

Introducing

MARY'S

GARDENS



901 SOUTH FORTY-SEVENTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA 43, PENNSYLVANIA

TESTIMONIALS - 1952

Collegeville, Minn., 1/18 (C)

"We are all in fullest sympathy with the ideas, and think you are carrying out a worthwhile apostolate. . . . You've got something good. . . . With a prayer that God may bless your work . . ."

Exeter, New Hampshire, 3/4 (C)

"This movement of yours will spread fast and far, I'm sure, because it has all the necessary elements to appeal to people . . . How much more worth while it all is than Johnny Appleseed."

Esopus, N. Y., 3/4 (C)

". . . ideas have a way of growing. Slowly like the oak but their roots go deep. Our Lady will take care of it. If she doesn't, she's the loser. Tell her so in your prayers."

Chicago, Ill., 2/2 (9 - 9)

"With prayerful wishes for your success in this unique work . . ."

Bethel, Conn., 2/9 (0 - 22)

". . . I want to be the first in my neighborhood to start Mary's Garden. And I'm sure all my neighbors will ask questions, and I sure will recommend them to you . . ."

Rockville Ctr., N. Y. 2/13 (0 - 25)

". . . Enclosed is my favorite poem for Mary's Gardens -

'The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer to God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.'"

Rockville Ctr., N. Y. 2/15 (0-27)

" Every blessing on your work!"

Albuquerque, N. M., 2/16 (0 - 29)

"We are all looking forward to our Mary's Garden"

Philadelphia, Pa., 2/17 (0 - 31)

"I intend using these as Easter gifts to four friends . . ."

Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 22, (0 - 36)

"This is a wonderful idea. I'm sure Our Blessed Mother is very pleased with this project you have started."

Patchogue, N. Y., 2/25 (0 - 39)

"We are deeply interested in your beautiful idea."

Pittsburgh, Pa., 2/18 (0 - 44)

"I think your project is a splendid one".

Elm Grove, W. Va., 3/8 (0 - 62)

"May God bless you."

Yonkers, N. Y. 3/5 (C)

"Health and consolation in the Immaculate Heart of Mary. . . May Our Lady of Divine Love be your Love always."

Techny, Ill., 3/8 (C)

"It is a very practical and beautiful way of expressing love for Mary, and I am sure that children will take to it immediately. And the nice thing is that we will reach the adults through the children."

Milwaukee, Wis., 3/8 (C)

"Your attitude is very similar to that which we try to develop in the young regarding the sacramental view of the universe"

Liguori, Mo., 3/9 (C)

"I think it would promote a fine means of contemplation for those interested . . ."
"My best wishes and all of the good Lord's blessings on your interesting work."

Dayton, O., 3/6 (C)

"We get requests here from all over the world about Mary, and if you can supply us with further information on this unique Marian project, we would be happy to pass information along as questions come to us."

San Francisco, Cal., 3/7 (C)

"We are in the Sixth Grade . . . We have seen your article about the Blessed Mother and flowers named after Her. So we are writing to you for some information about Her."

Hartford, Wis., 3/10 (C)

"I am reserving your article for frequent reference, and will tell my gardening friends about it. . . . I have some twenty thousand regal lily plants . . . I may call our garden "Mary's Garden" ",

Clarence, N. Y., 3/9 (O - 69)

"We have planned a garden to Our Blessed Lady for this year and would like any information you have along this line. We . . . feel that Our Lady would like a shrine on our farm."

Des Moines, Ia., 3/9 (C)

"I have been planning a liturgical flower show for my fall deanery meeting. Your lovely idea seemed to tie in with what I wanted to do. . . . We are hoping to make this a really lovely and inspiring affair and after hearing of your ideas thought we might combine them. . . . My thought on the presentation of this flower show would be to tie it in with the Spiritual Development program of the NCCW."

Cork, Ireland, 3/17 (C)

"I am very glad to learn of your efforts to extend Our Lady's dominion. . . . The Church is more universal than many think who restrict Her development to liturgical movements, the advancement of intellect and culture, whilst casting aside the humbler tools of piety . . . I was thrilled by the fragrance of this particular work of yours, and I am certain that it cannot but have fruitful harvests in many souls."

Huntington, Ind., 3/7 (O - 76)

" . . . It is a wonderful idea and I want to do my part towards spreading it."

Winona, Minn., 3/12 (O - 147)

"May our Mother Mary bless your efforts in her behalf and may her gardens flourish".

Mattapan, Mass., 3/6 (O - 151)

"Your idea of a Mary Garden in every back yard is lovely."

Lady Isle, Ports't, N.H. 3/15 (O-52)

"Since our island is dedicated to Our Lady it seems fitting that the flowers grown here should be ones named for her."

Winona, Minn., 3/13 (I - 6)

"If others become as interested in your wonderful project as I have I'm sure you will have a great number of people planting "Mary's Gardens all over the nation. The idea is so unique, and a splendid one to promote devotion to Our Blessed Mother."

Nashville, Tenn., 3/13 (I - 7)

"Your splendid letter of 11 March introducing MARY'S GARDENS reached me today. Your idea is excellent. It catches the fancy of any lover of Mary. Or any lover of flowers. Or both."

