



Make a Charity Garden

A person resembles a garden
when charity and faith are linked in him,
a desert when they are not.
(Last Judgment 39:13)

The Heavenly Doctrine tells us that the presence of charity makes life bloom, like a desert turning into a garden. Here is one way you could visually illustrate this in your family. Select a piece of your yard to be a “charity garden” and prepare the earth. While doing this, you could talk about ways in which we can prepare ourselves to be kind and helpful to other people by learning how to help them. (Several of the family talks, sermons, and teen readings discuss this.)

Once the garden is prepared, anytime someone in the family is charitable or useful to other people, he or she can add a plant to the garden. With small children, parents may want to have some plants on hand or make a trip to a nursery every once in a while. “Good deeds” can be remembered and thought about while planting. If there are older children in the family, you might encourage everyone to quietly do the planting themselves, without making a particular “show” of their charity. Either way, you can watch your family’s charity garden blossom and grow and know that the Lord is working through you to help others.

An alternative might be to plant bulbs in the autumn. We don’t always see immediate results from the things we do, but if they were truly inspired by a love for the neighbor they will eventually blossom, like a garden of bulbs in the spring!