

Garden of Memories

BONNIE ROBERSON

HERBS

POT POURRI

FLOWERS

PLANTS

P. O. BOX 107, HAGERMAN, IDAHO

IN CONNECTION, ROBERSON ROCK & GIFT SHOP

April 2-1958

Mary's gardens
Philadelphia Pa.

Dear Sir:

I am an herb grower, as well as other flowers. We are Catholics and wish to plant a garden in honor of our Blessed Mother. Perhaps we cannot build a shrine this year, but am anxious to get the garden planted. I wrote to National Catholic Rural Life Conference of Des Moines for information on this subject and they gave me your address. Please write particulars to me. I wish to plant such needed - so I may order the ones I do not have. Thank you

Sincerely

Bonnie Roberson

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P. O. BOX 107, HAGERMAN, IDAHO

IN CONNECTION, ROBERSON ROCK & GIFT SHOP

May 7-1958

Dear Sirs:

Your price list arrived today - I am very happy to have it. Enclosed please find \$15.90 for following - all the Mary Garden Reprints - 901 - thru 908; - 8 @ 20 1.60

Plants.

806 Our Lady's Candles.	6 pr	450-6/4/58	4.50
808 17 Madonnas Pure	1 -	75	75
813 Our Lady's seat. Seeds.	1 -	75	75
407 Our Lady's Dresses	1 pk Seed	5/25/58	15
202 Our Lady's Buttholger	1 pk Seed		20
			25
Catalogue and Information			20
Garden prayer			8.40

Book.

951 Plants & the Bible.

7.50
15.90

I am an herb gardener and have many of the plants. I wish to have a complete Mary garden by Sep. with Shrine

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I will need a shrine, but want
your Catalogue so may select. It is so
late I am hoping you will fill my
order very soon.

I have a Commercial garden of
mums and if I can help further
this grand work please let me
know - I would love to have a
many Garden in every Catholic
home in Idaho. We are few here

but this would be a wonderful
way to honour Our Blessed Mother

I am keeping your price list, so
others may see & order if they wish, please
send several copies of your price list -
will order the plants & seeds very
soon.

Very Truly
Mrs Ernest Roberson (Bonnie)

J.M.J.

June 18, 1958

Mrs. Ernest Roberson
Box 107
Hagerman, Idaho

Dear Mrs. Roberson:

This is our belated thanks to you for your order of May 7th.

We regret and apologize for the delay in making shipment and for our failure to answer your follow-up letter of June 2nd.

If your thoroughness in following up your order is any indication of the thoroughness with which you cultivate your garden, we are confident it must be a most beautiful one.

Mary's Gardens is a spare-time religious work carried on in whatever time is left after family and regular job duties etc.. Sometimes there isn't much time left and we aren't able to write letters, although we usually are able to process orders on a routine basis.

Our plants and books are drop-shipped for us by others, and in the case of your order we were dependent upon three other sources. Our California source for Our Lady's Eardrops went out of business this spring, which we didn't find out until our order to them for you was returned to us, so our eventual shipment, made from the East, was much delayed.

Our Catalog, Prayer and Reprints mailing went out over three weeks ago by 3rd class mail, and should have reached you by now. The two seed packets ordered were mailed in the same package. If you haven't received them by the time you receive this letter, let us know and we will make a duplicate shipment at our expense, by air mail.

We are moved by your resolve that there should be a Mary Garden in every Catholic home in Idaho. We hope our own failures of performance will not cause you to weaken in this resolve. By way of making up for our failures we enclose photos of the Mary Garden at Woods Hole, Mass. and one of our own Mary Gardens in Philadelphia.

Sincerely yours in Our Lady,

John S. Stokes Jr.
for Mary's Gardens

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P. O. BOX 107, HAGERMAN, IDAHO

- IN CONNECTION, ROBERSON ROCK & GIFT SHOP

March 18 - 1959

Dear Mr. Stokes:

Have intended writing you for months but we have had much illness and of course the garden took a lot of time last fall. I put in the beds last summer and fall and they are doing beautifully. I do not have a shrine yet, I haven't found just what I want. The one you sent is quite small for this particular garden, and the larger ones you described are a little too expensive for the present time, so much of the work I have had to have done for me and expenses of plants trying to get a good assortment. The plants from Peace did not grow it was quite late when we used them, but they are replacing this year. I am trying to find a shrine about 2 ft tall for the present, and later I hope to get one of the Bethune shrines. If you know of some of any in Terra Cotta or terra rosa in about the height of 2 or 3 ft. would be happy if you could let me know.

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I was much impressed with all the literature you sent, and I'm trying to get each family here to have a Mary garden. We are very few (Catholics) here, and I am a convert of 30 years or so.

