

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Mary Garden Rosary Walk

Carolyn O'Boyle
Newton, NC.

Jun 22 1998, Carolyn O'Boyle

Do you know where I can find a listing of flowers that would be appropriate in a Mary Garden, including the COLOR of the flowers. I have a copy of Mariana I, but the colors are not included. My sister and I are the caretakers of a large Mary garden at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Newton, NC. We are trying to limit the colors in the Mary garden to white and shades of red. It would be most helpful if you could direct me to an internet site that would include the colors of Mary's flowers.

Thank you for any assistance you can give.

Jun 22 1998, John Stokes, Mary's Gardens

Thank you for your message telling of your St. Joseph's Mary Garden, and inquiring about lists of Flowers of Our Lady showing their colors, so you can make selections for flowers in whites and shades of red.

We do not currently have a larger list of flowers giving the colors on our Mary's Gardens Internet web site, but we do have a "[Garden Design and Plant Selection Guide](#)" of some 80 flowers which I hope may be of some help to you.

I also suggest you take a look at "[Parish Mary Garden Care](#)", based on our experience helping set up parish Mary Gardens intended to last through the years.

As I write, I recall that we have a [half-completed larger plant list](#) giving flower colors. Your browser window or font size will have to be adjusted to display the 110 character line length.

If you wish I can send it as an e-mail attachment in Excel spreadsheet format as

FOL_GardeningBOTSS(98).xls

If we can be of further assistance, please email us.

Also, we would be interested in hearing more about your Mary Garden, and its use in the parish, with some photos when it is established.

Cordially,

Jun 22 1998, Carolyn

Thank you for your quick response. I am the supervisor of a very exciting garden project at St. Joseph's. My sister and I and our families recently relocated to North Carolina and began attending St. Joseph's in January. At that time, there were no caretakers for the Mary Garden at the church so we volunteered to spruce it up. Over the following months, we were introduced to key members of the church, as well as other members who were donating plants, flowers, etc to the garden.

In May, Jerry Burke, the church accountant, gave my sister and I a copy of the Catholic Digest which contained an article on "The Flowers of Our Lady". He had noticed us working in the Mary Garden and thought the article might help us in choosing and/or eliminating flowers for the garden. Also in that booklet, was an article and picture of a "Rosary Walk". Jerry's idea was that we could use part of the church property for a rosary walk, using round stepping stones for the Hail Marys and square stones for the Our Fathers.

My husband works for Home Depot, who donated a very large 2-piece pond. An anonymous donor gave Father Gordon the funds to purchase the stepping stones, 2 benches and a large angel fountain. We picked up our shovels and set to work! That was about 6 weeks ago.

This past weekend, our church hosted a youth jamboree for middle school aged children. The jamboree included a "living rosary" with one child standing on each stone in the rosary walk, saying the appropriate prayer in turn. It was wonderful!

Our rosary walk is still in an embryonic stage compared to my vision of what it will be 2 or 3 years from now, but it is beautiful. There are 6 deep red rose bushes, white Madonna lilies, mums, red petunias, red begonias, burning bush, red camelias, white pieris, 3 purple daphne and so many more.

The pond has goldfish and tadpoles, as well as a collection of aquatic Mary flowers from your list. I would like to put 6 white rose bushes and some peonies in the spring, as well as other perennials, hence the need for a list by color. The Mariana I list on your web site has been invaluable to me.

I would love to take some pictures and send them to you when the garden is completed (at least for now) by the end of June.

Thanks again for your kind assistance and interest in our project.

Jun 23 1998, John

Thanks for the description of the beautiful "Rosary Walk" and all the support you and your sister are receiving from your pastor and others.

The article on Mary Gardens in the May Catholic Digest is excerpted from the chapter on Mary Gardens in Maureen Gilmer's "Rooted In The Spirit", published last year by the Taylor Publishing Co. in Dallas. I highly recommend this book for general background in religious gardens. There is brief mention of Rosary Walks on page 100 in the chapter on Mary Gardens.

Also, Ann Ball's "Catholic Traditions in the Garden", just published by the Our Sunday Visitor Press in Huntington, IN mentions stepping stone Rosary gardens on page 117 of her chapter on Mary Gardens.

