

March 22, 2020

Note from Fr. Niblick

I have been very fortunate to have been able to visit and get to know many Botanical Gardens in this country and in Europe. Chicago is pretty with a series of themed gardens such as an English walled garden and a Japanese Garden, and lovely water features. www.chicagobotanic.org

Dubuque in Iowa www.dubuquearboretum.net

has a garden that is high above the Mississippi River and San Diego in California sdbgarden.org

has a garden that is not really defined but actually planned to let nature-weather, wind, and temperature-have their way. They have the largest collection of Hosta which are shade loving plants, huge and variegated leaves of white and shades of green, that grow under the canopies of huge trees.

Brooklyn www.bbg.org

and New York Botanical Gardens www.nybg.org

are filled to the brim in the Spring with old, old stands of cherry trees and other blossoming fruit trees, old and wounded by time and age, but spectacularly gorgeous for a week or so every year. The New York Botanical Garden has millions and millions of bulbs blooming from late winter to early summer. Waves of color break out almost daily all over these old and revered grounds.

Copenhagen botanik.snm.ku.dk/English and Edinburgh www.rbge.org.uk

have beautiful gardens older than any garden in the United States so as they unfold each spring, they have azaleas and rhododendrons that are huge, some being over one hundred years old, with a variety of colors and shapes that are rarely found here.

Kew Gardens www.kew.org in London is the grandest and most elaborate garden in the world with magnificent displays of plants and trees and flowers and roses, zillions of roses. Paris gardens are most familiar to me, they are more like parks with trees almost all replanted after 1945 because all of the trees of Paris were used for other things during the occupation, so I always feel melancholy in the parks of Paris. https://youtu.be/-90Bp_dJ_Nk

My favorite botanical garden is in San Francisco, though, it is an amazing place that was created by very, very talented and determined people. It hangs on the very edge of the land at the edge of the Pacific. It was created from the ground up and planned to respect and use the Pacific winds and fog patterns. It isn't

as glitzy as Chicago, but it has many, many ancient plantings that I think remember me. www.sfbg.org

I hope you can relax and call to your mind and heart the beautiful places that you have stored in your unconscious and conscious minds. You know once you sit still for just a few minutes and chew on those vacations that your family spent at that lake in Michigan or Wisconsin all those many years ago, trust me, the flood gates will open and you will remember places you thought long gone. Remember Wells Street Beach or The Dunes or camping in a tent.