



MARIANIST LAY COMMUNITY OF NORTH AMERICA

Education Reflection - September 2020

Reflection by Morgan Harper Nichols:

"I hope you can know what the gardener knows. I hope you can know that beautiful things take time. I hope you can look out on your garden that is not quite what you thought it would be and still believe that these things will grow in the way they are meant to. I hope you can trust what is happening beneath the surface. I hope you can choose to believe that even though you cannot see it, Life is being shaped beneath the soil and season after season, things will spring into their bloom.

And more than you sow seeds of fear, I hope you can sow seeds of love. I hope you can keep planting and sowing even when you are wondering if what will bloom will be even good enough. Because right now, what matters is your willingness. Your desire to prepare for the growth that is sure to come.

Just think about how much this will strengthen you in the days to come. Think about how you are going to be able to look back on days like this and be so grateful that you chose to persist beyond the boundaries of your fears. And all along, you were being shaped, in the most beautiful, Life-giving way...even before you knew how certain things would bloom. And all of this will happen because you chose to not only sow seeds, but you chose to sow well. You chose to sow faith over doubt, peace over worry, love over fear. You chose to believe that no matter what you had sown before, you could sow something new. No matter what held you back all those years ago did not have to hold you back today."

Posted June 7, 2019 from Morgan Harper Nichols, a poet, artist and teacher. See more on [her website](#).

Questions to consider: Think of your garden. What does it look like right now? Is it over grown and full of weeds? Is it well tended and colorful? What are you rooted in? What parts of your life are "in bloom?" What parts are wilting? What seeds are you sowing in your life? Are there seeds of fear? Seeds of love? Seeds of hate? How are you sowing peace over worry? Love over fear? Faith over doubt? What new seeds can you sow? What parts of your garden are not what you want them to be? What is holding you back from making them better?

Prayer to end your reflection:

Lord of Creation, who planted Your own garden called Eden,
come and bless this soil which is to be our garden.

All that dies becomes earth, and so it lives again.

May this garden soil be both womb and tomb, a home for death and life,
so that seeds of living things—of plants, of food and flowers—
may die and resurrect here in our garden.

Ancient earth, our mystical mother, teach us, your children,
that all things die to nourish life.

Gentle earth, be blessed with our love as we work in you.

Make us mindful that one day you will be our final bed of love. Amen.

From Prayers for the Domestic Church by Ed Hays