I believe you might be interested in this way I have my garden planted, and perhaps it might entice others. When people see this portion of my garden there is no doubt that it is a very special garden. But I must feel a shrine very soon to complete it. You see I grow commercially. Herb plants and Chrysanthemums and people come here for their plants, so want the shrine in before the season starts. It may inspire others to have a Mary garden. I have a small packet of Mary gold seed for each one who visits my garden.

I am also doing a little research on Mary names plants. Rosetta Clarkson lists Mullins as Our Lady's Flannel. Do you have her book "Green Enchantment"? It is primarily a book on herbs, but there is quite a bit on monastery gardening, very interesting.

A very strange thing - on this morning's mail (after starting this letter) came a

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Letter from a friend of mine who writes for magazines, she wants to do an article on my many garden along with a photographer who wants pictures, as soon as flowers are blooming so now I must find a shrine. if this can be published, think how it may affect many people and how many more will have many gardens. If it is possible, and you know where I could find a shrine like I described, would you air mail information, am enclosing envelope for your convenience -

I have just recovered or am recovering from Pneumonia and am really not up to par yet.

The drawing of the garden is very crude, but if you would like one to scale with plants named will get one to you.

Also send several order blanks - will need them.

Our Blessed Mother must be pleased with you, for your effort in getting people to give her the honor she so deserves.

Please let me hear from you soon

Sincerely
Bonnie Roberson

Overall width about 27 ft.

Level High

Shrine.

Lilly

Lilly
Other many plants

Violet
Snowdrops
etc

Violet
Snowdrops.
Many named
plants

Creeping Thyme

Orophanthic
Crematula

Creeping
Thyme

Creeping Thyme

Creeping Thyme

Many named plants
& bulbs

Path

Creeping Thyme

Thyme taller variety

Creeping Thyme

Path

gate to the altar

Roll Red 1. about 60 ft long fence.

J.M.J.

March 24, 1959

Mrs. Bonnie Roberson
P. O. Box 107
Hagerman, Idaho

Dear Mrs. Roberson,

Thank you for your most welcome letter of March 18. We regret we were not able to give you the immediate reply you requested, due to a change in our address (above) and a resulting loss of time over the weekend while your letter was forwarded to us.

We are sorry to learn of your illness, but hope that your recovery will be rapid with the coming of spring and under the watchful care of Our Lady, Health of the Sick.

We are most pleased to have the sketch of your garden and to know that you are persevering in getting it started despite your illness. We are happy to share your joy over the letter from your friends asking to do an article about your Mary Garden, with photographs. From our own experience we can assure you that you will have many providential joys and helps if you persevere in this work.

With respect to your need for a statue, we are pleased to advise that if the Ade Bethune Madonna - Mary, Seat of Wisdom - is acceptable to your requirements, we are in a position, on account of your status as a legitimate nursery and gift shop, to offer it to you on our terms which we have recently established for dealers, namely 50% dealers discount (\$39.00, net), f.o.b., Philadelphia, returnable and refundable, shipping charges prepaid, - or, one introductory copy, only, not returnable or refundable, at a special introductory price of \$30.00, f.o.b., Philadelphia. We recommend either the white or sand colored stoneware copies, and we are in a position to make immediate shipment. We would recommend shipment via motor truck, insured, which is much less than express and almost as fast.

We will forward your ~~seed~~ order in three or four days (except for #207 - Our Lady's Petticoat (anemone nemerosa), which we have not been able to get this year.)

Thanks again for your letter.

Sincerely yours in Our Lady,

Garden of Memories

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P. O. BOX 107, HAGERMAN, IDAHO

- IN CONNECTION, ROBERSON ROCK & GIFT SHOP

March 24 '59

Dear Mr. Stokes

Your letter arrived this morning, how wonderful, you made it possible for me to have the statue I wanted so.

Mr. Roberson and I both like the white statue but we are wondering if rain and weather would discolor it - you would probably know and of course I would expect to keep it clean so if the white can be washed, and stay white we would like that one, if it does stain (I note it is enameled) send the sand-lued one. but regardless send one - ^{30.00}

I am enclosing my check for \$40.00 to pay for the introductory price of one - of course I would not return. and .10 for shipping charges. Motor truck would be best for us, as we do not live too close to railroad. If this amt is not enough for shipping and insurance, let me know, I will air mail balance.

I cannot begin to thank you enough for your wonderful kindness, but I will offer

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IN CONNECTION, ROBERSON ROCK & GIFT SHOP

my Easter Communion for your special intentions.
And I'm sure Our Lady is pleased with your
most ardent devotion to Her -

I am much better now, and I know Our
Blessed Mother, will help me, so that I can
help spread this devotion to her.

