

# Mary Garden Contest

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is a Mary Garden?**

Traditionally it was a garden full of flowers that were dedicated to or associated with Our Lady. Medieval Christians began the practice so that they would be reminded of God's grace, healing, and love. Today, it can come in all shapes and sizes. A Mary Garden can be your backyard garden, small apartment shrine, simple grotto, mini-Mary Garden (also known as a Fairy Garden) or even your vegetable patch. If your garden is a place where you go to pray, where you go to feel closer to Our Lady, then it is a Mary Garden.

Mary Gardens celebrate new life, hope, and beauty. Mary loves us all and looks after our families, just as you care for your garden.

### **Who can participate in the Mary Garden contest?**

Anyone! This year our contest is separated into two groups.

**Family gardens:** This means a garden or shrine you keep for yourself or your family.

**Community/Church garden:** If you worked on your parish or neighborhood Mary Garden, we want to see it!

### **I live in an apartment and have a Marian shrine with flowers. Can I still submit it as a Mary Garden?**

Yes! Big or small, outdoors or inside your house. Any garden is welcome.

### **Does the garden have to have Marian flowers? A Mary statue?**

No, the garden does not have to have traditional Marian flowers. But you might already have some and not know it! Vegetable gardens are also welcome if it is a space dedicated to Our Lady.

A Mary statue is preferred, but if you have a statue of St. Joseph or the Child Jesus that is also acceptable.

### **What should I write in the 'Tell us about your Mary Garden' section?**

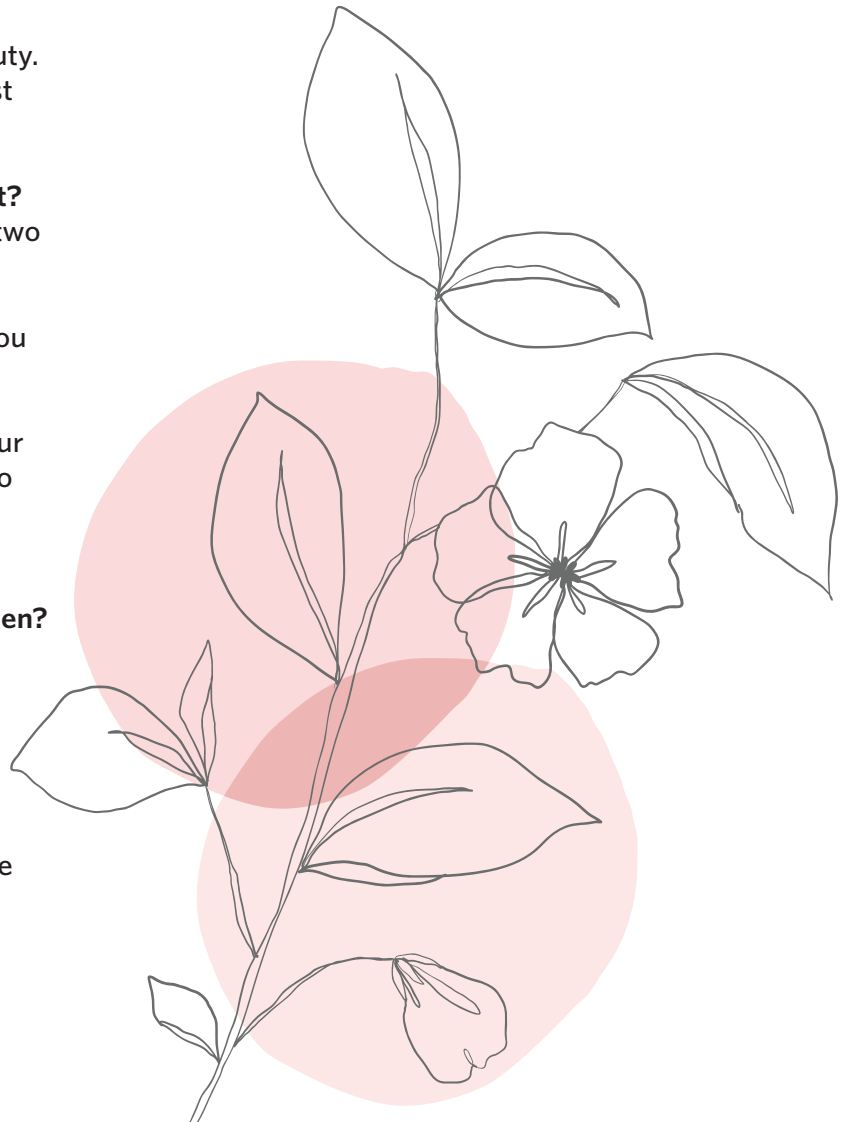
Here are some suggestions:

What kinds of flowers are in your garden?

What made you want to plant a Mary Garden?

How long have you had a Mary Garden?

Why is it special to you and your family?



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### How many photos can I submit?

One photo per entry. Please, no videos.

### Should I be in the photo? My family?

This is completely up to you. We want to see as much of your garden as possible, but if you want to be in it, that is OK too!

Please note: Winners will be asked to send another photo of themselves in their Mary Garden!

### I participated last year; can I submit again?

Yes, of course! Just send a different picture.

### What is the release form and why do I need to agree to it?

The release form allows us to use your photo. It also means we can contact you if you are a winner. If you have any questions about the release form, please email: [ssoliviera@hcfm.org](mailto:ssoliviera@hcfm.org)

### What is the deadline for the contest?

The contest will be held from May 24 until July 26. The winners will be announced on August 15th.

### What are the contest awards?

Prize winners will receive a DVD of *PRAY: The Story of Patrick Peyton*, a gift card, and an assortment of gardening-themed and Mary-themed items for play and prayer.

Remember! This is not about competition; the true prize is the hope and love it brings to your family. Thank you for sharing your Mary Garden with our Holy Cross Family Ministry community.

### What is the Museum of Family Prayer?

The Museum of Family Prayer is dedicated to our founder, Fr. Patrick Peyton, a Holy Cross Priest who was active in the 1950's and 1960's. He traveled all over the world to

spread the message that was most dear to his heart - praying the rosary as a family. Today we celebrate his life and mission through fun and prayerful experiences for families.

### What is Holy Cross Family Ministries?

We are a mission-driven family of Catholic ministries. Our mission is clear: We are dedicated to inspiring, promoting and fostering the prayer life and spiritual well-being of families throughout the world. Families are served through faith-based video series, prayer retreats, world-wide Rosary distribution, and numerous interactive and in-person engaging prayer experiences! Visit our website for more information!



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