Saint Call Call

PRAYERS • DEVOTIONS • MEMBERSHIP • GIFTS • RESOURCES • WINTER 2011

DONALD B. WILLARD, CSsR

ANUARY brings with it more than the beginning of a new year. Coming on the heels of the holy but often hectic holiday season, long winter days and evenings provide us with a perfect opportunity to begin planning, preparing, and working toward new goals in our lives.

First, we begin to dream of what those goals might be. Perhaps our children dream of new and productive ways to spend spring break. We might look forward to traveling to a place we've never been or dream about changes we want to make in our lives. Regardless of what they are, we all have dreams about our future.

But dreams are not reality. Dreams are expectations of what we would like our future to be, but we do not have any reassurance that our future will actually be as we imagine. Dreams, therefore, can never satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts.

The Virtue of Hope

Hope, on the other hand, is very different from a dream. Hope is an expectation about our future, an ultimate goal that will become a reality. In fact, hope is already becoming our reality in this moment. We are already seeing glimmers of the hope that is to be.

Furthermore, hope is not rooted in objects. Hope has its source in a subject, a person. Saint Gerard's life was directed by the virtue of hope. His hope was in Jesus. And because he hoped in Jesus, Saint Gerard trusted that everything Jesus said was already becoming a reality for him.

Hope gives true meaning to our lives, just as it gave true meaning to Saint Gerard's life. Contrary to dreams, hope can satisfy the longings of our hearts because we can trust in what has been promised by the Person in whom we place our faith and hope, Jesus Christ. Hope, therefore, is the sure expectation of the fulfillment of our ultimate Christian desire to be with God for all eternity. This type of hope gives our lives ultimate meaning and purpose. And if we



have meaning and purpose in our lives, then we can bear any hardship in the present moment because we know it is only temporary.

Saint Gerard, for example, was not allowed to receive his first holy Communion when he wanted because the local priest thought he was too small. Yet Saint Gerard hoped of being united with Jesus. Because of this hope, rooted in deep faith, a statue of the infant Jesus being held in Mary's arms came alive and gave Saint Gerard loaves of bread. When his mother asked him who gave him the wonderful bread, Gerard claimed that the boy at the church played with him every day and gave him bread. It was years later before Saint Gerard realized the boy was Jesus.

Transformed by Grace

Saint Gerard began to experience the divine life in the midst of his difficulties because of his strong hope and faith in Jesus. This hope and faith were with Gerard in everything he did. He just expected the grace of God to always be present in his life. These moments were but a foretaste of the hopeful expectation of the ultimate fulfillment of eternal joy in the presence of God. They were

foreshadowings of the future that awaited Saint Gerard as long as he followed the path of God's divine plan of salvation. Thus Saint Gerard's whole life was given purpose and meaning to continue to follow Jesus at every moment until the fulfill-

Hope

transforms

our problems

into moments

for miracles.

ment of his inheritance was achieved.

We, too, need that same hope in our lives. When times are difficult and hardships come, we can remember that our eternal home is in heaven. We can rely on the promise of Jesus Christ that he would remain with us. Knowing

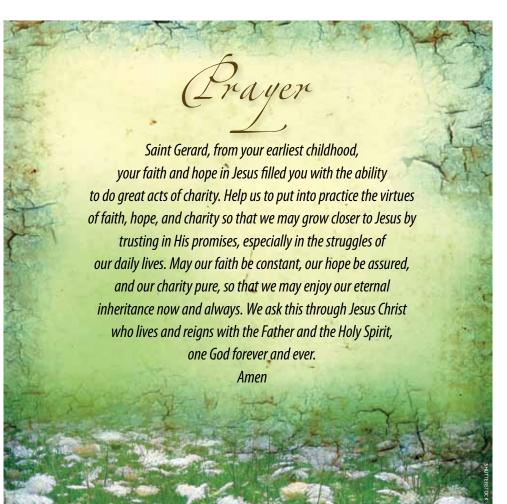
that Jesus is with us in our difficult moments helps us to see our struggles, not as problems, but as opportunities for God's divine grace to become active in our lives. We can expect God to take action in our lives, we can expect that all things will work toward our ultimate goal of heaven, and we can expect to begin to experience the eternal and divine life even as we live our earthly lives.

When we face our struggles with a a joyful

and hopeful attitude, we discover that God gives us the grace to accomplish more than would be possible by human effort alone. We obtain a foretaste of the inheritance of the children of God. Hope, then, transforms

> our problems into moments for miracles. Miracles can be anything done by the power of God. But seeing God's power at work in our lives, we gain an increase in our faith, hope, and charity. With this increase, the realization of who we really are, and sensing the growing presence of Jesus in our lives, our hearts become more open to the divine presence in our lives.

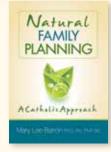
Thus the future we hope for is occurring and breaking into our reality through the growing pains and struggles of our daily lives. And as we watch our lives being transformed by grace, the hope that is ours drives us to act in even more charitable ways, increasing our faith, which draws our hope even closer. It is a circle of love that is formed, and that circle widens as our faith, hope, and charity grow and lead us to our eternal home.



For more information about Saint Gerard, visit www.liguorian.org and click on Saints/Holy People.