There is no rush in sending the seeds, and
if you don't have #207. that is alright, will
order next year.

I am most anxious to receive statue and will
have things in order to place it properly.

Thank you again for all past favors.

Sincerely

Bonnie Roberson

Box 107
Hagerman
Idaho.

Address to put on Statue shipment we have no house number
- Corner East and Orchard.

April 2, 1959

Mrs. Bonnie Roberson
P. O. Box 107
Hagerman, Idaho

Dear Mrs. Roberson,

Thank you very much for your letter of March 28 ordering one Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom outdoor statue. The white copy, which you prefer, is entirely weatherproof and washable with soap and water. The white china stoneware material is fired at a very high temperature which completely closes the pores so then can absorb no moisture or dirt. We expect to make shipment by motor truck on Monday, April 6, and will advise you routing and shipping charge adjustment by air mail letter the same day. We will address the shipment to: Corner East and Orchard, as requested.

Thank you especially for your Easter Communion offering. We were moved to fill six or eight pages with some new insights into some of the aspects of our work this week, no doubt aided by the graces from your offering.

Please understand that if anyone who sees your statue wishes to have one, we are able to make additional copies available to you at our regular dealer's 50% discount (net, \$39.00 plus shipping and insurance).

It is our hope to obtain widest possible distribution of the statue through dealers, although our nation-wide dealers' announcement will come out later on after a mating St. Joseph, Workman, Outdoors statue is ready. We will also send out an announcement to all Catholic newspapers and magazines in connection with the St. Joseph statue . . . announcing formally the adoption of St. Joseph as our patron. We will appreciate your prayers for the progress of this enlargement of our activities, which is made from devotional and artistic motives rather than as a commercial venture. (The commercial people think we are mad.)

Thanks again, and with hopes for your continued rapid recovery, we are,

Sincerely yours in Our Lady,

John S. Stokes Jr.

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IN CONNECTION, ROBERSON ROCK & GIFT SHOP

Dear Mr Stokes

April 24. 59

I recieved the shrine last wed. April 22. it took 2 weeks to come, we are more than pleased and, while it will be a few more days untill ground is ready we are enjoying it here in house.

I am very anxious to get some order blanks from you to give to my customers so they can order seeds. I'm sure we can interest some, this garden is causing a lot of comment.

Our Bishop is very devoted to Mary - in the Idaho Register our Catholic paper - he writes "To Jesus thru Mary." How well this shrine portrays that. It is beautiful.

The main reason aside from asking you for order blanks & letting you know about the safe arrival of the shrine is to ask you this, have you heard of the rosary vine. I have had one for years they are not common. If you wish inform can give it to you - name etc and where available will send plant instructions etc as you can observe. It has heart shaped leaves and has little

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"heads" along stem. Very attractive and so fitting for one who can't have a garden outside. Would be only too glad to furnish information & plant, if you desire.

I know you are very busy and I will not take your time again in long letters, but that you were looking for plants, for Mary's garden & this might add.

Thank you again for all past favors, and for making it possible for me, too, to have a Mary garden.

Sincerely
Bonnie Roberson

0-55-166-D

Boise, Idaho
May 11, 1959

Mary's Gardens
901 South Forty Seventh Street
Philadelphia 43, Pennsylvania

Attention: John S. Stokes, Jr.

Dear Mr. Stokes:

Yesterday I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Bonnie Roberson of Hagerman, Idaho and had the wonderful, wonderful experience of seeing her Mary Garden. I was delighted with the beauty of her garden and think that this devotion to the Blessed Mother is an absolutely wonderful thing.

I have always loved flowers and enjoy raising them, but never before realized that most of them were named in honor of our Blessed Mother, and I would like very much to learn more about this interesting subject.

Mrs. Roberson suggested that I write to you and request that you send me a copy of the Queen of Missions magazine for February, 1955 with the "Story of Mary's Garden" in it.

I would sincerely appreciate having a copy of the magazine and I am enclosing fifty cents for the same. If there are any additional charges, I will remit promptly upon receipt of your statement.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Alice Harmon

Mrs. Alice Harmon
1914 Idaho Street
Boise, Idaho

J.M.J.

May 20, 1959

Mrs. Bonnie Roberson
P.O. Box 107
Hagerman, Idaho

Dear Mrs. Roberson,

I'm afraid we've fallen behind in our correspondence again, which we had to sacrifice in the interest of getting out orders promptly this past month.

