



# Planting a Mary Garden

*Inspiration and Ideas*



THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER



# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

The Mary Garden contest is brought to you by The Museum of Family Prayer, which offers a unique, interactive experience of prayer using digital media for the entire family to experience together. When we reopen, join us to explore more about prayer and check out our Mary Garden ... our work in progress. Then tour the museum and find out about our current programs. The museum offers a lively, collective involvement allowing those who visit to touch, listen and watch, reflect and pray. Your family will be treated to a new, different, fun, faith-filled experience.

Remember what our founder, Venerable Patrick Peyton always said, "The family that prays together stays together."

For more information on the contest: [MuseumOfFamilyPrayer.org](http://MuseumOfFamilyPrayer.org)

## A LITTLE HISTORY

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. began his ministry in 1942 with the goal of building **family unity** through daily prayer of the Rosary. Inspired by his own father who had a deep devotion to family prayer, praying the Rosary became the foundation for the life of Father Peyton (1909-92).

We at Family Rosary are ever so grateful Father Peyton's family instilled in him the importance of **family prayer**. Now it can be part of your family's tradition so you can fulfill the vision that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," the message created by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., so many years ago.



“ MARY, MY QUEEN, MY MOTHER. ”

VENERABLE PATRICK PEYTON

# PLANTING A MARY GARDEN

**A Mary Garden is a great way to share our faith  
in a fun and easy way for the entire family, especially as you continue to  
watch it grow and help take care of it together as a family.**

## HONOR MARY WITH A GARDEN

She's been hugged and kissed. She's been hit with soccer balls, footballs, and baseballs. I even found her once with a Disney princess bike helmet perched on her head and two pinwheels by her side. But she's a mother, too. She's used to it. And so she still stands, a stoic figure of stone, hands open in a gesture of grace for all who cross her path.

I love how our Mary statue stands in our backyard garden, watching my children as they play. Somehow she and her flowers survive all of their games—and remind my children that she is an important part of their lives.

From a very young age, my children have been naturally drawn to her gentle motherliness. I've often caught my little ones talking to her, ending their conversation with a kiss on her stone cheek. Planting a Mary garden has been an effective way to draw our whole family closer to Mary. And as we draw closer to her, I know that she is drawing us closer to her Son.

Mary gardens can be planted outside in a flower bed or container. They can also be created in a small container or terrarium for indoor enjoyment. They can evoke a certain aspect of Mary's life, or be comprised of a variety of flowers that work well in your particular region. Many, many flowers and plants are named after Mary, the saints, or some other facet of Christianity.

Don't become overwhelmed with the project! Just obtain a statue of Mary and start small. One rosebush (Our Lady's flower) or a few marigolds (Mary's Gold) can create a lovely little grotto for Mary. Over the years, our family has added some tiers for annuals and a trellis for morning glories (Our Lady's mantle). A garden bench provides a place for prayer and meditation.

Some years we have planted bedding plants; other years we've planted seeds and watched with delight as the surprises popped up. Involving my children in the process has become more important than a perfectly manicured garden, and as we pull weeds together (along with a few flowers sometimes...oops!), we talk about why we care for this special space.

Every so often, I get to sit in peace on our garden bench by myself. And as I gaze at the beauty of the butterflies and flowers, Rosary beads in hand, I am certain there are times that the scent of roses—stronger than what my rosebushes alone could produce—permeates the air. A sure sign that my mother Mary is close by.

## **SOME COMMON MARY GARDEN PLANTS AND WHAT THEY SYMBOLIZE:**

**Foxglove** – Our Lady's Gloves  
**Pansy** – Our Lady's Delight  
**Chrysanthemum** – All Saints' Flower  
**Columbine** – Our Lady's Shoes  
**Forget-Me-Not** – Eyes of Mary  
**Strawberry** – Fruitful Virgin  
**Violet** – Our Lady's Modesty  
**Alyssum** – Mary's Flower  
**Cosmos** – St. Michael's Flower

**Marigold** – Mary's Gold  
**Morning Glory** – Our Lady's Mantle  
**Petunia** – Our Lady's Praises  
**Snapdragon** – Infant Jesus' Shoes  
**Geranium** – Gentle Virgin  
**Daffodil** – Mary's Star  
**Peony** – Pentecost Rose  
**Tulip** – Mary's Prayer  
**Rose** – Emblem of Mary

*Charisse Tierney*  
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## **MARY GARDEN CONTEST JULY 2020 - AUGUST 2020**

Mary Gardens are places of beauty and peace. Made up of many flowers and plants that are associated with our Blessed Mother and various aspects of her life. These traditions go back to the Middle Ages when religious devotion permeated almost every aspect of life. Some flowers are Marian simply by virtue of their names, Marigold and Morning Glory. Others feature legends about Jesus and Mary, flowers such as Snapdragon and Tulip. All forms of art, including gardens, were one way to teach the Gospel stories during a time when books and reading were not widespread.

Mary Gardens may be lavish outdoor spaces, small simple gardens or even indoor potted plants. A Mary Garden usually contains a statue or image of Mary.

## CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

Want to learn more about Mary or explain to someone you know Mary's role in your faith?

**Catholic Central**, a free video web series that talks about the big Catholic topics, has an episode all about Mary! There you'll learn that she's venerated, not worshiped; asked to pray for us; and makes occasional appearances to the faithful to achieve her one mission ... bringing people closer to her Son.



### CHARISSE TIERNEY

Charisse Tierney lives in Newton, Kansas, with her husband Rob and six children. Charisse and Rob are Natural Family Planning and Theology of the Body for Teens teachers. Charisse holds degrees in music performance and is a contributing author to *The Catholic Mom's Prayer Companion*. She also writes for *Family Foundations* magazine and blogs at *Paving the Path to Purity*.

## BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER IN PRAYER

We hope the time you've spent reflecting with this material has been enriching. Remember, we're with you in prayer, every step of the way!

For additional online resources for family prayer including a Prayer Petition Page and our World at Prayer Blog, please visit our website at [www.FamilyRosary.org](http://www.FamilyRosary.org).

This e-book and all our resources represent a culmination of Father Peyton's passion for family unity through prayer. We hope our services will enhance your family's prayer life particularly remembering Father Peyton's famous words, "*The Family That Prays Together Stays Together.*"

### WHERE YOU CAN FIND US



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