

Prayer Poems

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

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

by WEBADMIN on [12/22/2018](#)
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The Fourth Sunday of Advent -Cycle C

December 24, 2018

Reading: Mi 5: 1-4a Heb 10: 5-10 Lk 1: 39-45

Reflection:

A 19th century hymn speaks lyrically of "The Coming of Our God." Robert Campbell's translation reads:

The coming of our God, our thoughts must now employ;
Then let us meet him on the road with songs of holy joy.
The co-eternal Son a maiden's offspring see;
A servant's form Christ putteth on, to set his people free. (BB #70, Verses 1 and 2)

Just as Christ puts on a servant's form, in today's Gospel reading we see Mary hurrying to Judah to serve Elizabeth. She, Mary's older cousin, is expecting a child in her old age. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognizes the blessedness of Mary and the child she carries. Even the infant in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy. The two babes seem to dance in delight to the music of Mary's voice greeting Elizabeth. What

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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is this blessedness that Elizabeth describes in Mary? **"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."** (Lk 1 :45)

Faith is a basic requirement for many of the miracles performed by Jesus. The only question Mary asked in order to confirm her strong faith was, **"How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"** (Lk 1 :34) Satisfied with Gabriel's explanation, Mary in faith responded with her fiat.

In chapter 15 of the book *Rediscovering Catholicism*, Matthew Kelly has a section on the topic of questions. He states that our culture is asking wrong questions.

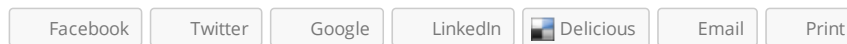
These are the questions we are encouraged to ask by this so-called advanced culture: What do I want to do? What's in it for me? Will it feel good? How can I get people to serve me? How can I do less and get more? How can I get more power? All of these lead us along the the lonely path of self-centeredness.

Mary asked but one clarifying question and believed God would do what was needed in the plan for our salvation. As we near Christmas, let us take time to review the depth of our own faith in a God who keeps promises. Do I know the right questions to ask, or am I a product of my time and culture?

Quote:

"Mary's faith never wavered. She never ceased to believe in the fulfillment of God's word. And so the Church venerates in Mary the purest realization of faith." – Catechism of the Catholic Church #149

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