caring for the family with so little going for him.

Yes, ideal!

Accepting the message, "Return to Nazareth."

Getting the donkey ready for two this time–foot sore Joseph walking.

Back home to be a carpenter, to teach the Son of God a trade.

Amazing isn't it when all the circumstances are stacked one upon another!
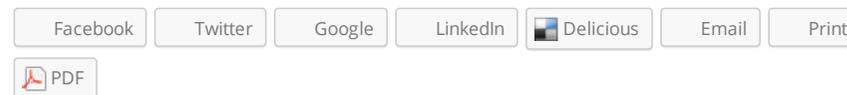
What makes them the ideal model?

They are righteous, obedient and trusting God in all circumstances.

Here's a family "going with the flow," keeping their heads above the water!

Loving all the way, all the time!

Holy Family, pray for our families and grant us the grace to strive for the ideal. Amen.

For Reflection and Sharing:

1. Name some ways the Holy Family mirrors our own families in this century.
2. What makes a big difference in the Holy Family's dealings with daily events?
3. Write your own prayer of petition to the Holy Family.
4. Why is family life so different today?
5. What seems to be missing in young families? Older families?
6. Name some things you can change in your family life to make it more ideal?
7. Who models and helps young families today?
8. What lessons do these young families need to change *pronto*?

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Tagged as: Carpenter, Family life, Foreign Language, Ideal Model, Jobless, Migrant, Nazareth, Obedience, Pregnancy, Trust

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