

# Prayer Poems

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



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## Open or Closed Doors

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND. on [08/19/2016](#)  
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### Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle — C

**“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.” (Lk 13:24)**

Ravi Zacharias writes, “We need to understand that Jesus is the door through which all must enter eternal life. There is no other way because He alone is ‘the way, the truth and the life.’ (John 14:6) So many in today’s societies choose a wider way. In today’s Gospel reading Jesus is knocking at the doors of our hearts. This door only opens from the inside. It is you that must open it.

### Open or Closed Doors

O Lord,  
Please be a consistent and persistent presence in my life.  
Enlighten my heart, mind, and soul.  
Never allow me to waffle, waver or withdraw from my faith.

You alone are total love, mercy, and forgiveness.  
Our human nature tends toward our egoistical self.

### 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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Unlike our angelic guardians and guides, at times we think we are God,  
Relinquishing the question, "Who is like God?"

Hear my call, faithful Father.

Every one deserves a second chance.

Arouse a longing in me. Shake me up until I realize how my

Relatives and family have been praying for my return. Prodigals, we wavered and

Turned our allegiance from the God who loves, forgives, and is merciful to us.

Dear Moms and Dads, you do not need to blame yourselves.

Other gods lured me. I chose to listen and turned a deaf ear to your parental wisdom.

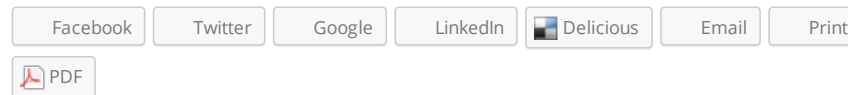
Only when we reach the kingdom will we understand how generations lost their way.

Righteous One, we praise and thank you for being a persistent presence in our lives.

### For Reflection and Sharing:

1. What are some of the causes of leaving the faith of our childhood?
2. At what age were you when you left the faith of your church?
3. Who was most influential in taking you from your inherited faith community?
4. Who and what finally brought you into the church again?
5. What things did you need to transform?
6. How did you feel to come home to your church?

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