I mention these only for your general reference, since the imaginative features of your garden you describe far surpass their brief descriptions. The event with a young person on each of the Rosary stepping stones must have been very inspirational for all. Maybe one day you could write an article about the project and parishioner participation, with anecdotes and photos, which could be published in one of the Catholic periodicals and/or on our web site, under "Representative Mary Gardens." Our Irish Mary's Gardens Associate, Bro. Sean MacNamara told me that some of the old Stonehenge type stone rings in Ireland were used by monks of old in saying the Rosary - moving from stone to stone as they prayed.

A [joint review](#) of both the books is featured as the June NEW on our Mary's Gardens web page (and will be permanently accessible under "Developmental Articles").

I also call your attention to the article (1996), "[The Garden Way of the Rosary](#)" which contains a lot of background information.

Also, "[Flower Theology](#)" (1965) in the second half speaks of a lot of flower symbols of the mysteries of the Rosary.

For our July NEW there is planned, and in progress, "[Flower Theology II](#)" which will set forth lots of information on the general characteristics of flowers as Christian archetypes and signatures.

Blessings on you and your associates,

Jul 6 1998, Carolyn

I would like to request permission to use the following articles in a book I am preparing for our church library:

FLOWER THEOLOGY I
FLOWER THEOLOGY II
MARIAN FLOWER LIST I

GARDENING WITH MARY
THE GARDEN WAY OF THE ROSARY

I will maintain the credits to the author, as well as all copyright notations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jul 7 1998, John

Permission granted, with thanks for including the articles in the book you are preparing for the church library.

We experienced a sort of "burn-out" after filling all the mail requests for literature through the years, and were happy to have the Internet become available so people can now obtain literature of their choice promptly, on a self-service basis.

As we say under "[Mary Garden Literature Distribution](#)" (Linked under "INSPIRATION AND OUTREACH" on our web page), it is our hope that there will be a person in each parish or gardening group who will download and print out desired articles for local distribution - as you are doing for your parish library.

In case I didn't mention it before, I also call your attention to "[Parish Mary Garden Care](#)", under "GARDENING" - which pulls together a lot we have learned from various parishes about sustained maintenance of their Mary Gardens through the years.

In replying to a message just now from Ann Ball ("Catholic Tradition in Gardening") I quoted from your previous message about your parish's celebration of the "living Rosary". If you have her book you will have noticed her mention of Rosary stepping stones in the chapter on Mary Gardens.

Prayerful best,

Jul 7 1998, Carolyn

Thank you for permission to use the Flower Theology articles you so lovingly created. The "Parish Mary Garden Care" article is the first page of my booklet. I am hoping to eventually motivate other gardeners in the parish to take an interest in the plantings we have so carefully chosen from the Marian I list. I would like to send you a copy when it is completed -- I will email it to you -- it's just a Microsoft Word document.

Our rosary walk is going to be featured in Wednesday's Charlotte Observer newspaper. If you give me your mailing address, I would like to send you a copy of the article. My sister and I were also interviewed today by a local newspaper, the Hickory News. I gave the writer your name and showed her the article in the May Catholic Digest that inspired the Rosary Walk project. I also gave her the internet address www.mgardens.org and told her that most of my information (and inspiration) came from your site -- the address should be in the article. The writer is a Baptist so I'm not really sure of what information she will find "interesting" for the article.

I borrowed a Logitech Fotoman camera from Fr. Gordon, but he lost the cable that connects the camera to the computer. I have about 12 or so pictures of the gardens in the camera and will eventually be able to read them into the computer and email those to you as well.

Thanks again for your excellent web site and correspondence. You have no idea how much it is and will continue to be appreciated!

Jul 9 1998, John

Thank you for your message of July 7th.

I will look forward to receiving an email copy of the booklet you are preparing. Motivating others to a love of and a commitment to the Flowers of Our Lady and Mary Gardens is something about which we ever desire and need to learn more. Likewise for how to sustain parish and institutional Mary Gardens through the years. (I plan to add a paragraph to the "Parish Mary Garden Care" text suggesting that someone maintain access to the Mary's Gardens website, downloading new articles from time to time for printing out and photocopying for distribution.)

