

July 23

PHOCAS THE GARDENER

There was an early martyr (dates unknown), Phocas, who suffered at Sinope in Pontus, on the southern shore of the Black Sea. A gardener (and possibly a bishop), Phocas lived an austere life of prayer and contemplation and

offering shelter to travelers. According to legend, he was denounced as a Christian and put to death. You can honor Phocas, and your favorite gardener, with some special gloves.

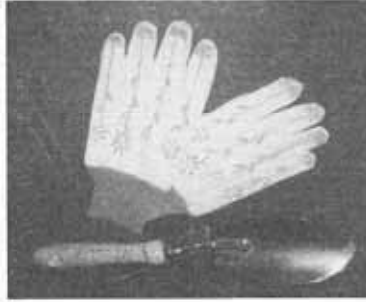
GREEN FINGER GLOVES

This is a good project for younger school aged children. Their original art enhances the practicality of a pair of gardening gloves.

You will need:

- pair of plain cotton gardening gloves, off white with no design
- fabric markers*

Have the child color the nail area of each finger of the glove green. Then have them draw a stem up each finger and put a flower at the



top of each stem. Then they can add leaves and, possibly, a worm or butterfly to finish the project. Who needs a green thumb if you have green fingers?

**If you can't obtain fabric markers, you can substitute permanent markers. There are sets of colorful markers, however, made especially for decorating fabric which you can*

purchase at an arts and craft store and at many fabric stores.
