

# FLOWERS OF OUR LADY AND MARY GARDENS SLIDE LECTURE

## 50 SLIDES AND NARRATION TEXT

### SLIDES 41-50 AND TEXT

#### 41. Home Mary Gardens



The Mary Garden is first of all an appeal to the heart - as the Flowers of Our Lady are envisaged with the illumination of their symbolism. May it be that they bloom spiritually within the garden of your interior life. Then, with your garden stewardship, foliage, buds, and blooms will come of God's creatures, the seeds and plants, in due season and according to his established order.

This is a home Mary Garden in which the Flowers of Our Lady are planted around a small pool and in adjoining flower beds, before a pole-mounted wayside shrine with figurine of the Madonna and Child.

In such a garden further love is engendered as one tends the Flowers of Our Lady through the year, leading to a desire to share this love with others.

#### 42. Plant Nursery Mary Gardens



A special means which both inspires and gives practical support for Mary Gardening is a Mary Garden at a plant nursery.

This is a 30' by 60' Mary Garden maintained at a herb nursery in Hagerman, Idaho for 20 years from 1959 to 1979.

Shown here in springtime bloom are some dozen varieties of thyme, "Mary's Bedstraw", planted in the large cross extending from the garden gate to the focal sculpture of the Virgin Mother and Child, "Seat of Wisdom".

After being shown the Mary Garden, visible from the highway, visitors and customers were accompanied on tours of the nursery beds where they were told of the symbolic names and lore of the plants examined.

Those desirous of starting Mary Gardens of their own were then provided with informative literature, and plant lists from which to make selections for a foundational planting.

#### 43. Small Parish Mary Gardens



Parish Mary Gardens are typically started, with the supportive permission of the pastor, by home Mary Gardeners who wish to share the joy of the Flowers of Our Lady with their fellow parishioners.

This Mary Garden at Our Lady's Parish, Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia was established for the 1985 Marian Year by the Pastor and parishioners after he visited the Mary Garden at Our Lady's Shrine in Knock, Ireland, whose raised bed design it follows.

The attractive, earth-colored brick enclosure (now landscaped with shrubbery) matching the color of the building, provides a degree of permanence, eliminates the need for edging or borders and raises the level of the plants in a way which makes both their viewing and their care more convenient - an excellent basis, together with the small size, for continuity through the years with a minimum of expense and gardening expertise.

#### 44. Larger Parish Mary Gardens



A larger parish Mary Garden provides a more private enclosure within which groups of parishioners can assemble for ceremonies or celebrations, or where individuals may go for moments of relaxation or prayer.

This is the Mary Garden at St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, Maryland, adjacent to historic Carroll House - established in 1989 and cared for by parishioners who were first home Mary Gardeners. (Photograph by Amy Davis, reprinted with permission of *The Baltimore Sun*, from article, "Seeds of Devotion" by Susan Reimer.)

Much of our work at Mary's Gardens has been assisting parishes in incorporating their Mary Gardens into parish life and in planning for their care throughout the year and years.

Of primary importance has been the organization by the pastor and/or founding Mary Gardeners of a parish Mary Garden Society or Guild which assumes the responsibility for care of the Mary Garden, above and beyond the work of basic parish grounds maintenance such as grass cutting and leaf raking.

#### [Essential elements of Parish Mary Garden Establishment](#)

#### 45. Monastery Mary Gardens

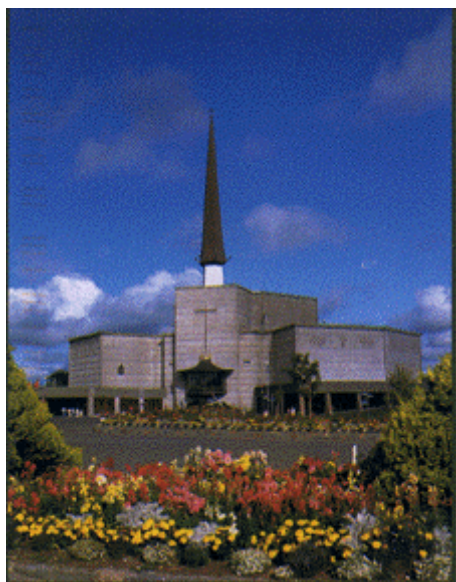


Due to limitations of time and space, Monastery Mary Gardens for recollected meditation and reflection are often planted as niche Mary Gardens in the landscaping or in a corner of a sacristan's or kitchen garden.

This is a niche Mary Garden planted in a corner of a formal garden of the Christian Brothers' Monastery at Iona, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ireland.