We're happy that Mary, Seat of Wisdom reached you safely, although we're sorry it took two weeks in transit. Also, we're happy that you find it beautiful and expressive of the way to Jesus through Mary. If your experience is anything like ours, you will treasure the statue more and more as time goes on. We're currently writing about the statue in an article we are working on. The problem is how to limit ourselves in all the things which can be said. And we learn more as time goes on. For instance, in discussing the concept of the statue with Ade Bethune, we had said that we wanted a statue in which Mary showed Jesus to the beholder. As a result we limited our concept of the hands to that of hands which show Jesus. And for the first year we had it in our garden, the children adorned it with floral crowns (for which the head is very well shaped), bouquets etc.. It wasn't until a week or so ago that our three year old daughter taught us something. She decided she wished to give Mary one of her "hearts" (bleeding heart blossoms), whereupon she placed it in her hand. We saw in a flash that Mary's hands are not only hands which show or give Christ; they are also hands which receive our gifts, prayers, works, penances for Christ and hands which give for Him in return his blessings and graces. They are hands which show, receive and give. (And on into the night.) Our hope is that we can encourage the return to the profounder medieval appreciation of statuary, along with the return to a like appreciation of flowers, - wherein form and symbolism are much more meaningful and are used as aids to prayer.

We happened just this spring to see the Rosary Plant listed in a catalog, and now have a small one in a pot indoors. Yes, please tell us all you can about its growth and care. We are sending some order blanks under separate cover. The motor freight was \$9.87, and we are returning the remaining 13¢ against your advance, enclosed, in stamps. We had a nice letter from Mrs. Alice Harmon of Boise, who was deeply moved by your garden. Thanks for giving her our address.

Sincerely yours in Our Lady,

Mrs. Roberson To Talk On 'Mary Gardens'

Mrs. Bonnie Roberson of our common garden flowers Hagerman, Idaho, will conduct a general session of names — Lady's slipper, the ICCW during their convention in Boise, April 30. Her talk will be on "Religious Floral Symbolism," and will deal with the "Mary Gardens."

Through Mrs. Roberson's untiring research and efforts, she has acquired much literature and history on this medieval custom which has been revived in the United States during the past 10 years.

The list of religious names of plants, suitable for a Mary Garden, exceeds 2,000, including many of God's artistry."

Because of Mrs. Roberson's interest in religious floral symbolism many Idaho Catholic women are now "honoring Mary with

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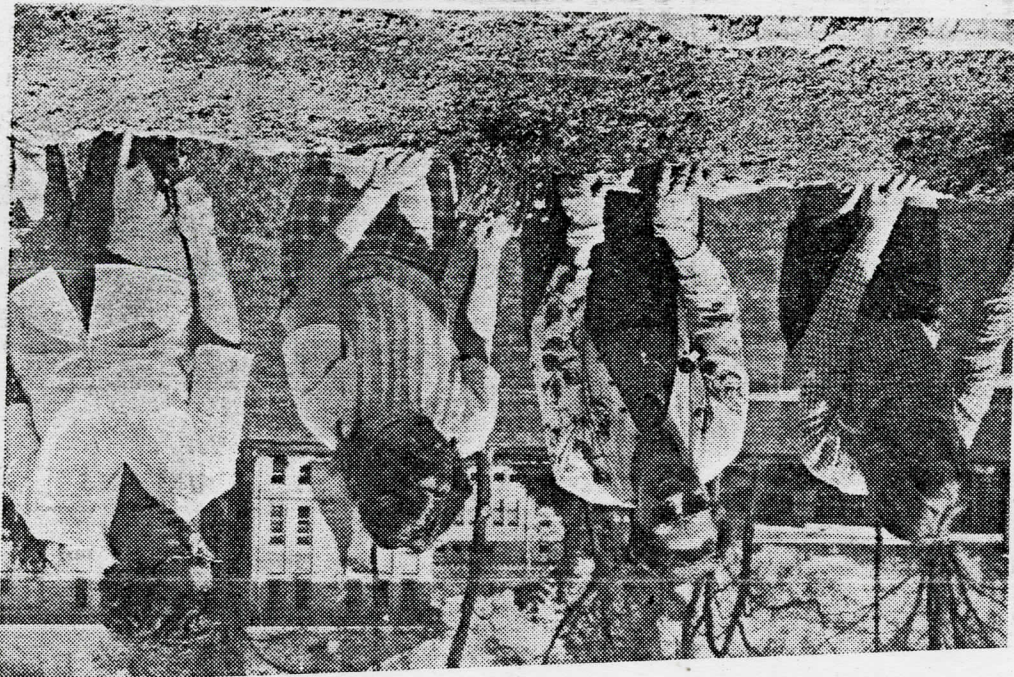
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Planting Garden at School

Mrs. Bonnie Roberson, second from left, was instrumental in the planting of a fragrance garden at the Idaho State School in Gooding for blind students.



