

# Prayer Poems

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



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## Weeds and Wheat

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND. on 07/21/2017  
in ORDINARY TIME

### Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time–Cycle A July 23, 2017

*“While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off.”  
(Matthew 13:25)*

#### Weeds and Wheat

Usually, we close our eyes and sleep when the sun goes down bringing darkness.

There are other kinds of darkness.

“I haven’t got a clue,” or “My mind just went blank,” or “It’s on the tip of my tongue.”  
Unawareness turns off the lights on us, making us less likely to see clearly.  
We make mistakes, we stumble, we miss a step, and sometimes though awake, we walk in the daze of routine.  
Like the enemy in the parable, there is not a true clarity about people or places or addictions!

## 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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Darnel or Cockle is sometimes named "false wheat." Look-alikes until mature and ready for harvest, wheat heads droop while cockle stands up straight. Fooled we are, deceived in early stages—time reveals the weed's true nature. Addictions are like Cockle. Looks good and alluring in the beginning, then, like fish, you are hooked.

Gambling, drugs, alcohol, food—TV, computer games, money, are all types of addictions.

"An enemy has done this." The enemy of unawareness, disguised as a good. If wheat represents spiritual growth, cockle represents spiritual death.

Become aware of patterns that are habitual that lead to spiritual death. Find out by connecting the seven capital sins to the pattern.

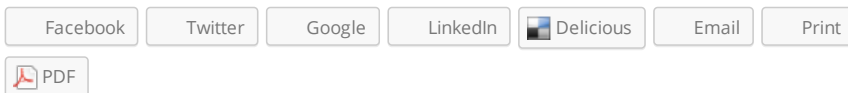
What is the foundation of the addiction?

Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to the culprit and grace you with the courage to pull up this weed that entangles you mind and soul. Awareness is the beginning of wisdom. Thank you, good God for lifting this spiritual burden of addictions. Amen.

### For Reflection and Sharing:

1. How do addictions begin?
2. Why is awareness an important aid to addicts?
3. When is the time to become wheat not weed?
4. What do you think about legalizing marijuana?
5. What are the seven capital sins?
6. How is there a connection between addictions and capital sins?
7. What will be your first step toward spiritual growth?

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