Yes, I would appreciate receiving tear sheets or photocopies of the Charlotte Observer and Hickory News articles or columns, and any others in the future. We were very systematic in keeping a press file up to the time we put up the Internet web page, but now things are spreading out so much (in which we rejoice - our hope is that all this

will become an accepted part of the culture) that it doesn't occur to many people to let us know about articles, etc.

Send them to:

Mary's Gardens
Box 30290
Philadelphia, PA 19103

(We don't broadcast this address any more - having experienced "burn-out" about 15 years ago after answering 40,000 postal inquiries through our print media ads, articles and announcements - and now operate on the basis of web-site self service, and email, with vastly greater volume) Thanks for spreading our web site address.

I should mention that all the inquiries through the years seemed to indicate mostly private devotion, and Mary-Gardening on the parish level was very slow in getting established. Now, in the last year or so there seems to be a "sea change", with the number of communications such as yours - all showing forth individually creative developments, as with your the Rosary Walk. As St.Louis de Montfort states, true devotion to Mary is tender and interior and therefore ever seeks new forms of external expression - rather than only repeating established forms. "Of Mary there is never enough".

You mentioned being interviewed by a Baptist writer from the Hickory News. One thing I noticed about Falmouth/Woods Hole Massachusetts - home of the mother Mary Garden - is that the Protestant churches of the area all seem to feature flowers and gardens in a big way: inspired, I conjecture, by the Mary Garden. One of the Protestant churches has a semicircular greenhouse behind the altar.

Send one of the photos as a test email attachment when the camera connecting cable is located, and I'll let you know if I can read it. The Internet jpeg and gif graphics formats seem to work well and are readable on both Macs and Windows (we have Macs).

Prayerful best,

Jul 10 1998, John

It occurred to me that you might want to email Maureen Gilmer, author of the Catholic Digest article which you mentioned as a source for the idea of your parish Rosary Walk - and also author of "Rooted in the Spirit" - giving her some "feedback" about your project. Her email address, listed on her website, (<http://www.gardenforum.com>), is Maureen Gilmer mgilmer@syix.com.

If you do email her, I'd appreciate your mention of our being in touch and sending me a cc. If you would be disinclined to do this, may I email her (we exchange messages from time to time) telling her about your parish Rosary Walk?

Cordially,

Jul 10 1998, Carolyn

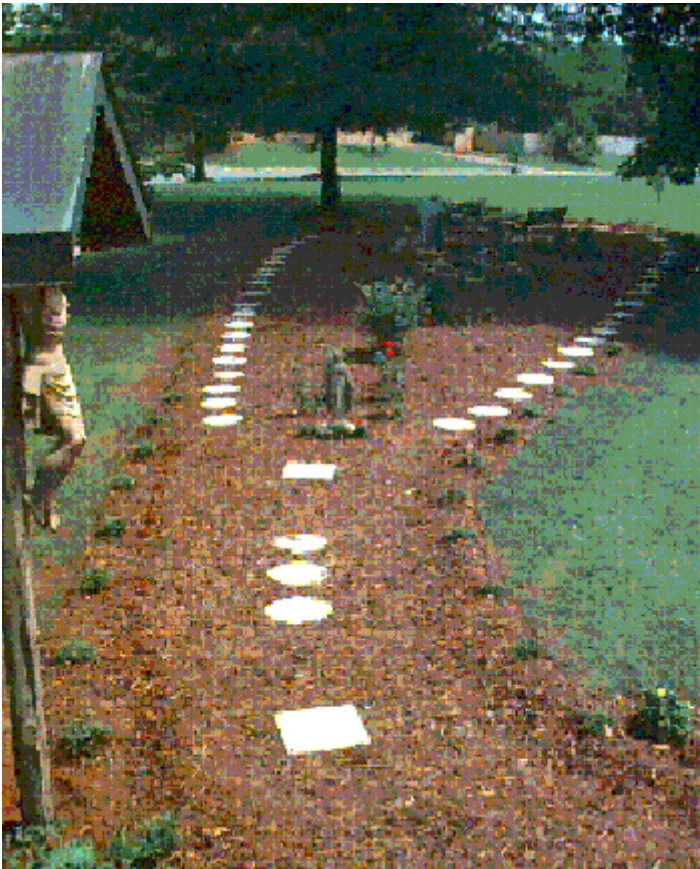
Thank you for Maureen Gilmer's email address. Also, I have not seen her web site, but I intend to check it out. Her article was the beginning of a very beautiful and wonderful thing for our church and community. I don't know if I mentioned in previous emails that we share our church with a substantial Spanish community. Flowers don't need a translator -- the Spanish-speaking people have been enjoying the garden too. I will send a copy of the newspaper article to you today. I will also email Maureen Gilmer over the weekend and cc you. Thank you thank you thank you.