Idaho Reporter 4/14/67

Mary's Garden : Say It With Flowers

by Bonnie Roberson

Many times I have been asked, "Just what is a Mary's Garden?" To state it simply, Mary's Garden is a garden composed of flowers dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, having her statue or picture as the focal point of the garden. It may be either large or small, indoor or outdoor. It should be a garden of love and of beauty, of sharing plants with others, of teaching others, especially children, the Christian truths.

Mary's Gardens were well known in Europe during the Middle Ages. A documentation from the British Museum reveals the existence of one at Norwich Priory in 1531.

Believed to be the first in the U.S.A. is the one at St. Joseph's Church in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, planted in 1932 by Mrs. Francis Lillie. An article by Father James J. Galvin, C.S.S.R. brought this garden to the attention of Mr. Edward A. McTague and Mr. John S. Stokes Jr., who founded the present Mary Garden program in Philadelphia in 1951. I became aware of this program by seeing an ad in a Catholic paper, and I am presently involved in the program from Hagerman, Idaho, as a spare time, spare money "Labor of Love" for Our Lady. In 1962, my work came to the attention of the Herb Society of America, and I was asked to display a Mary Garden in Washington, D.C. at their annual meeting. The display was well received.

1,200 Names

Much research has been done and many old dictionaries and early gardening books have been the source of the original 300 plant names used in our first list which has now reached over 1,200 names.

Since time immemorial, man has always named flowers, plants or healing herbs with names of God or Saints. In simple faith and love for Our Lady, Christians have dedicated all white flowers to her, white being clean and pure, this was associated with her purity. The lily was especially dedicated to Our Lady, as we can see from the early Christian paintings. Roses,



Ernest and Bonnie Roberson in Mary's Garden

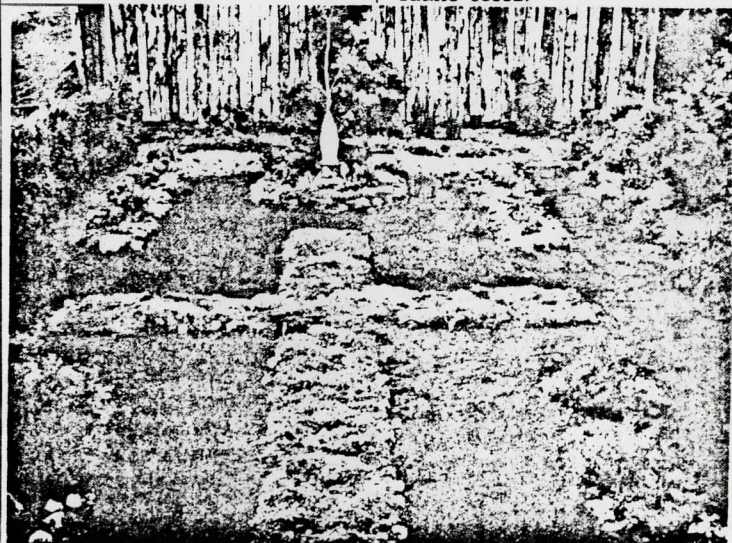


Indoor Mary's Garden

symbol of love, were also dedicated to her; flowers that bloomed on or near her feasts were called "Annunciation flower, Purification flower, Our Lady's Birthday flower," just to name a few.

As the early missionaries spread the Christian message, the new converts saw in their own flora a likeness to Christian truths. The flora of Mexico and South America is a good example of this; several philodendrons

with wing-like leaves are known as 'Espirito Santo' (Holy Spirit); one white orchid is known as 'Holy Ghost flower,' but we now call it Dove Orchid. The well known Poinsettia, blooming at or near Christmas, is known as the "Flower of the Holy Night." Heart of Mary is one of the Begonias; Our Lady's earrings became Coral Drops. "Oro de Maria," Mary's Gold, still keeps its original name.



Overall picture of Mary's Garden (30x60 ft.)

Miniature Gardens

Of the more than 1,200 plants having religious symbolic names all have some resemblance to their colloquial name. Trinity flowers have three petals or three leaves; Our Lady's Mantle has leaf shaped like a mantle cape; Angelica or Holy Spirit Herb is associated with the Annunciation because of its period of bloom. Red Peony called Pentecost Rose, from its season of bloom and symbolic color.

There are many people who would love to grow a Mary's Garden, but due to lack of space or poor health or any disability are unable to have an outdoor garden. For these people, it has been developed an "Indoor Garden or Miniature Mary's Garden," composed of houseplants, most of them often tender tropical plants. There are also gardens for the blind with fragrant and unusual textured plants; there are Terrarium gardens for those who can do little or no work for these are

no care once they are planted. There are endless designs one can have, the most important part is having plants that are compatible, needing the same light requirements and moisture. Cacti Varieties will need more light and less water than the lush tropicals.

