



# Prayer Poems

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

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## Torch Bearers

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on [08/11/2016](#)  
in [ORDINARY TIME](#)

### Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time — Cycle C

**Jesus said, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing." (Lk 12:49)**

In his book, *A Heart on Fire*, James Kubicki, S.J. includes a story about Abba Lot who went to Abbot Joseph searching for a deeper love of God. Abbot Lot enumerated the prayers he prayed, the sacrifices he made, and the many spiritual activities he performed each day. Seeking greater union with God, Abba Lot asked, "What else can I do?" Abba Joseph responded, "**If you will, you can become all flame.**" ("*Burning Furnace of Charity*," p. 93)

### Torch Bearers

Jesus calls us to be his fire, his matches and his torches to be light for the wayward. "How can I, Lord, for I myself have become only embers and ashes? I, too, need the wind of the Spirit to blow mightily upon my embers into flame. This flame, though small, needs to be fanned by your love."

## 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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To be a transformer of the world, with God's graces, I must be transformed first. God is calling all of us to a spiritual renewal.

You, Lord, are the love and heart of the world. Open my side as the soldier opened your side. Pour into it your love, mercy, and forgiveness so my small flame may grow into a raging forest fire.

Heat the cold hearts of your people. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us and renew the face of the earth. Spirit, be the wind that scatters flames of God's love and compassion over our world.

Shh, be silent. Listen to hear the whisper of God's call. Join the company of God's flame throwers. **"If you will, you can become all flame."**

### For Reflection and Sharing:

1. In your personal life, who has been a torch barer?
2. What are some of the characteristics of a flame thrower?
3. Is God calling you to join the company of fire disciples? Shh. Listen.
4. Where might you begin to be God's flame?
5. When will you join this company of disciples?
6. Who help you begin this noble mission?
7. What characteristic might you need to develop first?

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