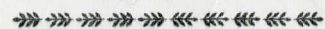


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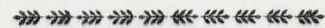
## **G**ARDEN of OUR LADY

*#* Honor the Virgin Mary by growing flowers bearing her name—with devotion and with traditional prayer for planting... become a faithful servant and a good steward in your garden by giving a religious sense to your gardening work...

*#* Crown the natural beauty of your Garden, large or small, with flowers of the Madonna.

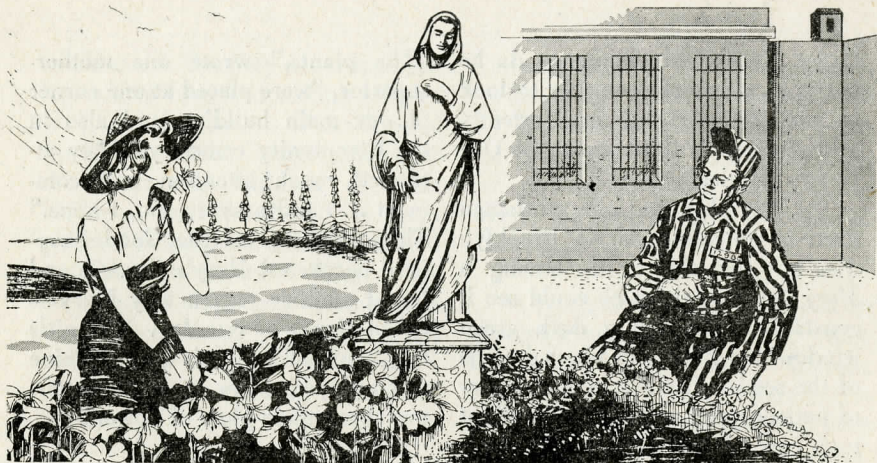


**A BEAUTIFUL OLD  
GARDEN PRAYER  
FREE WITH ORDER**



Send \$1.50 now for OUR LADY'S GARDEN; 10 seed packets (all different) of easily grown flowers complete with planting instructions, informative leaflet and a Beautiful Old Garden Prayer to:

**MARY'S GARDENS  
901 SOUTH 47TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA 43, PENNA.**



## my garden prays

JAMES J. GALVIN

**I**N ONE OF New York's state prisons a Negro inmate planted pansies and marigolds in a little nook of the sunlit yard. Day after day he spent his free hour weeding it on his knees. The warden gave the project his approval. Fellow prisoners peeped over his shoulder curiously, or sauntered by with a side-slung wisecrack. But everyone noticed it; watched the little green sprouts grow taller. The morning the first marigold unfolded its orange petals brought a smile of pleasure to everyone. Most of all, to the Negro. For him, this little garden was a secret prayer to the Blessed Virgin. He had read about

"*Mary's Gardens*" in a little folder . . . a garden with flowers all named after Our Lady! And the happiest part of the story . . . his *prayer* was heard. Before the first frost of last fall, he was granted a parole.

OTHER PEOPLE heard about *Mary's Gardens*, too, during the past year. One pastor had the ten packets of Mary flowers planted in pretty clumps of color around a white stone statue of Our Lady at the side of his church. Neat tags, alongside each variety of flower, indicated to the curious visitor and parishioner, the Lady-name of the particular blossom. He plans a



larger garden this summer. As he put it . . . "people come in to look at the flowers, and inadvertently find themselves thinking about Our Lady's wonderful titles."

The fact that one old gentleman lived in an apartment in Brooklyn was no obstacle to his having a *Mary Garden* where he could see it constantly. He had a dark green window-box built and planted some of the seeds. The rest was a matter of patience and water. The sunlight took care of it beautifully.

PHILADELPHIA'S apostle of the Deaf, Father Stephen Landherr, C.S.S.R., wrote to *Mary's Gardens, Inc.*, for assistance in preparing a gardening program for deaf boys and girls. Packets of seeds, with full instructions as to their planting and care, were dispatched at once. And the deaf found another *sign language* to tell people of Our Lady's glories.

