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Manilla , P.I. 7/29 C

We are trying to develop and foster a much stronger devotion to Our Blessed Mother in the Phillipines. In the Sacred Heart Novitiate, are future apostles of Our Lady. As we go along in this preparation, we would take advantage of learning as much as possible of the various forms of devotion to Our Lady. This will prepare us when the time will come for us to give these devotions to others.

Our Father Master of Novices informed me of Mary's Garden that he has learned of. He is so interested in it that he told me to write to you. . . . .

Thank you very much and accept my promise of prayers for your holy undertakings. Respectfully yours in Christ.

Moylan, Pa. 8/9 C

The latest testimony of your existence and avocational interest is a very pleasing magazine . . . . The Catholic World. So far as I know protestantism (I like to precede that word by "splintered") has nothing at all comparable. Your article on the avocation of --- God's Garden --- is Good. I wish I were either a saint or poet so that I might better appreciate it. Medina

Medina, Wash. 9/27 C

When reading the April issue, The Catholic World, I enjoyed the article --- Man in God's Garden --- but even more than my enjoyment of it was my surprise at the author's name. Is this --- I ask myself °°° the same John Stokes whom I knew at Harvard? Then I turned to the tenth annual report of the class of 1942 and resolved my doubts. You obviously are one and the same.

Since I fail to remember you being a Catholic at Harvard and since I jolly well know I wasn't, the evidence indicates that we both, through God's graces, became inquirers and converts.

How goes your apostolic project, Mary's Gardens? It sounds interesting and very worthwhile. Gardening has always left me cold but your article cast a different light upon it.

If you have any pamphlets on gardening and the dedication to Our Lady, would you send them to me. My best to you and my prayers for you and your project.

Torotno, Canada 10/1

Miss ... wrote - She is finishing her thesis and casting around her for some work that will be fairly interesting to the public --- a Christian thing. The spirit that she loves is that emanating and determining, clearly, "Mary's Gardens". I knew she admired you, the work, but in this last letter she rather amazed me in her remarks about your project, and its apostolic



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universality. She mentioned various possibilities in her own field (that of music), and then said: "As you see, none of these reaches everyone, like a garden. And the children have so much time for them, whereas the grown people in the church have so much less, even of the priests' time. That is the marvel of Mary's Gardens." Pray for me; I do for you. In X P

Combermere, Canada 10/7 C

Thank you so much for your letter of recent date. I was so happy to get it, because in your venture I found something that I had been talking about for quite sometime. It also occurred to me that it is high time that we Catholics have a magazine about gardening. If you ever start one, count me as one of your contributors, free of charge. Perhaps you have read my book, "My Russian yesterdays". I have been brought up in just that type of gardening you mentioned in your letter. My mother often used to read to us the parables of Christ dealing with seeds, working in the fields, gardening and the old testament is filled with similes of plants, seeds and flowers. I once wrote an article on planting herbs. I will send you a copy of it. I think you will enjoy it. It is so rare to find you. So few people in this land understand gardening in God's earth and gardening in one's soul.... the two in one in a manner of speaking each help the other. Sincerely yours in Mary, Queen of the Rosary,

Manilla, P.I. 10/12 C

In the name of our Master of Novices and all my fellow novices, I heartily thank you for the splendid pieces of information and your wonderful and well appreciated gifts. . . .

Father Master has mentioned to me that I could spread now the project in the Jesuit schools in the Phillipines. When this is done, I assure you that many shall contact you.

If the Phillipinos love flowers so much today, as a matter of fact, then why they not love Mary's flowers in which I am certain, counting on God's grace, they shall finally love Mary, the Beautiful Flower in Heaven's Lovely Garden?

I unite everyone's sentiment in expressing again our heartfelt thanks to you. May Almighty God bless altogether our undertaking. Sincerely yours in Christ.



WAYSIDE MARY GARDEN  
MASSACHUSETTS TURNPIKE  
BRIMFIELD, MASS.