Jul 10 1998, John

I assume you have checked out the Spanish names of the flowers for them per the [Spanish](#) and [Latin American](#) lists on the web site - under "RESEARCH".

Feb 7 1999, Carolyn

I don't know if I ever sent pictures of our Rosary Walk (attached) taken June 1998.



Hopefully you can see the statuary that we selected. The statue of Mary was purchased in New York City. She is crafted out of a poly resin that does not need painting -- cost \$250. She is surrounded by 8 highly fragrant red rose bushes (Mr. Lincoln).



The angel was purchased locally. He is made from concrete and holds a small bowl which drizzles water into the pond. He cost \$110.



The pond is actually 2 ponds at different levels (which was donated by the local Home Depot) It holds a total of 200 gallons of water which could actually sustain 200 inches of goldfish or about 100 fish. We have never had more than 30 fish in the pond at one time. We continue to add plants and learn about water gardening (pond & fountain) -- we were also able to keep 5 goldfish and one tadpole alive over the winter. Our parishoners donate plants from their own gardens.

We have decided to keep the flowers in the colors of red and white to honor the original rosary and also to keep it more formal.

I have a combined plant/tree/shrub list (created mostly from your Marian list) that I keep in an Excel spreadsheet which can be sorted by common name and/or botanical name -- I take it with me when I go plant shopping. I'll send it as a separate attachment. Feel free to share it with anyone else.

Feb 17 1999, Carolyn

Here is the [Marian flower list](#) that I use (from Mariana 1). The flowers in bold type are what we have planted already in our rosary walk.

(Posting addition: planted flowers, from e-mail list attached):

Mary's Flowers, Trees and Shrubs

Growth code: (A) Annual (S) Woody Shrub (B) Biennial (T) Tree (P) Perennial

Botanical Name	Common Name	Religious Name, Assoc	Growth	Native Habitat
<i>Gypsophila panicul.</i>	Baby's Breath	Our Lady's Veil	P	Europe, N.Asia
<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	Bleeding Heart	Mary's Heart	P	Japan
<i>Camellia (japonica)</i>	Camelia	(Mary's Purity)	T	China, Japan

<i>Canna (generalis)</i>	Canna	(Rosary Beads)	P	Europe
<i>Dianthus caryophy.</i>	Carnation	(M.Love of God)	P	S.Eur.to India
<i>Chrysanthemum (ind.)</i>	Chrysanthemum	(Epiphany Star)	P	China
<i>Taraxacum officin.</i>	Dandelion	(M. Bitter Sorrow)	P	Europe
<i>Daphne cneorum</i>	Daphne	Mary's Rose	S	Mts. of Europe
<i>Cornus (florida)</i>	Dogwood	(Cross Flowers)	T	E.United States
<i>Tulipa (gesner.)</i>	Garden Tulip	(M. Prayer)	P	Armenia,Iran
<i>Pelargonium (dom.)</i>	Geranium	Lady Beautiful	P	S.Africa
<i>Hyacinthus orientalis</i>	Hyacinth	Lily-of-Valley	P	Asia Minor
<i>Rosa odorata hybr.</i>	Hybrid Tea Rose	(M-named var.)	S	China
<i>Hydranga macro. mar.</i>	Hydranga var.	Ave Maria (beads)	P	China, Japan
<i>Miscanthus sin.</i>	Jap. Plume Grass	Maiden Grass	P	China,Japan
<i>Juniperus (oxyced.)</i>	Juniper	(Flight Egypt Rest)	T	Mediterranean
<i>Lilium candidum</i>	Madonna Lily	Annunciation Lily	P	S.Eu.,S.W.Asia
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Morning Glory	Our Lady's Mantle	A	Tropical America
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Pansy	Our Lady's Delight	P	Eurasia
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Passion Flower	Flower-of-Cross	P	S.E.U.S.
<i>Paeonia officinalis</i>	Peony	Mary's Rose	P	Europe
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle	Virgin Flower	P	Europe
<i>Petunia (hybrida)</i>	Petunia	Our Lady's Praises	A	S.S.Amer.
<i>Hosta plantaginea</i>	Plantain Lily	Assumption Lily	P	Japan, China
<i>Rosa</i>	Red, White Rose	(Visitation)	S	Eurasia
<i>Papaver (orientale)</i>	Red Poppy	(Christ'sBlood)	P	Medit.to Persia
<i>Rosa</i>	Red Rose	(Mary's Sorrows)	S	Eurasia
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Strawberry	(Virgin Motherhood)	P	Europe
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	Herb of the Cross	P	Europe, Asia
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	Water Lily	Our Lady of the Lake	P	Europe, N.Africa
<i>Rosa</i>	White Rose	(Mary's Purity)	S	Eurasia