Birchwood, Wis., 3/13/52 (I - 8)

"Maybe I can persuade the housekeeper to try out a packet after the snow has gone. Meanwhile I'll propagandize among the people."

Duluth 7, Minn. 3/14, (I - 9)

"I am a Den Mother of a group of Cub Scouts and I would like to use the idea of Our Lady's Flowers on some posters for our next Pack Meeting - which is about in 3 weeks . . ."

Herman, Pa., 3/16, (I - 11)

"May I offer a word of encouragement to your effort. I know that my Heavenly Mistress will use some of the prayers and good works of this slave in your behalf."

Poughkeepsie, NY, 3/18 (O - 177)

"We are erecting a Fatima shrine and were planning out a garden to surround it. Now our problem is solved as to what to plant it. ~~For~~ ~~what~~ what could be more perfect and fitting than a Mary's Garden surrounding Mary's shrine. May the dear Lord bless you in this work of spreading devotion to His Mother. I am sure our Lady is very pleased. "

Tallmadge, O., 3/17, (O - 175)

"I would be pleased if you could send me one hundred of each reprint. This for distribution to the families of my parish."

Phoenix, Ariz., 3/10, (I - 12) ^C

"Your 'Mary's Garden' project interests me and I would like to know more about what you are doing. Besides the marigold I can think of only a few flowers that are grown in Arizona which have religious names (i.e., Passion Flower, Star of Bethlehem). I'll try to make a list of others that I may discover. I have always regarded my garden as a devotional tool. I offer my work to God and use the lessons of seeding etc. to teach my children the greatness of God. When I plant anything I consult the calendar for the saint's day and pray to that saint to bless the plants. When people comment on my green thumb I confess it is God and his saints who do the real work and I have been amazed at how many people admit to mixing praying with their gardening. Your article has set me to thinking about tracing down religious names of flowers and even possibly forming a garden club to honor Our Lady. If you can give me any new thoughts, suggestions, please do write. May Mary continue to bless your work..."

Worthington, O. 3/20 (C)

"I would like to help the cause by giving it the added publicity of our paper"...Perhaps you could suggest to one of your friends that he plant a rosary, in this wise: A circle of tiny plots of flowers arranged like the beads, and even according to the plan of Bishop Sheen's World Mission Rosary. That is, use a special color flower for each decade according to the color plan they employ. This probably could be done easiest by a monastery or convent. At any rate if you can find such a cooperative organization and will let me know, I will contact Father Peyton (and Bishop Sheen if the world mission rosary scheme is followed). With their endorsement, I believe your plan would quickly attain much popularity. This tie-in with the rosary crusade will probably prove beneficial to both organizations, and surely you could not hope to find a more suitable partnership."

New York, N. Y. 3/28 (C)

"I am enclosing a few proofs of an ad which we have printed in the April issue free of charge. Accept it as a little contribution to the cause."

Urbana, O. 3/24 (O-212)

"May Our Lady especially bless the gardens."

Cincinnati, O. 3/24 (O-239)

"It is a beautiful devotion . . . May Our Lady bless it and you."

Orange Park, L.I., N.Y 3/27 (O-24)

"Kindly pray for my hospital auxiliary success . . . also our health and working conditions, and guidance where to live. Thanking you . . . God bless and protect you."

Worcester, Mass. 3/21 (C)

"We should like to publish a feature story on 'Mary's Gardens'"

Philadelphia, Pa. 3/27 (C)

"(If anyone accuses you) of commercializing religion or exploiting devotion, etc. the most effective ammunition, I think, is silence. Why bother protesting or explaining. There are those who murmur against 'commercializing Christmas', 'commercializing Mothers' Day' etc. - but it's never those who are full of the joy and love that inspires the rushing around buting gifts, cards, flowers, decorations, etc. - such remarks are made by poor pitiful souls who are sour and trying to find justification for themselves because they can't enter into the spirit of things. If one's mind runs in that direction, everything might be said to be commercialized - there are the religious goods stores the greeting card shops . . . No - don't worry about the few who will make foolish remarks . . . Think of the MANY who will so enjoy your gardens, and, because of the beautiful seed of thought implanted in their minds by you, will be inspired with rapt devotion to Our Lady as they plant, tend and watch their gardens grow. Best wishes to you in this wonderful work and in all your good endeavors."

Everett, Mass. 3/29 (O-308)

"I cut this ad from the lovely Denver Register. Send the booklet and I hope they are like you say."

New York, N. Y. 3/30 (O-350)

"God bless you!"

Indianapolis, Ind. 3/30 (O-355)

"I have suggested this to our city wide Legion of Mary. I hope they take it up".

~~Cork, Ireland~~ 3/29 (C)(C)

"I have before me the lovely little account you wrote for AMERICA of "Mary's Gardens", and ~~and~~ ~~Seeing~~ ~~the~~ ~~extra~~ ~~it~~ makes me wonder if it is not possible that other similar items about Our Lady are not in existence. There is so much here of conventional matter, so little with the freshness that she will impart to even the oldest things. . . . God bless you".

