

Our Lady of Salette
Disk Mary Garden
John S. Stokes Jr.
August, 1963





Miniature Mary Garden Exhibit
John S. Stokes Jr.
Philadelphia University
August, 1963

EMBASSY NEWS

A Periodical Report on Activities of the AMBASSADORS OF MARY

NO. 62

OUR LADY OF THE HOLY CROSS OF JERUSALEM

MARCH 31, 1964

EMBASSY NEWS

DISH MARY GARDENS

John S. Stokes, Jr., co-founder of Mary's Gardens has found a way to bring Mary gardens into the home. He is now promoting Our Lady's House Plants and Dish Mary Gardens. Mr. Stokes has promised to send us mimeographed materials in these areas for the Marian library. As soon as these are available we will announce it in this paper.

Mr. Stokes did send a copy of the instructions for Dish Mary Gardens for the Blind. Though the instructions and suggestions for meditations are directed to the blind so much of what is said can profit us as we too try to grope our way to Mary and through Mary to Her Divine Son.

Plants symbolic of Our Lady are planted in a dish or planter around a small figure of the Virgin and Child. As the garden is presented to a blind person he is told the following:

"When you visit the garden find first of all the Blessed Mother. She will lead your touch to the Child, and your thoughts to the truth of the Incarnation: that the Eternal Word of God was made flesh and dwelt among us. Then pass your fingers from plant to plant, meditating on the mysteries of Our Lady's life symbolized by their form, texture and fragrance. Make your own meditations after examining those given here as suggested beginnings."

Some of the suggested plants for the garden are Mary's Rose (miniature rose), Mary's Bouquet (rosemary), Our Lady's Flannel (mullein), Mary's Sword (miniature iris), and Beautiful Lady (scented geranium). Following are the meditations suggested for the blind person as he touches the various plants. We are quoting those for Mary's Rose, Mary's Sword, and Beautiful Lady.

"On recognizing the rose, recall that Mary is the beautiful Mystical Rose in God's garden of souls. The leaves are her joys, the thorns her sorrows, the blooms her glories. Pray that your soul, too, may bud forth as the rose, praising God." (Mary's Rose)

Sword.

"As you finger the world-like foliage, meditate on the mystery of Simeon's prophecy that Mary's soul would be pierced with a sword of sorrow that the thoughts of many hearts would be revealed. Open your heart in compassion for the Passion of Christ and the tears of Mary." (Mary's Sword)

"As you feel the beautiful and fragrant growth of stems, leaves, buds and flowers beneath your daily touch and care, consider the goodness of God in sending Mary, the Beautiful Lady, on missions of mercy to His children on earth. Pray that all men may heed her exhortations." (Beautiful Lady)

This new phase of Mary's Gardens, a project which celebrated its 13th anniversary on March 7, will acquaint many more people with the Marian significance of flowers. We also hope that it will suggest the growing of Marian Dish Gardens for ourselves as well as gifts for our friends.

Exhibit Mary Gander
John S. Spake, Jr.
Philadelphia Liturgical Week
Aug-17, 1963





St. Joseph's Herb Garden
John S. Stoker, Jr.
Philadelphia, May, 1965