Many Catholic groups, instead of usual potted plants or floral arrangements, are giving small "planter" gardens with a small statue of Our Lady placed at the rear of plants, and attaching a note explaining the symbolism of each plant.

For supply or reprints of Mary's Gardens, send a self-addressed LARGE envelope stamped 16 cents. No cost obligation.

Write to: Mrs. Bonnie Roberson, Box 107, Hagerman, Idaho 83332.

Mary's gardens

(Shrines of Beauty and Inspiration)

Bonnie Roberson

Mary's Gardens are not simply "A pretty garden for Our Lady", they are gardens composed of plants and flowers that were given religious names by the early Christians, when there were no botanical names known for the plant by most gardeners — names that were symbolic of Christian truths, which by their growth or time of bloom brought to mind — God Jesus — Holy Ghost — Holy Trinity — or virtues of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as well as the Saints and Angels. For the most part the greater number were names associated with the Virgin. Names having a prefix of — Lady's — Lady — Our Lady — Virgin's — Mary, are in reference to her according to the English Oxford Dictionary.

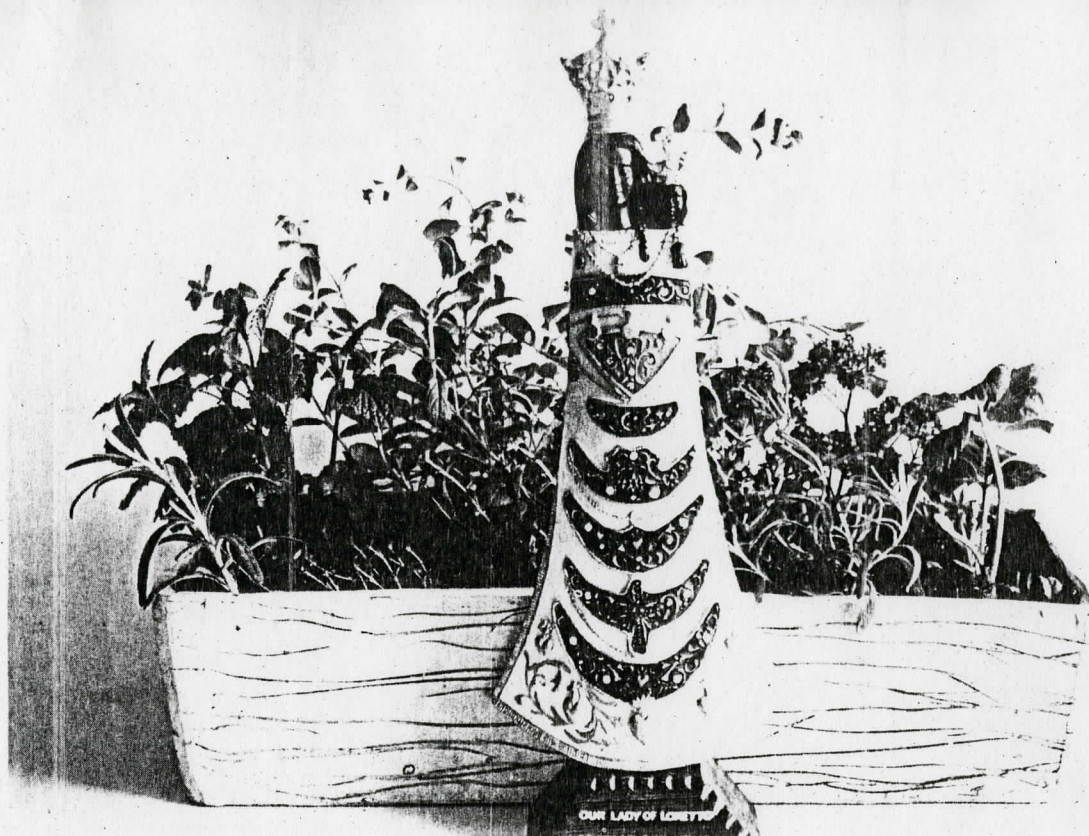
As time went on, gardens were planted not only for food, but designed and planted for meditation — or prayer gardens. These were called "Mary Gardens", or St. Mary's Garden, such as the one at Norwich Priory in England in 1431. Many great artists painted such gardens in "Books of Hours". These paintings were used as teaching symbols for the unlearned, for few could read, but did identify the Saints by their symbols — St. Dorothy by the basket of apples and roses — St. Elizabeth — by roses in the fold of her robe. The Virgin Mary — lily and roses. St. Patrick — the Shamrock, St. Joseph with the lily.

