



Prayer Poems

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



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What Did You Go Out Into The Desert To See?

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND. on 01/07/2016
in FEASTS CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY

Baptism of Jesus — Cycle C

January 10, 2016

“Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.” (Mt 11: 10)

What Did You Go Out Into The Desert To See?

John the Baptist was a desert dweller.

His was the Baptism of Repentance.

Highly honored was he by his cousin Jesus.

Jesus spoke this of John.

“Amen, I say to you, among those born of women, there has been

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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none greater than John the Baptist.” (Mt 11: 11)

Jesus also asked the crowds why they went see John at the Jordon River.

- Was it to see the reed shaken in the wind?
- Was it to see someone dressed in fine clothing?
- Was it to see a prophet?

Jesus knew why he went to see John.

Jesus wanted to receive the Baptism of Repentance.

John knew he was only the message. He humbly declined.

Jesus knew John baptized the people, who repented and turned back to God.

Jesus insisted for this repentant rite for he knew his baptizing would be the Baptism of the Spirit.

We as Baptized children of God, destined to be sign posts directing, like John, people to Jesus.

God needed John to be the messenger to point out Jesus. God needs each of us to do the same.

Just remember, John was beheaded. Jesus was crucified. It is not easy to be a sign post.

You may be tuned out, not heard in the noisy lives of others. You may be ridiculed as a religious

nut case.

You may even be a martyr, because your Baptism gave you the strength to be a sign post for

Jesus.

For Reflection and Sharing:

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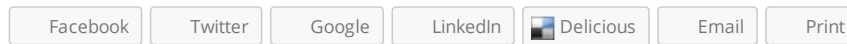
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1. What is the difference between Baptism of Repentance and that of the Spirit.
2. Why do you admire John the Baptist?
3. Who are some of our modern day saints?
4. Do you feel called to be God's messenger?
5. Sometimes we are not signposts, but "detours-takers" Explain.
6. You who are baptized, what is your mission?

Activity: Find the date of your Baptism. Celebrate it with deep gratitude. After all it is your

birthday into new redeemed life.

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