

This is an apology for the October 30th publication of the Pastoral Garden Report which was written and submitted for publication on September 1, 2005. The iris rhizomes and bulb varieties advertised as available in that report were, by publication date, long gone. There will be many more available next year, but to those of you who have come by recently looking for the "freebies", all I can say is "I'm sorry". I have no further explanation. And I add that the previous "Pastoral Garden Report", which was written and submitted for publication on August 25 and was published on September 11, was much emended for content.

The sprinkler system for the Pastoral Garden has had six of its eight planned lines installed and operational as of November 1. It was the design, drawings and labor of one very dedicated young man, Mathew LaMothe, which accomplished this months-long task. The last two lines of the system will be installed sometime in the near future by custodial and this gardener's efforts. My thanks go to the parish authorities who endorsed and OKed the financing of this project and to Mathew who did all the real work.

This is the time of rest and renewal for the garden, however, this is not the time of rest for the gardener. Not only is there clean up of leaves and die-back foliage, but there are bulbs to plant, seeds to be sown and transplants to be made; there is snail bait to be scattered and weeds to be pulled; there are trees to trim and roses to prune; and there is planning to be made for changes or additions to the garden in both plants and accouterments.

Just now in the garden the herbaceous peonies have been cut down to about two inches from the ground, since the leaves have turned yellow/brown. They need to be dug and thinned out. So if anyone wants to have some of the root stock, let me know -- in writing (name, phone number, etc.)

I repeat my pleas for help in the Pastoral Garden. There are always chores to be done and any contribution on your part to help will be most welcomed. If the garden is to continue as a source of cuttings and shared bounty, as a resource for the parish, as a place of prayer and meditation, as a gathering place for social events and as a beauty spot for the neighborhood -- more effort is needed than I alone can supply. As reported in the last writing, I am in the P.G. most AMs (8-11:30) and even some afternoons. Please come and join me in sweat equity.

*Arlen*