Natural Family Planning A Catholic Approach

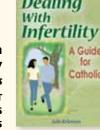
Church-approved techniques for achieving pregnancy. **BOOKLET** 48 PAGES • \$4.99 **ENGLISH 818332 SPANISH 818554**

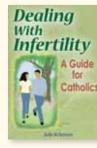


When a **Pregnancy Ends in** Miscarriage **PAMPHLET** 24 PAGES • \$1.00 **ENGLISH 816611 SPANISH 816628**



Dealing With Infertility A Guide for Catholics DELUXE PAMPHLET **48 PAGES** 816369 • \$1.95



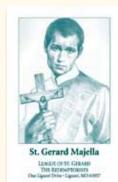


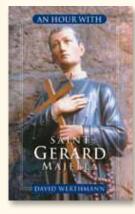


HOLY CARD Saint Gerard Majella Motherhood Prayer on back ENGLISH • G0070 100 CARDS • \$15.00 SPANISH • G0095 100 CARDS • \$15.00

HOLY CARD Saint Gerard Majella

Respect Life Prayer on back ENGLISH • G0060 100 CARDS • \$15.00 SPANISH • G0090 100 CARDS • \$15.00

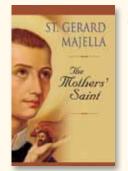




An Hour With Saint Gerard Majella **PAMPHLET • 24 PAGES** 812231 • \$1.00



Saint Gerard Note Cards FOLDED SIZE 6-1/4 x 4-1/2" **10 CARDS WITH 10 ENVELOPES** A0280 • \$10.95



Saint Gerard Majella: The Mothers' Saint **PAMPHLET** 24 PAGES • 804311 • \$1.00

> **Saint Gerard** Aluminum Medal Package of 100 G0230 • \$15.00

Individual Medal G0225 • 25¢ EACH

Saint Gerard Silver-Finish Medal With Stainless-Steel Chain, Gift-Boxed

G0050 • \$10.00



SHOP ONLINE

for additional devotional items, resources, and novena supplies.

www.liquori.org

MARKETING CODE NNL-11085

MAIL-IN ORDER FORM

PHONE 800-325-9521 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CT) weekdays; St. Louis-area customers or outside North America, please call 636-464-2500

FAX 800-325-9526 St. Louis-area customers or outside North America, please fax 636-223-1457

MAIL Liguori Publications, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057-9999 **ONLINE** www.liguori.org

QTY	ID NUMBER	TITLE	PRICE	TOTAL			
SUBTOTAL							
		SHIPPING AND HANDLING (17% OF TOTAL, \$4.0	0 MINIMUM)				
TOTAL							
Rill ma (Institutional systemate only \$20 minimum)							

			TOTAL	
☐ Bill me (Institutional cus	tomers only - \$20	minimum)		
☐ Payment enclosed S☐ Charge my credit ca				
\square MasterCard	□Visa	☐ Discover	☐ American E	xpress
CARD NUMBER				
SIGNATURE				
EVDIDATION DATE				
EXPIRATION DATE				
NAME				
NAME				
NAME ADDRESS		ZIP CODE		
NAME ADDRESS CITY		ZIP CODE		
NAME ADDRESS CITY STATE		ZIP CODE		

Prices, terms, and availability subject to change. Call for quantity discounts.

Enrollment in the League of Saint Gerard

Each enrollment is \$10.00 and includes a certificate, an aluminum Saint Gerard medal, a wallet-size picture of Saint Gerard, a prayer leaflet, and the booklet *Gerard Majella: The Mothers' Saint*.

☐ Enroll me in the League of Saint Gerard. (English: G0101; Spanish: G0107)							
NAME							
ADDRESS							
CITY							
STATE	ZIP						
PHONE							
E-MAIL							
☐ Check this box if you cannot still participate as a member.		·	ay				
☐ Please send enrollment gi (English: G0101; Spanish: G010		ving people:					
NAME							
ADDRESS							
CITY	STATE	ZIP					
NAME							
ADDRESS							
CITY	STATE	ZIP					
SIGNATURE ON GIFT CARD							
PRAYE Please remember the following in honor of Saint Gerard:	ER REQUES g intentions in th		offered				
MASSES Please offer the following Mass(es) for my intention(s) as indicated. (Masses cannot be offered on specific dates.)							
The suggested stipend for a Ma I have enclosed \$ fo							

DONATIONS

Please help us continue The League of Saint Gerard and other Liguori Publications ministries by making a donation or remembering us in your will. Our legal title is Redemptorist Fathers dba Liguori Publications, Federal ID 43-0653409. To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope or mail to Liguori Publications, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057.

The Heart of the Matter

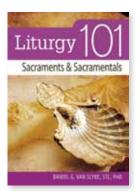
Send your prayer requests and letters to League of Saint Gerard, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057-9999, or e-mail us at newsletters@ liguori.org (type "Saint Gerard" in the subject line)



The Hail Mary On the Threshold of Grace

Thoughtful analysis of one of Christianity's best-loved prayers.

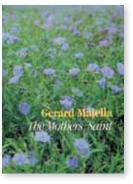
PAPERBACK • 80 PAGES 819629 • \$7.99



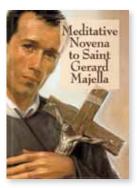
Liturgy 101 Sacraments and Sacramentals

Explains the origins of the sacraments, how and by whom they are celebrated, and what they accomplish.

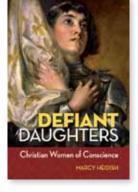
PAPERBACK • 144 PAGES 818455 • \$14.99



Gerard Majella: The Mothers' Saint BOOKLET 16 PAGES • 437061 • \$3.99



Meditative Novena to Saint Gerard Majella DELUXE PAMPHLET 32 PAGES • 812224 • \$2.50



Defiant Daughters Christian Women of Conscience

Spotlights the lives of more than 20 spiritual trailblazers and their responses to crises of conscience.

PAPERBACK • 256 PAGES 819506 • \$16.99

© 2011 Liguori Publications. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists, voir. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the New American Bible with Revised New Testament and Revised Psalms © 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Cut along the dotted line