SINCE *Mary's Gardens* was founded in March, 1951, by two Philadelphia young men, requests have come in from almost every State of the Union, as well as from Africa and the Philippines. Many convents of nuns were quick to see the devotional possibilities of such a project.

"The plants," wrote one mother-superior, "were placed at one corner of our main building and also in the Community cemetery. They attracted much attention and comment . . . and prayers, too, I hope." Three chapters of the Good Shepherd purchased *Mary's Gardens* and found another reason why Mary is called *Cause of our Joy*. The girls had hours of fresh air and sunshine and enjoyed every moment puttering about their plots of flowers.

DOZENS OF heart-warming letters were sent to the founders of *Mary's Gardens* from people with backyard gardens of all sorts. "I would like to develop a special little spot near some hemlocks in a corner of my garden," wrote a lady from Long Island. "You see, my daughter used to love the spot. Before entering the convent she would read out there. She made a tiny rustic frame for a picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and fixed it to an old spruce tree among the hemlocks. I want to make that spot my own little Mary Garden. . . ."

FOR PERSONS who might imagine that *Mary's Gardens* is some "new-fangled racket," Edward A. McTague and John S. Stokes, who

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**You'll enjoy reading about this project  
so in keeping with this Age of Our Lady.**

established the project on seed-packet basis, can talk for hours. From their address: 901 South 47th Street, Philadelphia 43, Pa., they have written numberless letters explaining the idea. They have lectured; have contacted religious article stores and enlisted the aid of several magazines. "The idea of *Mary's Gardens* is not new. It's as old as the rosary! In fact the original meaning of a rosary is a *garden of roses* for Mary" . . . and off they launch on the meaning of a garden in which every flower is named after Our Lady. . . . Ladysmock, Mary-gold, Rosemary, Lady Slipper. The idea is old. It is the approach that is new: the sending of a whole garden in ten small packets. It is simply another phase of the reign of Mary in our modern world.

JOHN STOKES came upon the idea unexpectedly. He read an article about a unique garden at Woods Hole, Mass. . . . a garden made after the century-old fashion of Catholic England, i.e., in the days before the Reformation. He was surprised to learn that even the good English names of the flowers of the field had been stolen from Our Lady, as well as her chapels and abbeys and the white statues over cathedral doors. But at Woods Hole a Mrs. Lillie had begun importing flowers from England, and planting them in that seaside corner of New England, giving them back their rightful Catholic names. It

was the first *Mary Garden* in America!

WHY NOT MORE than one, thought Ed McTague. Why not make it possible for anyone with a plot of ground to grow Our Lady's blossoms! The two men began ferreting through libraries for old English garden books, for any information about the ancient names of common garden flowers. They sought advice on their cultivation. They made inquiries about seeds. Their plan developed rapidly with mutual co-operation and enthusiasm. They prepared folders entitled "This is an account of some things of thy stewardship." They had an old Garden Prayer printed at their own expense. They sorted and packed ten envelopes of seeds, and launched their project last March. By October they had assurance that at least 134 Mary Gardens had been planted all over the United States during 1951. A small beginning but this is another year! It takes time for an idea to catch on. They do not plan to give up until all America is blanketed with flowers honoring Our Lady.

JOHN AND ED can get quite philosophical about gardens. They go straight down to the why of things. "Why grow a garden?" they ask. "From the advertisements in Sunday papers you might think that gardens were simply for pleasure to appeal to the eye and nostril.



Professional horticulturalists look for subtler things: the delicacy of color and design in a plant or flower, its rarity, its difficulty of culture. But for a man of Faith a garden is not valued simply for itself, but as a means of lifting our thoughts to the Creator of the world's first Garden and Gardener: Adam in the paradise of delight." "Gardens should pray" is their motto.

