

“House of the Handmaid of the Lord”

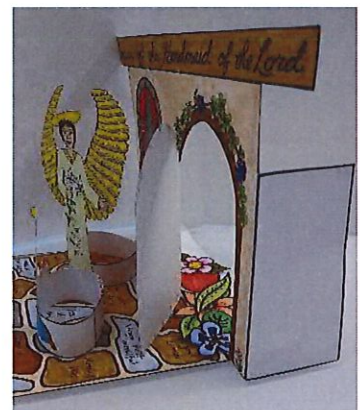
Craft for the Annunciation

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is on March 25. On this day, we celebrate two miraculous—and connected—events: Mary gives her complete surrender to God and cooperates with His plan of salvation; and because of her “Fiat” (Yes), the Son of God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, began as a human being in Mary’s womb. This means that the Annunciation also begins the Incarnation: nine months from now, we’ll celebrate Jesus’ birth. This craft encourages you to reflect on Mary’s great yes to God. You will construct her house and assemble figures of Mary and the Archangel Gabriel. The stone patio that attaches to her house contains some of her titles from the Litany of Our Blessed Mother. There are five flowers for you to color and cut out. On the back of each one, write a petition (a person’s name or...) that you want to bring to Mary so that she can pray with you to her Son. Place these flowers within the open door of Mary’s house.



Instructions for Craft:

1. Print out the two pages—on cardstock if you can.
2. Color Mary’s house and cut it out. Cut out the door using an X-Acto knife or pointed scissors (remember to cut only 3 sides, leave the left side attached) and open it.
3. Fold the side tabs and the bottom tab so they rest behind the house—and then attach the tabs on the bottom strip to the sides to help stabilize the house.
4. Color and cut out the patio and then glue the tab to the bottom strip of the house.
5. Color and cut out the Archangel Gabriel and Mary. Make the strips into rings so that they can stand up. Place both on the patio.
6. Color and cut out the flowers. Write a petition (a person or situation) for Our Blessed Mother on each one, and then lay them inside the door to her house.
7. Place your craft on your table or prayer-space on the feast of the Annunciation—and pray one of the prayers to Our Blessed Mother on the following page. Or pray a rosary (or one decade) with Mary. Learn more about Mary by reading Saint Pope John Paul II’s great encyclical on Mary: “Redemptoris Mater” (1987); it is on the Vatican website. Also, find sung versions of our great Marian hymns—one splendid Cd is the “Marian Hymns of Ephesus” sung by Benedictine nuns.



Prayers to Mary

The Angelus

Leader: The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

All: and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!

*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the
fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Leader: Behold the handmaid of the Lord

All: Be it done to me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary...

Leader: And the Word was made flesh.

All: And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Leader: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.

Leader: Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O
Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom
the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made
known by the message of an angel, may by His
Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His
Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
Our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.

To you do we send up our sighs,
Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then, most gracious advocate,
Your eyes of mercy toward us,
And after this, our exile,
Show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, holy Mother of God,
That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ. Amen.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never
was it known that anyone who fled to your
protection, implored your help, or sought your
intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin
of virgins, my Mother; to you I come, before you I
stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the
Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in
your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Loving Mother of the Redeemer (Alma Redemptoris Mater)

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, Gate of heaven, Star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again.