Detroit, Mich. 3/19 (C)

"Mine is a new home and in one corner of my lot I want so much to make a grotto or a shrine to Mary. So far I have only the idea. I would like so much for any help you can offer to be sent. . . , Thank you so much".

Indianapolis, Ind 3/31 (O-356)

"I shall be glad to mention Mary's Gardens at our Legion of Mary Curia Meeting . . . "

River Rouge, Mich. 4/1 (O-361)

"Dear Rev. Father: I think with your help and God help we will make some sort of a garden . . . "

Tulsa, Oklahoma 4/1 (C)

"I read your article in America to the members of my study club and all are interested in building a Mary Garden . . . "

Gethsemani, Ky 4/11 (C) (Thomas Merton)

"We shall try to make good use of (the seeds), in order that Mary may have many flowers to look upon, in her honor and in that of her Risen Son our Savior, when May comes. They will receive purer prayers from us because of the incentive you have offered us -- and may you benefit by all this in your turn. God bless you always."

Brooklyn, N. Y. 3/31 (O-363)

"If we like the seed packets, (and we KNOW we will) we'll probably order the twenty-five variety Garden later. . . . With our sincere and prayerful best wishes for success in your Marian Apostolate . . . "

Des Moines, Ia. 4/11 (C)

"Monsignor Ligutti and I rejoiced as we read your article in America and saw Father Galvin's article in Perpetual Help. Your project is certainly in keeping with all the aims of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference . . . Inasmuch as we have better than 100 Directors of Rural Life work in the various dioceses of the country, we would be interested in having reprints of both these articles so that we might distribute them to the directors. They in turn reach the rural pastors in their respective areas. Have you written anything at greater length? Are you perhaps considering writing a pamphlet or a booklet on this inspiring subject? . . . This is the National Shrine of St. Isidore, the patron of farmers in America, who surely could be invoked by all gardeners. I am enclosing a booklet telling of him and something of the devotion".

Mobile, Ala. 3/30 (O-365)

"Please rush as I would like to plant on Good Friday".

Montclair, N. J. 4/1 (O-377)

"The children, Frances and Jean, have already selected the spot where they hope to cultivate "Our Lady's Earrings" and "Our Lady's Thimble". Yours is a charming idea."

Nashville, Tenn. 3/31 (O-393)

"We would like to have you send me 25 copies of these two articles for distribution to our units all over the state. . . We hope that our organization can help you in creating gardens for Our Lady."

Mendham, N. J. 3/31 (O-405)

"We like the idea of raising flowers for our Blessed Lady".

De Moines , Ia. 3/31 (O-419)

"I presented the idea of the Liturgical Flower Show at the board meeting on March 27th and we are going ahead with our plans to try to make this something we can be truly proud of and thus publicise our devotion to Mary in this way." "One of our members has a large carving of our Blessed Mother done in white plastic foam and we sort of plan to build our display around this."

Tuscon, Ariz. 4/4 (O-437)

"I made a promise to Our Blessed Mother that I would plant a garden for Her if she would let me bring my husband home safely."

Van Buren, Me 4/4 (I-33)

"I, as moderator of the Sodality, am interested. Please send me 50 copies of the two reprints for my sodalists."

Albany, N. Y. 4/22 (I-46)

"We will try to interest others in Mary's Gardens even though we cannot start one at this time for ourselves. May Our Divine Lord bless your work, spreading devotion to His Blessed Mother".

Patchogue, N. Y. 4/4 (O-39)

"May God continue to prosper your fine work. It must indeed be pleasing to Our Lady, and doing much good."

Atchison, Kansas 4/5 (C)

"May your work prosper and may Our Lady smile upon you and your gardens"

Austin, Minn. 4/8 (O-434)

"We think it would be fun to have a Mary Garden, We have so many other flowers."

Brooklyn, N.Y. 4/9 (I-43a)

"We have many gardens connected with our property. However I am unfamiliar with literature which might serve as a sort of bibliography for adapting our gardens to this holy design. Would you be able to suggest any such information which I could secure to this end of 'baptising' our gardens in Mary's name. . . . God loves you!"

Lynbrook, N. Y. 3/31 (O-460)

"Our home is under the protection of Mary and I think it wonderful that I can now have a flower garden in Her honor also. I know deep in my heart this home would not be possible without Her aid and I'm happy to show my appreciation in different little ways."

Hyannis, Mass. 4/10 (O-466)

"'My Garden Prays' is certainly an inspiration to the mothers!"

Wilmington, Del. 4/15 (O)

"We are writing up your 'Mary's Gardens' project for the CBA News Letter for distribution to our memberships. It looks to us in particular that possibly TV shows might be arranged around this lovely idea. . . . You certainly deserve credit for a beautiful idea."

Worcester, Mass. 4/18 (C)

"I think your story is a wonderful one. We had a great deal of comment on the article . . ."

St. Louis, Mo. 4/17 (O-486)

"Dear Friend: It is sun and shine. I said, yesterday morning I went to visit my sister,, well, she told me Pretty flowers from Mary's Gardens talk about flowers . . . she told me talk about flowers. Thank you."

BACK YARD MARY GARDEN
WENDELL, IDAHO

