

# Prayer Poems

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



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## Groupies

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on [09/22/2015](#)  
in [ORDINARY TIME](#)

Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle – B

**“Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us.” (Mk 9:38)**

### Groupies

Jesus wasn't pleased with John's complaint. "Don't stop him, if he not against us, he is for us." "My dear disciples, you are demonstrating a group mentality. Like a river which branches off in many directions, perhaps the "selfies" branch flows into a "groupies" branch. Each has its good points and its dangers.

## 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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**We met  
for a reason,  
either you're  
a *blessing* or  
a *lesson*.**

Why the “selfie craze”?

Perhaps it was a phase of affirmation touted by psychologists as a means of a child's growth and self esteem.

Maybe it's plain old pride.

Then again, could it be a true time of maturation?

What are some things we might think about groupies?

Are they the age old heritage of family?

“No,” you say; “they are a bunch of snobs, the elite!”

Maybe they are just a group of like thinkers and doers.

They are terrorists! They are the enemy! They aren't in our group.

Whatever!

**We met  
for a reason,  
either you're  
a *blessing* or  
a *lesson*.**

If a person is not an enemy, that person is an ally.

In unity there is strength.

Lord, make me a mender, not a defender who divides and creates chaos. Amen

**For Reflection and Sharing:**

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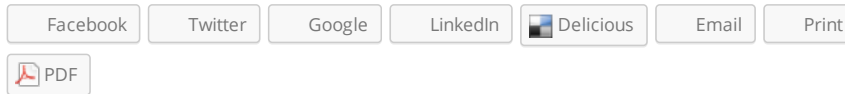
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1. Why did the John report the prophets, who seemed to be doing good things?
2. Where do you learn that your group is better than another group?
3. Who have been the teachers of judgmentalism in your life? As a result, have you taught others to be judgmental and perhaps prejudiced?
4. How does the response of Jesus' words differ from those of his disciples?
5. What is the basis of Jesus' words, "Don't stop them?"
6. Who has been a blessing in your life?
7. From Mark's gospel what lessons have you learned about judging others?

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