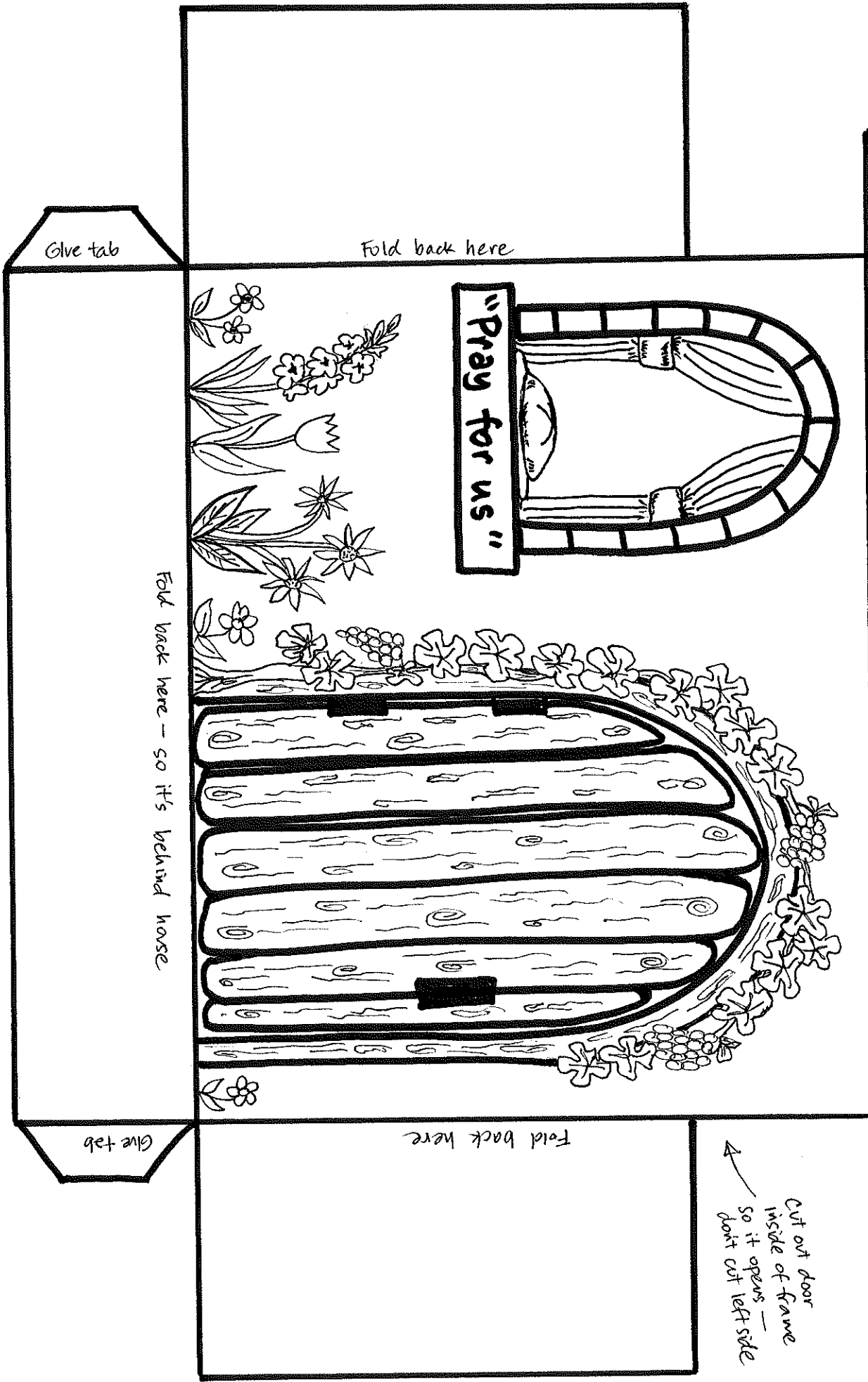
To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,

Yet remained a virgin after as before.

You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,

have mercy on us sinners. Amen.

House of the Handmaid of the Lord



Glue tab

Fold back here

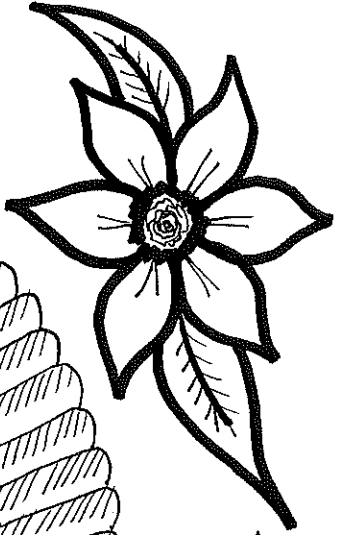
"Pray for us"

Fold back here - so it's behind house

Glue tab

Fold back here

→
Cut out door
inside of frame
so it opens —
don't cut left side

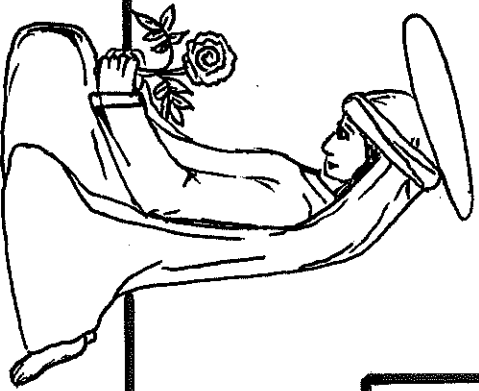
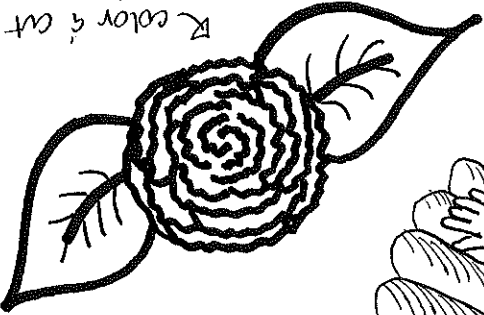


Flowers with your petitions to place inside Mary's house

"Hail Mary, full of grace"



Color & cut out flowers



Give to underside of the base of Mary's house

Mother most pure	Mirror of justice	Mother of God	Mother of the church	Mother of good counsel
Refuge of sinners	Seat of wisdom	Virgin most prudent	Virgin most merciful	
Help of Christians	Vessel of honor	Ark of the Covenant	Mystical Rose	Morning star
Queen of families	Queen of Peace	Queen of Angels	Queen of all Saints	Queen of the Most Holy Rosary

Color & cut out flowers

Glue into Ring