All white flowers were dedicated to the Virgin. Healing herbs were known as "Our Lady's Balm" — Sweet scented plants and herbs often called "Sweet Mary". Others were "Mary Love" — "Beautiful Lady" — "Lady's Delight" — "Mary's Tears" — "Heart of Mary" — "Eyes of Mary", and other endearing names. Even the "Lady Bug" was called so,

for its beneficial work in the garden. Plants having leaves with white spots were "Our Lady's milk drops", and brought to mind the Virgin's motherly care of her child. Such were the thoughts of the early Christian gardener.

Now for a look at modern secular floral symbolism. The modern hybridizer names each new variety of plant, so one may choose the one best suited for his garden. These names are oftentimes named for people, places or pleasant events — "The Doctor" — "Western Sunset" — "New Yorker" — "Chicago" — Some few use Christian names — one Begonia hybridizer has a list of Begonia plants for the Saints — "St. Mary" being one — (Sequoia Nursery lists) Miniature Rose — "White Madonna" — there is an 'Ave Maria' Iris available. Modern floral thought and custom use plants associated with the season. Poinsettia for Christmas, Lily for Easter, Carnations for Mothers' Day and Red Roses are popular for St. Valentine's Day. Here we also have floral symbolism, but rarely think of it as such.

But the early "Mary Gardener" living close to the earth and to his Church had a symbolism quite different than we do now. He was aware of the importance of gardening, for his very life depended on growing plants: food from the vegetables, fruit from vine and trees — shelter and fuel from the forests — grain to feed his livestock — which furnished milk, cheese and meat, his leather and transportation, herbs were his only medicine, fiber plants for clothing, and flowers for beauty, for decorating his place of worship. All that was necessary for his survival, and need of beauty. He was aware that plants were created on the third day — man on the sixth.

