

Memories from a Jardin Garden

Raquel David

Raquel's grandparents, Eliza and Manuel Jardin, were from Portugal, *the Old Country*. They rented a two-bedroom apartment on Nash Road, in the north end of New Bedford, Massachusetts, thirty-three miles west of Cape Cod. Their communal back porch, with its lumpy, uneven surface, thickened with drips and runs from past paint jobs, solidified along its length, overlooked a tidy garden where a statue of Mary stood at its center. She was raised on a small pile of stones glued together with somber gray cement. In warm weather, Lily of the Valley, hardy green shrubs, and pink roses grew up and around the veiled Blessed Mother, eyes cast down in reverent prayer, and at the feet of our dear Mother, a perpetually burning candle, set in a red hurricane glass container, glowed. On this chilly October evening, 1975, dried leaves swirled at the feet of Mary.

