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Selfies

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on 11/01/2017
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The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)–Cycle A November 2, 2017

“All their works are performed to be seen...”
(Matthew 23:5a)

Selfies

Imagine, if you would, cameras and a Power Point program available in Jesus’ name.

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



Let your imagine run wild! See a Pharisee with a camera in his hand as he goes about his daily life.

As he dresses for the day, he widens his phylacteries and lengthens his tassels.

Smile. 1, 2, 3, click. Selfie #1

Off he goes to the market place where he poses with an admirer, who calls him *Rabbi*.

Smile. 1, 2, 3, click. Selfie #2

Next on his agenda was—the synagogue. Whoa! He is honored with a front seat. You guessed it!

Smile. 1, 2, 3, click. Selfie #3

As he makes his way back home, he thinks to himself, “Wait until my friends and family see this week’s showing of my Power Point! I really made a ‘flash’ of myself.”

Unknowingly, his wife had invited Jesus to their family banquet. After the Power Point showing, Jesus said, **“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:12)** Needless to say, the guests and family were horrified. His wife said under her breath, “Where did he learn his manners?”

Jesus, however, was just beginning his harangue. **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You lock the kingdom of heaven before human beings. You do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow entrance to those trying to enter.” (Matthew 23:13)**

Now I imagine Jesus was never a guest in that house again. What do you imagine?

For Reflection and Sharing:

formation in Africa, Philippines, Korea, India and the USA. Her spare time is spent as a crafter.

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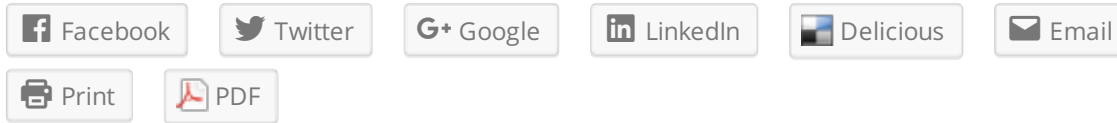
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1. If you find yourself tolerating legalism, who do you do this?
2. How do you know if you are drifting into the legalism of the Pharisees?
3. How do you define legalism?
4. It seems Jesus deliberately harangues the in an unmannerly way. Why would he do that?
5. Should we imitate Jesus in this way? Why or why not?
6. How will you personally overcome living in a legalist way?

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