

The Garden of Your Heart

Imagine you are in a beautiful garden. It is springtime and the grass is green, the sun is shining, the flowers are blossoming with bright colors, butterflies are fluttering, bees are buzzing, and the birds are happily chirping.

Then you notice some nasty weeds and overgrown thornbushes over by the edge of the garden.

Now the gardener comes. He waters all the flowers, sings with the birds, enjoys the sunshine, and pets a rabbit that hops by. As the gardener makes his way around the garden he notices what you noticed: the nasty weeds and overgrown thornbushes. He doesn't get angry; he just smiles lovingly and gets to work. He carefully pulls out the weeds and removes the thornbushes. Then he tills the soil and plants some seeds so that this area can be as beautiful as the rest of the garden.



The garden in this story is your heart. The beautiful flowers in the garden are the love you carry in your heart for God and for your family and friends.

Every time you make a good choice, the garden becomes even more beautiful. Every time you help a friend or a stranger, a flower blooms. Each time you choose to listen to your parents, the grass gets a little bit greener. But every time you push someone on the playground or cut in front of someone at the drinking fountain, a weed grows in your garden. And each time you tell a lie or say a bad word, the thornbush begins to grow.

Jesus is the gardener. He wants to live in your heart. He loves walking in your garden, enjoying the beauty of your heart. He also wants to remove all the weeds and thornbushes from your garden. The weeds are the small sins; the thornbushes are your big sins. If you don't get rid of the weeds and thornbushes as soon as they start to grow, they can spread very quickly and take over the whole garden.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we invite Jesus the gardener to come into the garden of our hearts and remove all the weeds and thornbushes.

