



League of **The Redemptorists • One Liguori Drive • Liguori, MO 63057-9999**

ST. GERARD

FALL 2004

Newsletter

*Year of
St. Gerard
Majella*

October 2004-
October 2005



*100 Years
a Saint*

Canonized by
Pope St. Pius X
December 11, 1904



*250 Years
With God*

St. Gerard died
October 16, 1755

The Wonderworker Saint

A little girl was sent to the store with specific instructions to come right home after her purchase. But it was more than two hours before she returned, much to the distress of her anxious mother. “Where have you been?” she scolded.

“I’m sorry, Mommy. I know I’m late, but Ann broke her doll and I had to help her fix it.”

“And just how were you able to help her fix that broken doll?”

In her precious, childlike manner the girl responded, “I really couldn’t, but I sat down with her and helped her cry.”

St. Gerard Majella is considered the patron of mothers-to-be. If your middle name is Gerard or you know someone by that name, it is very likely that St. Gerard’s intercession was invoked at the time of birth. He continues to offer hope when life seems fragile or broken. Unlike many theologians of his time who often appeared remote and lofty, Gerard had a childlike manner that allowed him to accompany people on their journey, and help them laugh tears of joy or cry tears of sorrow.

October 16 is the feast day of St. Gerard Majella. He was a contemporary of the Redemptorist founder, St. Alphonsus Liguori, and a member of the Congregation to which St. John Neumann and Blessed Francis X. Seelos belonged. Especially during October, people around the world celebrate “the wonderworker,” as St. Gerard was known even during his lifetime (1726-1755). He is perhaps the Redemptorist saint with the most widespread appeal and popular devotion, and he is a source of constant help and inspiration to all parents.

*Be it a broken home or a broken heart,
just ask St. Gerard’s intercession
“to help fix it!”*

Father Byron Miller, C.Ss.R., who wrote this piece about St. Gerard, is director of the National Shrine of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, C.Ss.R., in New Orleans, LA. (Blessed Seelos is another Redemptorist who is on the way to canonization and sainthood. Originally from Germany, he died in 1867, after contracting yellow fever during one of the frequent outbreaks of the disease in New Orleans. Learn more about Blessed Francis X. Seelos at www.seelos.org.)

We Celebrate Our Beloved Saint

With this issue of the *League of St. Gerard Newsletter*, we join the Redemptorist world as they begin a year of special celebration in honor of our beloved saint. It was in 1904 that Pope St. Pius X canonized Gerard Majella as a saint of the universal Church. December 11, 2004, will mark the 100th anniversary of that grace-filled event. Then one year from now—October 16, 2005—will mark the 250th anniversary of Brother Gerard's death. Thus, the Redemptorist Congregation has declared a special **Year of St. Gerard Majella** from October 2004 through October 2005.


Just think...for two and a half centuries, St. Gerard has been interceding with God on behalf of others.

St. Gerard's Promises

When he was near death, Gerard made a pact with a priest whose family were dear friends with him. We can be certain that the promises Gerard made to Father Salvadore he also promises to any of us who are devoted to him.

- I. The abovementioned Reverend Brother Gerard binds himself to pray effectively to the Lord in a special way in all his prayers so that we may see each other for all eternity in the glory of paradise, enjoying God.
- II. To help me in all my spiritual and temporal needs, even though from far off, when I commend myself to him with my voice or with my heart.
- III. To get me strength to fulfill in a holy manner my obligations, to seek the sanctification of everyone, to flee from offending the Lord, and to purify me of all imperfections.
- IV. To pray to the Lord for the spiritual and temporal health of all those in my house and for the tranquility and universal peace of this region.
- V. Furthermore, he obliges himself to all those spiritual helps in this life and the next.
- VI. And also to request that all the penitents whom he knows may acquire a perfect obedience.

Patron Saint of Mothers and Babies

 In this 100th anniversary of the canonization of St. Gerard Majella, the Redemptorists are circulating a petition to ask the Holy Father to have St. Gerard formally proclaimed throughout the whole Church as "Patron Saint of Expectant Mothers and Their Babies." He has already been officially declared as such in southern Italy, where he lived and died. In many other places throughout the world, expectant mothers pray to him as their patron, and many have received miracles from his intercession.

If you wish to support this cause, you may sign the petition on-line at the following Web site: www.redemptorist.ca. Follow the links by clicking on the picture of St. Gerard.

"Let us trust in the Lord; pray a lot that he may do what we cannot do."

