



Prayer Poems

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



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The Other Side

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on [09/02/2014](#)
in [ORDINARY TIME](#)

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time–Cycle A
August 31, 2014

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”
(Matthew 16:24)

The Other Side

I came upon a mountain,
I climbed its dizzy heights,
There standing on the mountain,
Like an eagle winged in flight,
Stood a cross, a lonely sentinel
Pillared 'gainst the dusk of night.

I gazed upon the gibbet
Stark bare against the sky;
I saw its depth, its breadth, its height,
“Too much, too much,” I cried.

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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I turned to leave the mountain,
Descend the rugged stairs,
When lo! A voice from heaven
Pierced the mountain's pure, clear air.
Its haunting echo lured me
To the mountain's other side,
To find not lonely, empty cross—
But Christ the crucified.

Once more the voice from heaven
Leaped down from out the skies,
And I knew a loving Father
From out of paradise,
Looked down with tender pity
On a child who fails, but tries.

“My child, this cross of Calvary
Its weight you'll never bear,
'Til you embrace my loving Son,
Who's cruelly pinioned there.

For Reflection and Sharing:

1. What is the difference between a cross and a crucifix?
2. Why do you avoid rather than embrace the cross?
3. Do you think your daily crosses could ever match Jesus' cross?
4. What are some world-wide issues you could offer up your cross with Christ's cross?
5. What does it mean to be a true disciple of Jesus?
6. How does the scripture “he (Jesus) will repay all according to his conduct” make you feel?

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