

Consider the lilies of the field

I must confess that I am disappointed not to have received any responses to my suggestion that we share our pleasures and delights. The offer is still open. Meanwhile here is one of mine for you.

Every spring I am amazed anew at nature's unfolding display of color and beauty: first the snowbells peeking out, followed by primroses bringing the first color, the magnolias sensuously opening on bare branches, then the scented blooms of lilac, wisteria and lilies of the valley. Regardless of how grey the sky may be, they share their ebullience. I know that if I don't take the time to enjoy them, right then when they present themselves, it will be my loss. Yet again and again I realize that I am walking by, too absorbed in my thoughts to notice the abundance that surrounds me.

If we really "consider the lilies of the field" as the Bible urges us to, we can have a direct experience of the wonder of creation and the natural cycle of renewal, filling us with gratitude and trust, and putting our problems into perspective. We only need to open ourselves to it. I find the best way to partake of the glory of flowers is to approach them with the curiosity and delight of a child, peering closely at every detail, burying my nose so deeply in them that I end up with pollen on it, and perhaps picking a small posy to place by the sink or on my desk to keep them in my awareness.

During the break until September, I invite you to take time to consider the lilies and do some blossoming of your own.