

## Welcome.

The Healing Garden is intended to be a symbol that invites reconciliation, healing and eventual freedom, not only for the survivors and their families, but also for the larger family of the Catholic Church.

The Healing Garden invites everyone to reflect on their own joy and suffering. For many survivors, however, this may be a first step or simply a part of their healing process. For those who are seeking additional support, the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Assistance Ministry may be able to help. The Office tries to support all efforts victim-survivors make to achieve psychological, emotional and spiritual healing. Since its inception, the Office of Assistance Ministry has provided services and support to victim-survivors and their family members.

### For more information:

312.534.3380  
OPCY@archchicago.org  
[protect.archchicago.org/offices-and-services/office-of-assistance-ministry](https://protect.archchicago.org/offices-and-services/office-of-assistance-ministry)

### Healing Garden

Located at  
Our Lady of the Holy Family Parish  
1080 West Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60608

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Office of Assistance Ministry  
P. O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979  
312.534.3380  
[protect.archchicago.org](https://protect.archchicago.org)

The creation of this healing garden is an attempt by us, clergy abuse survivors of the Archdiocese of Chicago, to heal, learn and grow from the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual harm done to us. We wish to reach out to you who may have suffered from any tragic event that has left your hearts broken, just like ours. Together in this healing space, may we find within ourselves a place to feel free: Free from fear, free from shame and free from judgment.

Vision Statement of Healing Garden Planning Committee  
June 9, 2011

## HEALING GARDEN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr. Michael Hoffman  
Mr. Joseph Iacono  
Mrs. Donna Johnson-Polencheck  
Mr. Vincent Spurduto  
Rev. Jeremiah Boland  
Rev. Lawrence Dowling  
Mr. Matt Hunnicutt  
Mr. Thomas P. Tharayil  
Mrs. Ruth Robinson  
Ms. Mayra Flores

February 2023

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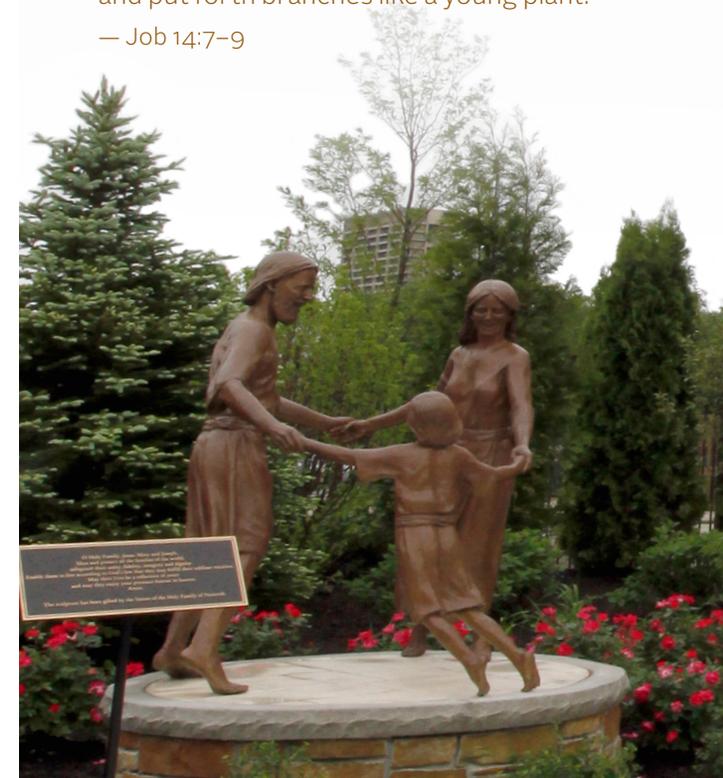


# HEALING GARDEN

**1080 West Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60608**

For a tree there is hope; if it be cut down, that it will sprout again and that its tender shoots will not cease. Even though its roots grow old in the earth and its stump die in the dust. Yet at the first whiff of water, it may flourish again and put forth branches like a young plant.

— Job 14:7–9



## INSPIRATION

The idea of a Healing Garden was brought to me by clergy abuse victims, priests and the Office for the Protection of Children and youth staff members. They proposed the construction of a healing garden as a place of refuge, prayer, reflection and solitude – a sacred space where healing resources would be available, and where God, whose presence and goodness is most visible in nature, might help all of us on our individual paths toward healing and reconciliation.

– Francis Cardinal George, OMI

The Healing Garden Planning Committee, comprised of four victim-survivors, two diocesan priests and staff members from the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth, was formed in January 2009. Cardinal George was presented a preliminary blue print in the summer of 2010, which he approved. The initial construction of the Healing Garden began in November 2010. The Healing Garden was blessed and dedicated on June 9, 2011.



## Soil

The Healing Garden is located at Our Lady of the Holy Family Parish at 1080 West Roosevelt Road in Chicago. The historic location of the parish makes it an appropriate site for the Healing Garden that is situated adjacent to the Church and Parish Center. Holy Family Church was one of only two to survive the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.

## Light

The center path of the Healing Garden leads directly to a sculpture titled The Circle of Love. The sculpture symbolizes the Holy Family joyfully dancing together within the Healing Garden. The bronze sculpture weighs just under 600 pounds and the Holy Family's hand-held circle encompasses nearly six feet in diameter. The artist, George Michael Myers of Prescott, Arizona, has been creating expressive figure sculptures for over 40 years. The Circle of Love in the Healing Garden is a gift from the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

## Trees and Plants

Over 25 varieties of trees, plants and flowers can be found in the Healing Garden. The areas on either side of the central pedestal for the sculpture include ornamental Pink Knock Out Rose, Pink Diamond Paniculata Hydrangeas, "Royal Purple" and a variety of perennials. Between the maples on the street are large shrubs, "Chicago Fire," which are called "burning bushes" for their bright red color in the fall. At the site where the central garden path joins the east path, there is flowering "Spiced Bouquet."

## Support for the Healing Garden

The Healing Garden is a project of the Archdiocese of Chicago that originated from the victim-survivor community and was approved by Francis Cardinal George, OMI.

As members of the Catholic community, we recognize how the Church herself has been harmed by this crisis and sin. Our faith calls us to be instruments of healing. If you are interested in financially supporting this healing garden, please call the Office of Assistance Ministry at 312.534.3380.



A path in a beautiful garden leads to healing and peace. In offering this path, the Church offers as well a profound apology to those who have been sexually abused by priests or others in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The path of their suffering is one that must be trod by all, so that all, together, might find that peace which is the gift of God. Jesus accompanies everyone on the path of life, and he is the heart of this healing garden.

– Francis Cardinal George, OMI  
Archbishop of Chicago 1997–2014