

About our Mary Garden:

*When the Cloister connecting the
Home, Church, and Parish Hall
was built in 1988, the Mary
Garden was created*

*TO THE GLORY OF GOD
IN LOVING MEMORY OF*

MARY FORD McNUTT

*MOTHER OF THE RIGHT REV.
CHARLIE F. McNUTT
BISHOP, DIOCESE OF
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA*

*MARY McNUTT WAS A RESIDENT
OF THE HOME, 1984-86*



THE MARY GARDEN

THE EPISCOPAL HOME

**SHIPPENSBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA**

From the early middle ages, devout peasants worked in the gardens surrounding cathedrals, chapels, and churches. In their devotion they found significance in simple flowers. As they worked, they wove stories and legends inspired by the shape, size and color of the flowers. They associated many with Saint Mary, or "Our Lady" as she was affectionately called. To this day we have familiar names like lady fern, lady slipper, and even lady bug (the gardener's friend). It would be impossible to include all the beloved flowers dedicated to St. Mary in this little garden, but we have some flowers and their legends:

Colors associated with Mary:

White for purity

Violet for penitence

Yellow known as Mary's gold (as in marigolds)

Blue which is always associated with Mary

Saint Bernard called Mary "the violet of humility, the lily of chastity, and the rose of charity"

Anemones— lily of the field

Astilbe—Our lady of the meadow or lady's lace

Ageratum— blue

Bergamot— Sweet Mary

Bedstraw— the manger herb

Bleeding Heart—Mary's sorrow at the crucifixion

Calendula— blooms on Mary's Feast Day. Also known as Mary's gold.

Daisy—innocence used in paintings of adoration

Flax—from which Mary's blue mantle was made

Iris—Mary's sword of sorrow

Lady's Mantle—leaf shaped like a cloak, catches the dew each morning. Thought to impart virtue.

Lavender—Mary's washing plant

Lemon balm—Sweet Mary

Lily—symbol of purity

Lily of the Valley—Mary's tears.

Lirope—Mary's garter

Periwinkle—Blue flower and evergreen quality

Rosemary—Legend says that on their flight, Mary hung the Christ Child's clothes to dry and the bush bloomed a beautiful blue flower. Medieval mothers put sprigs of Rosemary in babies' cradles.

Rue—Herb of Grace

Stachys—Lamb's Ear—Mary is the mother of the Lamb.

Sweet Violet—Lady's modesty

You will perhaps also find bedding plants in Mary's colors.

Our bushes include viburnums, roses, burning bush, azalea, hemlocks, and roses.