Behind the miniature statue of Our Lady of Knock is a small piece from the apparition wall in Knock. Beside the grotto are plants from Fatima and Medugorje. Our Lady's Mantle and Heathers are in the background. The irregular shaped stones on top are from the Burren, Co. Clare. Some twenty-five Flowers of Our Lady in all are included in the slope planting.

#### 46. Shrine Mary Gardens



Shrine Mary Gardens provide a fit embellishment of the shrine grounds for Mary, the "Flower of flowers", and serve to present to pilgrims a further means of devotion to Our Lady upon returning home.

As with the monastery niche Mary Garden just viewed, plants or stones from the shrine region, "from within the radius of Mary's presence", may be placed in the focal area of one's home Mary Garden as "relics" of the shrine.

To our knowledge the first contemporary Mary Garden planted at a diocesan shrine was that planted at the Lourdes Shrine at Dayton, Ohio in 1954 by Father Thomas A. Stanley, S.M. - who years later established the major Mary Garden at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Portage, Michigan when he was Pastor there.

This is a view of the grounds of Our Lady's Shrine at Knock, Ireland, where an 8-bed Mary Garden with grotto was established at the shrine Blessed Sacrament Chapel in 1983, and subsequently the entire grounds were planted with the Flowers of Our Lady, making it an Our Lady's Meadow.

#### 47. Indoor Dish Mary Gardens



Indoor dish Mary Gardens planted around small figurines of Our Lady provide an opportunity for those unable to garden outdoors to have a Mary Garden, and to have it throughout the year.

Through the closeness to the Flowers of Our Lady while living with them and caring for them indoors, one comes to experience their symbolism with a greater intimacy and devotional illumination than in the outdoor Mary Garden.

Dish Mary Gardens also provide an opportunity to compose plant tableaux around Mysteries of Our Lady, as in this dish Mary Garden tableau of the Mystery of the Crucifixion, composed with Mary's Sword of Sorrow (Iris), Our Lady's Tears (water drops on Lady's Mantle), Crown of Thorns, and Our Lady's Rue (Rue).

#### 48. Windowsill and Classroom Mary Gardens



Windowsill Mary Gardens provide the same benefits as dish Mary Gardens plus a larger number of plants, and the mobility of potted plants permitting rearrangement for overall balance or composition of tableaux for the liturgical seasons.

This is a home study windowsill Mary Garden, keeping the Flowers of Our Lady symbolism at hand for the quickening of reflection and prayer while writing or doing research.

Such windowsill Mary Gardens are especially suited to sunlit classroom windowsills.

#### 49. Greenhouse Mary Gardens



Greenhouse Mary Gardens, provide an opportunity for those in the temperate climatic zones of North America and Europe, to experience firsthand the beauty and symbolism of a variety of tropical Flowers of Our Lady found and named by missionaries and their converts in Mexico, Central and South America.

This is Our Lady's Solar Greenhouse at the Hagerman, Idaho herb nursery - employing the engineering principles of passive solar energy to provide for: the most effective exposure to the sun; the storage of the sun's heat in black drums of water and bottles of dyed water for nighttime and cloudy weather warmth; the use of insulating panels and blinds to minimize heat loss at night; and the control of air circulation.

Statues of Our Lady of Fatima, recalling the Fatima miracle of the sun, and of Our Lady of Guadalupe, representing Mary as the Woman clothed with the sun of Revelations, were used as focal figures on greenhouse plant tables, as shown.

The individual flower pots in which the tropical Flowers of Our Lady were grown permitted ready movement of the plants to arrange blooms around the statues at all times.

Another greenhouse table was used for the composition of plant tableaux for the various liturgical seasons - such as those of the Immaculate Conception, the Nativity, Lent, the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts.

Also on display for visitors - in the greenhouse and on various windowsills of the connecting house - were numerous dish Mary Gardens.

#### **50. Woods Hole Mary Garden**



We conclude this presentation with a return to the mother Mary Garden at St. Joseph's Church in Woods Hole.

Here we see the focal statue of Mary, Queen, as Our Lady of the Annunciation with Madonna Lily blooms - reminiscent of the Renaissance paintings of the Annunciation.

As we meditate on the Annunciation while praying the Angelus or the first mystery of the Rosary in such a setting, the pure translucent whiteness of the blooms quickens our interior sense of Mary's spotless maidenly purity with which she received and responded to the message of the angel.

The illumination of these and the other flower symbols of the mysteries of Our Lady assist our active imaginations "that while meditating on these mysteries of the Blessed Virgin Mary we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise" (concluding Rosary prayer); that we, like Mary, may be open to God's call and responsive to his promptings in our lives.

And so may it be with all the Flowers of Our Lady in our hearts and gardens.

(THE END)

Copyright, Mary's Gardens 1961, 1997