Feb 17 1999, John

Many thanks for the 3 photos of your Rosary Walk and Marian flower list. It's lovely. I like the concept of the wayside crucifix, the square stones for the Paters and round ones for the Aves. It imparts a sense of wanting to pray the Rosary on it.

Could you give us your statuary source in NYC? There used to be a row of 5 or 6 statuary and religious articles super-stores on Berkeley St. in NYC, to which we referred people and where we obtained several statues ourselves, but they all folded after the Second Vatican Council.

May I reproduce the photo on the website?.

Prayerful best wishes for a holy Lent.

Feb 17 1999, John

I was able to open the Marion Flower List OK in spreadsheet format. I never got around to putting Mariana I etc. in spreadsheet form, so yours gives me a head start. Thanks.

I note the 30 flowers on the list marked as in your Rosary Walk Garden. A nice selection.

What is the plant spaced around the border of the walk?

Best wishes,

Mar 20 1999, Carolyn

The flowers in the pond are red and white water lilies, water hyacinth and some type of floating grass (to oxygenate for the fish). Around the outside edge of the pond is hosta - (alba marginata), maiden grass behind the

angel and white daphne. The perimeter of the rosary walk is dotted with Helliery holly every 3 feet. It is a sturdy, slow-growing evergreen shrub that will do well in both full sun and full shade. I'm glad you received the list OK. I would be happy to share whatever I have.

Love,

Mar 20 1999, John

Many thanks for the Angel/Pond photo and plants info. The whole Rosary Walk design has a simplicity and clarity which people surely find supportive of their Rosary prayers.

To reciprocate, and for your interest, I attach a 1950's photo of an Aquatic Mary Garden - a Trappist monk and his mother in his little coal shuttle boat, "Star of the Sea", examining some water lilies, "Our Lady of the Lake", taken by his father, on the annually permitted parental visit.



Note the March website article, "[Garden Consecration to Jesus through Mary.](#)"

Sincerely in our mutual love of Our Lady,

Sep 9 1999, John

Our Mary's Gardens Associate, Lisa Creamer, of Olney, MD is completing a 30 p. teacher's guide for school Mary Garden projects, and in reviewing the MS I could see that the excellent photo you sent me of your parish church's Rosary Walk would make an excellent illustration for her page on Rosary Gardens.

May we have permission to use it?

We can send you a copy of the guide, complete with photos, as a Windows/ MS-Word, or Macintosh/Appleworks, e-mail attachment.

Thanks, and all prayerful best wishes.

Sep 12 1999, Carolyn

I would be honored for you to include our rosary walk in your illustration. I'd like to clear it with our priest, which I will do on Monday 9/13/99. I'll email you Monday night. Thank you so much for recognizing our parish.

Sep 17 1999, John

Thank you for your rapid reply and action. Happy my message got through to you OK, even though our "in" email was being rejected for 5 eays due to our Internet server's problems with a system change-over.

I'll look forward to hearing from you after you talk with your priest.

Sep 12

This page, maintained by The Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute, Dayton, Ohio 45469-1390, and created by Cindy Osborne was last modified Thursday, 02/09/2012 11:39:28 EST by Sumithra Kulkarni. Please send any comments to marygardens@udayton.edu.

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