



Prayer Poems

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



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Reflection on My Treasure Chest

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND. on [12/30/2015](#)
in [FEASTS CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY](#)

Feast of Epiphany — Cycle C

January 3, 2015

“Then they opened their treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Mt 2: 11b)

Reflection on My Treasure Chest

What is in your Treasure Chest? I suspect it won't be Gold, frankincense or myrrh. I also suspect that you might have three treasures of your own in your locked Treasure Chest.

Perhaps the first thing you might think about is “Why do I lock it and make sure it is in a safe place? Are you afraid a friend might discover the real truth of your greatest values? Do these treasures make you feel guilty or are you proud of your choices.

The gifts of the Magi had special significance. The star-led Kings of the orient somehow knew the Babe of Bethlehem was born into a royal line. He was a child King, who would some day be ruler of all nations. His would be peaceful reign. Peace,

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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justice, love and mercy would characterize his Kingdom on earth. So the gifts of the Magi reflected his royalty. "Is it possible that gift of frankincense could be used by Jesus, if his body was racked with arthritis?" According to researchers of the medicinal use of frankincense, it is possible! (This surprised me!) Traditionally, gold was a precious metal worth much money; frankincense was a gift of perfume and finally, myrrh was an anointing oil.

Now, go back to your Treasure Chest. Which gift do you treasure the most? Why? It seems that King Herod's treasures were power, prestige and no rivals to his royal position. Herod's heart was ruthless, causing much pain to others. The slaughter of the children two and under was barbaric.

Take a look at your second favorite gift. Ask the same question, why? Why does it win the silver medal instead of gold?

Finally, pull out the last gift, which you have given the bronze metal. After some deep reflection, is there any of your treasures you would trade for something else? How do your choices characterize you personally?

Babe of Bethlehem, whose Kingdom shall never end, grace me with prudence so I will make right choices. May the values I treasure fit into the spiritual realm of the heavenly Kingdom. May my choices reveal that I, too, belong to a royal family. I am a child of the Father, yours and my *Abba*. Amen

Activity:

1. Reflect upon the questions found in prayer poem My Treasure Chest.
2. Think about a quote by Eugene H. Peterson. Do you see a connection between his quote and the poem?

Quote:

"The adjective *Christian* is intended to set life apart from the diluted, deviant, or counterfeit forms that seek to pass themselves off as the real thing." (truth)

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Sr. Kathleen Tobin December 31, 2015 at 9:14 am



I like the idea of thinking of one's treasures. It makes a good meditation. Thank you.

REPLY

Sr. Juliemarie McDonald January 1, 2016 at 7:16 pm



Kathleen, the poet muse was out celebrating, so I resorted to a reflection. I am happy you like it and that it made you think. Jm

REPLY

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