



Prayer Poems

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



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Recognition

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on [12/15/2017](#)
in [ADVENT](#)

Third Sunday of Advent–Cycle B December 17, 2017

*“...but there is one among you whom you do not recognize.”
(John 1:26b)*

Recognition

Who among us does not love to be recognized?
When a stranger comes into a room, who among us doesn't ask, “Who is that?”

It was not different in bygone centuries.
Priests, Levites, and Pharisees all asked John, “Who are you?”
It sounds as if there was a guessing game between them.
Elijah: a Prophet or the long awaited Christ? Who are you?

Humbly, John denied their guesses. He was but the Voice for the Word who would baptize with water and the Spirit.
“I am unworthy to even tie his sandal straps.”
“...but there is one among you whom you do not recognize.” (John 1:26b)

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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How many of us today recognize the Christ, who walks among us. True, he is the master of disguises, but if your spirit is pure you see what others don't see. In his hiding he is asking each of us to seek beyond outward appearances.

Look inward at the:

- deformed,
- homeless,
- bed-ridden,
- lonely in nursing homes,
- prostitutes,
- children trafficked.

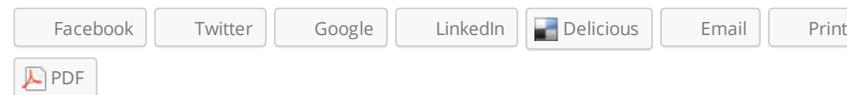
Some were born this way, became this way, or were victims of abuse.
...but deep down in the temples of their soul hides the Christ waiting to be recognized.

Let's open our eyes and unmask the Christ, master of disguises during our waiting. Like those of past centuries, do not walk away; rather inwardly ask, "Who are you really?"
Now act!

For Reflection and Sharing:

1. On this *gaudate* (rejoice) Sunday, what would make Jesus joyful?
2. What would make unrecognized people joyful?
3. What happens to people when they are recognized by others?
4. When will I personally be able to truly recognize Christ in others?
5. What causes people to avoid others?
6. What part does forgiveness play in finally being able to rejoice and be glad?
7. Why is it important to begin acting now rather than hiding issues?

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