

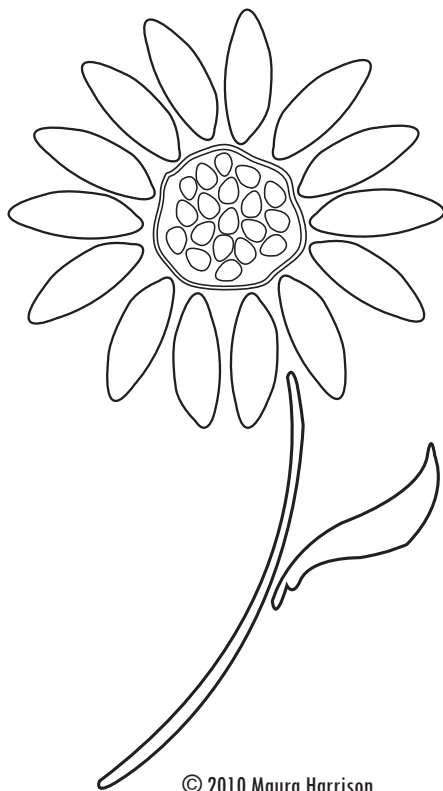
My Little Virtue Garden



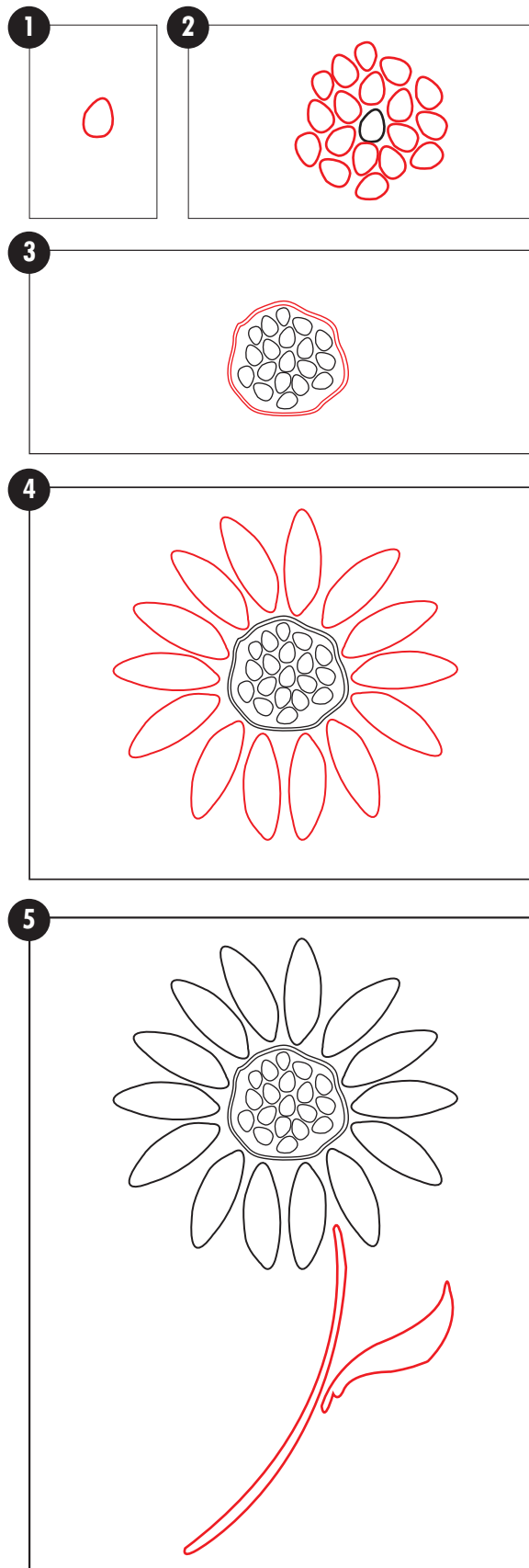
When I am before the tabernacle, I can say only one thing to Our Lord: **"My God, you know that I love you"** and I feel my prayer does not tire Jesus. -- St. Therese

Flower: Sunflower

Virtue: Faith



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1 Faith is our response to God. We receive the gift of faith at baptism. At baptism, it is not a perfect, grown-up faith, but the beginning of a life-long call to faith. **2** While faith is our own individual response to God, it is not private or isolated. We receive and share our faith from and with others. **3** The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Each believer is thus a link in the great chain of believers." (CCC166) **4** With faith, our life on Earth gives us a glimpse or our heavenly life where we shall see God face to face. "Faith is already the beginning of eternal life." (CCC163) **5** Faith seeks understanding. St. Augustine states, "I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe." (CCC158)

1. The Seed— Draw a small circle to represent the gift of faith at baptism.

2. Many Seeds— Draw several more circles so that the overall shape is still a circle showing that our faith is not an isolated act.

3. The Center— Draw two circles around the smaller circles to signify a link in the chain of believers.

4. The Face— Draw numerous petals around the sunflower's center to complete the sunflower's face. In nature, sunflowers always turn toward the sun's light. This characteristic can remind us to keep ourselves facing the light of God as well as the promise of seeing God face-to-face in heaven.

5. Completed Flower— Draw a stem and a leaf to complete the flower. In the same way that the stem and leaves seek water and sunlight in order to nourish the whole plant, we can remember to seek understanding in order to nourish our faith.