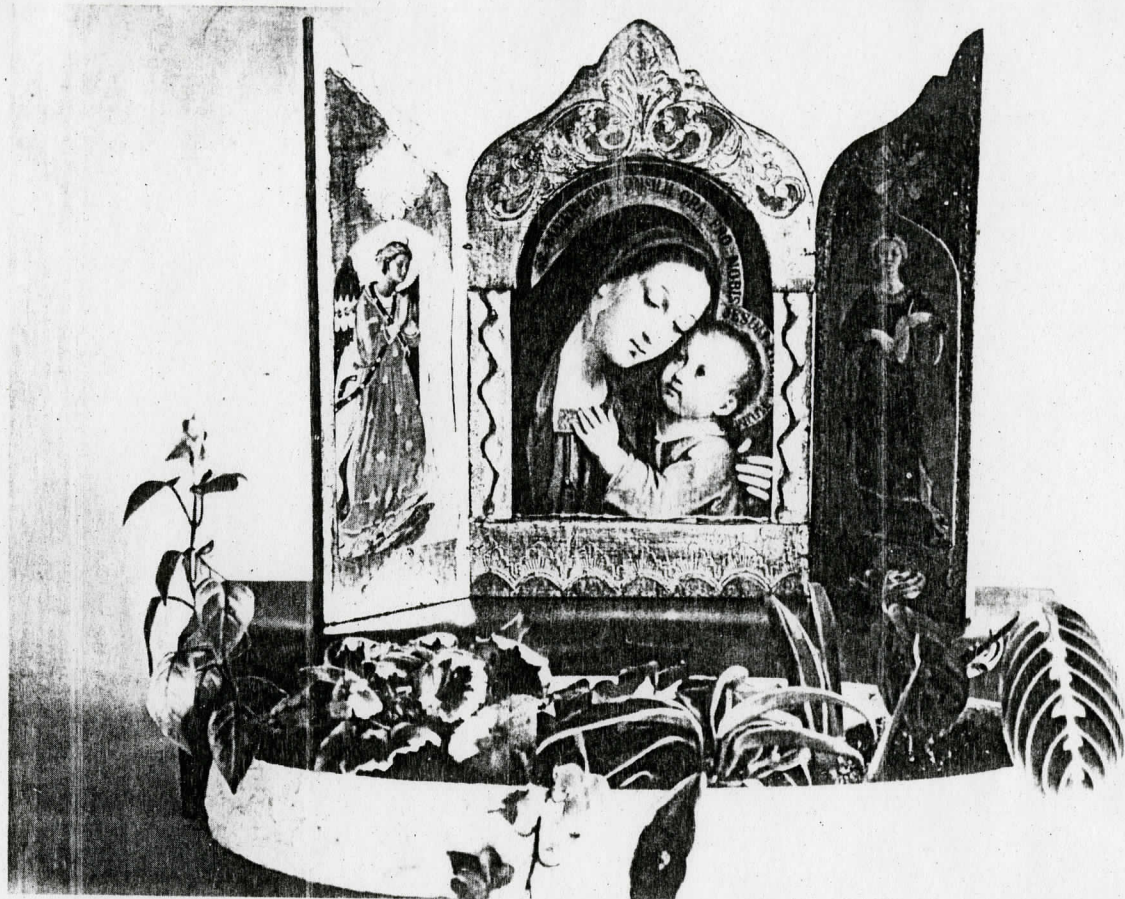


OUR LADY OF LORETTO



OUR LADY OF GUADELUPE





OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

The parables of Jesus were many times direct references to the flora. Consider the lilies of the field. Even Solomon, in all his glory was not arrayed as one of these — The unjust tax collector, "You tax of Mint and Rue, and all manner of herbs, and omit the greater law, "Justice and Charity". Our Lord suffered in a garden — His tomb was in a garden — His resurrection was in a garden, and on the first Easter morning in the dim light, Mary thought He was the gardener. You will see many paintings of this scene. They portray Our Lord as leaning on a garden spade — symbolic of His work being completed for our redemption. Is it any wonder the early Christians had so much love for a garden?

Although the Mary Garden, as we know it in America today, had its beginning in 1933 in Woods Hole, Mass., at St. Joseph's Church. There were many in Europe throughout the centuries, according to Garden History, and many plants have their "Mary Names" to this day — Marygold — Lady's Slipper — Virgin's Bower and hundreds of others. We have documented some 1,600 such names, from many languages which were found in old flower dictionaries, herbals and legends.

Tropical flora from our neighbors in South America, Central America and Mexico, is rich in such colloquial names — Prayer Plant — Rosary Vine — Holy Ghost Orchid — Passion Vine, for as the missionaries carried Christianity to these coun-

tries native people saw, in their own flora, a semblance to the Christian truths. Poinsettia bloomed at Christmas, so was Flor de Noche Bueno. Holy Night flower. The prayer plant folds its leaves at night — Rosary Vine has 'beads' along the stem, in the Eucharist lily, he saw the Chalice, the Passion Vine has symbols of the passion of Our Lord. The Orchid had the form of a dove in the center — Symbol of the Holy Ghost. These tropical plants are used in the Indoor Mary Garden, now that air transportation permits rapid delivery to any country. Such was not true in ages past, and all gardens had only a limited selection of plants.

An indoor Mary Garden with a suitable statue makes an attractive shrine for the home! — for the shut-in, the many who have no garden space, and for the aged who can care for them with little work. Mary Gardens can be used as lovely gifts to friends. Perhaps to one we have neglected, it may mean a renewal of the once great friendship we had. The Florist Association puts it very simply and to the point, "Say it with Flowers".

Now that gardening is very much in evidence, to supplement our food budget and isn't it on everyone's mind to 'Make America Beautiful' for 1976, isn't it time to grow a Christian Symbolically named Mary Garden as well? (Either indoor or outdoor). Let us honor Mary, Our Lord's mother with God's artistry, and bring beauty and joy to others.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1977

IDAHO READER



Guadalupe, Christmas stand out:

Floral symbols for December feasts

By BONNIE ROBERSON

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in a series of 12 monthly articles on the floral symbolism for major religious feasts. Mrs. Roberson has been active in this enterprise for many years. Anyone desiring further information can contact her at Mary's Garden, Box 107, Hagerman, Idaho 83332.)

December is a month filled with wonderful feast days. Christmas, of course, has many floral arrangements associated

with it. Other December feasts with special floral symbolism are the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Thomas of Canterbury and St. Sylvester.

The Immaculate Conception, celebrated with a Holy Day of Obligation on Dec. 8, is symbolized by all white flowers, especially the Lily.

Our Lady of Guadalupe — pictured above — is a feast of the Blessed Mother of Jesus with special meaning to many Idahoans. She is known as "empress

of all the Americas," (especially Mexico) and the floral symbol is roses, since she filled the "tilma" of the poor Indian Juan Diego with roses. Other flowers dedicated to her in Mexico include those in the photograph: Marygold, Aloe and Trinity herb. The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on Dec. 12.

Christmas is symbolized by Holly — "Our Lady's bed-straw"; Christmas Rose; Evergreens; Poinsettia; Pennyroyal,

and Clover.

The feast of St. Thomas of Canterbury on Dec. 29 is symbolized with Canterbury Bells. The name was given to the flower which grew wild along to the road to his shrine. Since the pilgrims came to the shrine on foot, horseback or in horse-drawn wagons, and all the horses wore bells, the name Canterbury Bells was given to the flower.

St. Sylvester, the patron of the wild flowers of all nations, is honored on Dec. 31.