AND HIS MOTTO is borne out in the preface to an old sixteenth century English Gardening book:

"... (We) wish you unto daily prayer, and the fruition of the Heavenly Paradise; craving of the omnipotent God, that He vouchsafe to grant unto you the sweet savor of His chief fragrant flowers; and that it be His Comfort to cleave unto you, His Mercy to keep you, and His Grace to guide you now and forevermore."

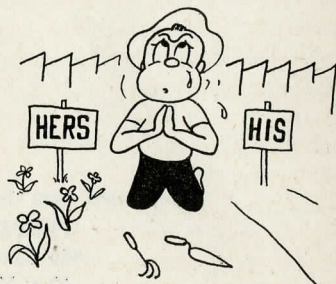
This, remember, is not a prayer-book, but a manual of gardening! Yet it goes on to prescribe a prayer before planting or grafting:

"Lord God, hear my prayer. The Holy Spirit of God which hath created all things for man and hath given them for our comfort, in Thy name, Lord, we set, plant and graft, desiring that by Thy mighty power they may increase and multiply upon the earth, in bearing plenty of fruits, to the profit of all Thy faithful, through Christ our Lord."

THEIR RESEARCHES bring to light that in Mary's England over five

hundred flowers bore common names honoring Our Lady! It plainly proves the love of ancient England for Mary, when its people coined names like *Lady's Thimble* for what we call bluebell today, and *Lady's Delight* for pansy, and *Lady's Eardrops* for our unpoetical fuchsia. Mignonette was *Eyes of Mary*, and, of course, the marigold was *Mary's Gold*. Everything fair and fragrant was Mary's in the days when that island itself was called "Mary's Dowry." But when Mary lost England for her dowry, her flowers, too, lost their lovely names.

BUT DON'T THINK that these gentlemen are against botanical tags for flowers. They are given for technical purposes—Latin names which can be understood by any scholar. After all, the whole world does not speak English! They are not seeking to foist English flower-names on French perfumers, and Polish gardeners, and Syrian green-



"Please, just one petunia."

house men! But they are campaigning among English-speaking peoples for the ancient names of the flowers. *Gardens should pray!* Gardens should remind children of their Mother. Gardens should be holy places that keep the mind fresh and unsullied as madonna lilies. Gardens should chime with names that ring like the litany of Loretto. And gardens, if they are truly Mary Gardens, will naturally lead to Christ.

THIS IS ALL behind their year-old project. It is the nerve that stirs their whole campaign. If you listen to them, you can see how deeply they think about gardening. They acknowledge that every man and woman has not a "green thumb." It demands work and care and worry to grow a beautiful garden. It brings men closer to the earth and there they can observe the blight of Adam's curse each autumn, and the forecast of our

common glorious resurrection, each spring. *Mary Gardens* are not just for professional gardeners . . . but for everyone. For school children, for taxi drivers, for busy housewives, for opera stars and novice nuns!

"ANYONE WHO starts a garden in his backyard will tell you," they say, "how flowers make friends. Neighbors who, before, were merely nodding acquaintances, lean over the fence and commence conversation. They ask questions. They offer suggestions. All the barriers of shyness, aloofness, indifference and prejudice seem to vanish over a little plot of flowers."

PERHAPS, when everyone grows a little garden of his own, the U.N. can close down. *Mary Gardens* may hold in their little seed packets a very good solution to world peace.

Why not try it this spring . . . in your own backyard? ★ ★

Reprinted from the February, 1952, issue of

PERPETUAL HELP  
389 EAST 150TH STREET  
NEW YORK 55, N. Y.

Editor: JAMES GALVIN, C.S.S.R.

25 seed packets (all different), informative leaflet and Old Garden Prayer, \$4.00.  
Twelve packets, \$2.00.

## MARY'S GARDENS

901 SOUTH 47th STREET  
PHILADELPHIA 43, PA.

