



The Catholic Women's League of Canada: Toronto Diocese
CWL Wednesday: Mary Gardens May 5th, 2021

Over 60 councils with 233 members in attendance participated in the Mary Garden presentation. The evening began with a very appropriate prayer for gardening by Diocesan Spiritual Development chair, Kate O'Quinn with participation from the regional chairs.

The prayer service included a prayer for gardening, a reading from Songs "See! The winter is past" (Songs 2:11-13), Thanksgiving for Gardens and concluding with a blessing: "Bless this garden as you bless all creation with your love...May we see in its glory your awesome majesty. Amen."

Iris McNulty, TDC Christian Family Life chair and an avid gardener, presented the history of the Mary Gardens as well as the different plants that could be used. Sue Lubowitz, Organization chair, informed us on the importance of biodiversity in keeping with the teachings of Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si".



TRADITIONAL PLANTS

- Forget-me-Knots= eyes of Mary
- Iris=Mary's word of sorrow
- Madonna Lily= Annunciation
- Peony= Christ's Blood
- Petunia= Mary's praise
- Impatiens= Mary's love (constant blooms)
- Bleeding Heart= sorrow
- Pansies= Our Lady's delight

Councils were presented with options for different gardens by Kate O'Quinn and Sue Lubowitz took us on a virtual tour of Mary Gardens in the Archdiocese that councils might consider when in person gatherings are allowed again.



Left:
Mary Shrine at St. Edward the Confessor Parish
(Elisabeth Quail photo)

Right:
St. Gregory Parish,
Humber Valley
(Teresa Coelho photo)



Some members already had a Mary Garden and we are also sharing their pictures here.

Our Lady of Lourdes (by Prescy):
(left)



Lina (St. Joseph Highland Creek):