St. Gerard

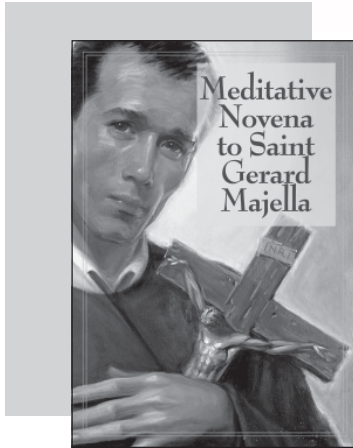
A letter to Sister Teresa of Divine Love

Dear Sister in Jesus Christ,

I remind you to remember me when you love and pray to God. In truth, I tell you that you can help me, because you call yourself "of Divine Love." And I believe that you are totally transformed into the loving essence of God and into his divine power. Become a saint, and quickly.

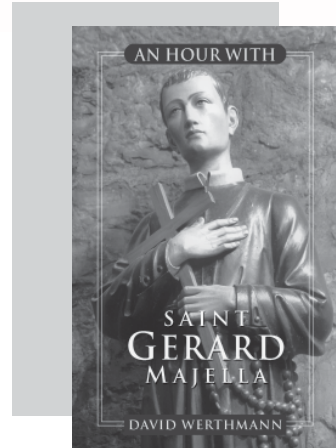
**Your Reverence's unworthy servant and brother of Jesus Christ,
Gerard Majella of the Most Holy Redeemer**

Liguori Publications has recently produced two new devotional pamphlets to commemorate this special year of celebration in honor of St. Gerard.



Meditative Novena to Saint Gerard Majella

This beautiful 32-page deluxe pamphlet leads you through nine reflections on the life and spirituality of St. Gerard. Individualized prayers selected by the reader allow this novena to be used by those seeking to become parents, or by any devotee of our favorite saint with other needs. Each reflection is illustrated with scenes from Gerard's life. The cost is \$1.95.



An Hour with Saint Gerard Majella

This pamphlet includes a brief spiritual biography of the Mother's Saint followed by down-to-earth reflections on Gerard's spirituality and questions that can be applied to our own lives today. Using this pamphlet will refresh your spirits as if you had made a miniature retreat. The cost is \$1.00.

Clip this order form and mail with check or money order to
Order Administration, Liguori Publications, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057.

14580 <i>Meditative Novena to Saint Gerard Majella</i>	Quantity_____ at \$1.95 @ = \$_____
12625 <i>An Hour with Saint Gerard Majella</i>	Quantity_____ at \$1.00 @ = \$_____
	Shipping & Handling = \$ <u>1.25</u>
	TOTAL \$_____

Charge my credit card: VISA MC Discover AMEX

card # _____ exp. ____/____

Signature _____

Promo Code N55517

A Prayer for Our Pregnancy

*Saint Gerard,
holy intercessor for
mothers and babies,
please pray for us
during this time of
our pregnancy.
I feel this blessed life
growing within me,
and am filled with praise
for our wondrous
Creator—a God
who gives life,
and then entrusts us to
nurture and nourish it.
I think about our
Blessed Mother,
bearer of the very
Son of God, and of my
own mother,
who bore me in loving
faithfulness.
My prayer is that God
protects this baby;
that we have a safe and
healthy pregnancy
and delivery;
and that this child
and all our family
grow in loving faith
until we find
our place among
God's communion
of saints in
everlasting life. Amen.*

The Heart of the Matter

From Connecticut

Please pray for our fifteen-year-old son who has brain cancer. We pray all the time for strength to get by, sometimes a minute at a time. He is a wonderful child with many friends who think he is very caring about others. We are in desperate need of a miracle.

From New Jersey

My husband and I have endured many miscarriages during the last five years.

I have prayed on and off to St. Gerard. During this time we have experienced so many emotions and have many questions. I can't say it has been easy but when reading the newsletters you realize you are not alone.

St. Gerard had to endure so much during his life but he never lost faith in God and God's will. I don't know if we will be blessed with a child, but I feel St. Gerard has given us the strength to accept it if it doesn't happen for us.

I will continue to pray that God and St. Gerard will help people accept God's will.

From the Internet

Please pray that my son and his wife will succeed in having a beautiful healthy baby. Years ago I was enrolled in the League of St. Gerard after years of trying unsuccessfully to conceive—within months I became pregnant. Thank you for your prayers.

Please send your prayer requests and thanksgiving letters to miss-spon@liguori.org or to the address on page one.

Your Intentions Remembered

Every year the contemplative nuns at Liguori offer a novena October 8–16 in preparation for the Feast of St. Gerard Majella. They are always most happy to remember your needs in their prayers. Send your request for specific intentions, or just for prayers in general to

**St. Gerard Novena, Redemptoristine Nuns,
200 Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057.**