

# Prayer Poems

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



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## Vineyard of Heavenly Fruits

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on [10/06/2017](#)  
in [ORDINARY TIME](#)

**Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time–Cycle A**  
**October 8, 2017**

*“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if anything is worthy of praise, think about these things.”*

(Philippians 4:8)

### Vineyard of Heavenly Fruits

Vintage time of our souls has fallen upon us.  
Time now to harvest the fruits of our souls.  
Time now to check up on our “whatever’s.”  
We gather the fruits of our spirits, seeded by the Holy Spirit, to set at the throne of God.  
Our baskets of “whatever’s,” are sown in the vineyards of lives lived for the Lord.

We protected our vines with watchtowers of God’s laws.  
We tilled the hardened soil of our heart souls.

## 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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We watered the vines with the tears of pains and sorrows.  
We weeded out the wild grapes.

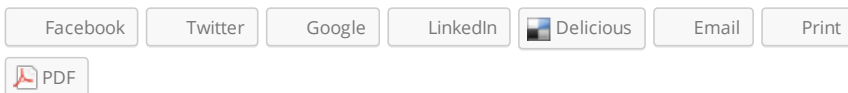
Now at harvest time, we rejoice and praise our generous God.  
Now we thank God for choosing us.

**“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” (John 15:16)**

### For Reflection and Sharing:

1. Which fruit of the Holy Spirit needs a bit of pruning?
2. Why must God always be a Gardener in the vineyard of your soul?
3. When do you take time to check up on your life’s “whatever’s?”
4. What kind of tenants do you want to help in your vineyard?
5. What are the kinds of things that put your vineyard in jeopardy?
6. What kind of ministry is God calling you to bring forth fruits that last?

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