

# Prayer Poems

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

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## Sheep or Goats

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on [11/20/2014](#)  
in [ORDINARY TIME](#)

### The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe—Cycle A November 23, 2014

*“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”  
(Matthew 25:34)*

#### Sheep or Goats

Left or right—goats or sheep,  
Left or right—dishonorable or honorable,  
Is the message of the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

Jesus speaks in a land with a culture of shepherds and kings.  
Kings were expected to be honorable and to do honorable service to his subjects.

Were his people hungry or thirsty or  
Strangers, or naked, or imprisoned?  
Then a King was expected to feed, give drinks to,  
Be hospitable and clothe and visit those in prison.

## 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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Shepherds mimicked their kings. They did for their sheep what the king did for his people.

**“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)**

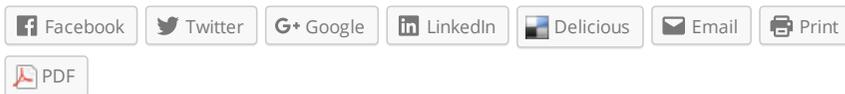
Left or right—goats or sheep,  
Left or right—dishonorable or honorable,  
Goats will go off to eternal punishment.  
Sheep (the righteous) will go off to eternal life.

Lord, Christ, King of the Universe, create us anew; grace us with honorability.  
Gift us with awareness that we seek out the lost, bring back the strayed, bind up the wounded,  
Heal the sick and refresh the weary and lonely souls with your words of everlasting life. Amen.

#### For Reflection and Sharing:

1. How is it possible to love as Christ the King loves?
2. What important lesson did you learn from Matthew's gospel this week?
3. What do you intend to do for your brother or sister in Christ this week?
4. What stops you from reaching out to strangers, or prisoners, or misfits?
5. How much stock does our good God put in the Masses we hear, prayers we say, or the laws we righteously keep?
6. What law over-rides these very good things which bring us closer to God?

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Helene November 20, 2014 at 9:47 am



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Thanks Julie I really do appreciate your poems and discussion questions for my reflection. I do hope you are having a good day!

REPLY

**Sr. Juliemarie McDonald** November 20, 2014 at 1:15 pm



Dear Helene, I grateful for your readership and more grateful that you take time to reflect upon the questions. You know I am always open to suggestions. Love, Sr. Juliemarie

REPLY

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