



Saint Gerard

Lent Day Issue • 2017

NEWSLETTER

When Modern Medicine Fails

Couples eager to start families are coming back to a tradition passed down through the ages.

By Kristine Stremel

Richard and Sarah believe that nothing is impossible with God, but after 10 years of marriage they were desperate for a child. Like many couples, they explored a number of advanced treatments and sophisticated medical procedures that practically ensured success. Although Sarah conceived two years ago, complications resulted in an emotionally devastating miscarriage, and seemed only to confirm the couple's worst fear: God's plan for them did not include a child.

Discouraged and disheartened, Richard and Sarah continued to pray for guidance. They knew about St. Gerard from their Vietnamese heritage. Just imagine Richard's surprise when he showed up on a job to replace carpet-

ing and met Fr. Chuong Cao, pastor of St. Gerard Church in Baton Rouge, who led him straight to the Redemptorist rectory chapel. Richard immediately recognized Our Mother of Perpetual Help, and St. Gerard with St. Alphonsus and St. Clement venerating the Eucharist, in the beautiful painting behind the altar.

The very next day, he and Sarah took time off from work and met Fr. Chuong in the church parking lot after morning Mass. He invited them to join him in the privacy of the Redemptorist chapel, where he blessed them and they all knelt before the altar to pray for St. Gerard's intercession. "We have to have faith," Fr. Chuong told them. "Now we leave it all up to God."

Within a month, Sarah conceived.



Sarah and Richard, seeking St. Gerard's intercession in the rectory chapel.

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Dear Friend of St. Gerard,

This Lenten edition of the League of St. Gerard Newsletter tells the story of a couple blessed with the grace to conceive through the intercession of St. Gerard. Fr. Joe Dorcay speaks of how devotion to St. Gerard leads to deeper faith in God. Finally, there are wonderful testimonials to give you encouragement, hope and joy on your Lenten journey.

May all those devoted to St. Gerard Majella, all the members of the League of Saint Gerard and all his Prayer Angel Friends know the blessings of following Jesus, our beloved Redeemer. May this Lenten season be a special time for personal, familial, communal, societal, national and international conversion.

Please share this newsletter with family and friends. Tell everyone about [St. Gerard's website](#) and [Facebook](#) page dedicated to praying for and bringing hope to all mothers.



In solidarity with St. Gerard and all mothers,
Fr. Allan Weinert, C.Ss.R
Redemptorists of the Denver Province

Pilgrimage *continued*

She cried tears of joy that her heartfelt prayers were answered. She and Richard continued to return to the Redemptorist chapel to pray, but complications returned during her sixth month of pregnancy. She was hospitalized for treatment, but credits St. Gerard with stabilizing her condition.

Sarah and Richard prayed continuously for the next three months, and were overjoyed to welcome Ricky, their healthy eight-pound, four-ounce boy, on July 30. Fr. Chuong was honored to serve as godfather, and christened him Gerard.

Since she learned that she was pregnant, Sarah has been sharing the news of St. Gerard's intercession with everyone, especially her friends hoping to start families. She is quick to encourage those with faith – even her Buddhist friends, who believe in the

power of grace – to rely on St. Gerard. Fr. Chuong already has agreed to pray with one Buddhist couple. “They believe that if St. Gerard interceded for Sarah and Richard, he will intercede for them. We will pray together and leave everything up to God,” he said.

St. Gerard Parish hosted the Jubilee Missionary Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help on October 9-23, 2016 and Fr. Chuong invited his parishioners to welcome the icon into their homes for family prayer. Richard and Sarah were hesitant to accept the offer because they haven't completely finished renovating their home from the damage caused by the historic rainstorm that lingered over Baton Rouge in August. “Mary comes to the imperfect to make it perfect,” Fr. Chuong insisted, and brought the miraculous image to their home. Fr. Chuong held three-month-old Ricky, who babbled as if he was praying along

with everyone else, and even venerated the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. “We are so blessed and so very grateful for Ricky, our precious gift from God,” Sarah said, “With God, all things are possible.”

Fr. Chuong marked St. Gerard's feast day, October 16th, by blessing hundreds of loaves of bread and distributing them to parishioners. A childless couple in Houston heard about the icon's visit and the feast day celebration, and drove all the way to Baton Rouge to pray for the intercession of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and St. Gerard. Fr. Chuong joined them to pray for their miracle baby before the icon, then gave them a loaf of bread and told them the same thing he tells every couple: “Now we leave it up to God.”

This article was first published in the September/October 2016 of the Denverlink UPDATE, the newsletter of the Redemptorist Province of Denver.

Devotion to St. Gerard Leads to Deeper Faith in God

By Fr. Joe Dorcey, C.Ss.R.

Does devotion to St. Gerard Majella take you away from loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and will, and with all your strength? Some make this claim. They say you should just speak immediately to God, seeking directly the grace or favor your heart's desire.

Why bother seeking the intercession of St. Gerard, when you can go directly to God yourself? There is truth to this, but it is not the whole truth. There is more.

You can and should speak immediately and directly to God. You have every right to do so. It is the right of all and the special birthright of those reborn in Christ. You should seek the same



relationship with God as Jesus did. He experienced God as his loving Father, his Abba. However, this does not preclude or exclude friendship with God's friends, the saints.

The saints are intercessors, always ready to lead you to God and to speak for you. Sometimes you may not know how to find or speak to God. The saints

are friends of God and your friends too. They desire that you walk the path that leads to holiness, eternal life, communion and friendship with God, who creates, redeems and sanctifies us, because God is Love and God loves you.

Devotion to St. Gerard need not, nor should it ever take you away from God. On the contrary, friendship with St. Gerard helps you grow closer to God. Friendship with St. Gerard can never lead you away from God. St. Gerard wants you to know the same God he knew, in the same intimate and personal way that he did.

St. Gerard knows that your salvation ultimately lies in your loving friendship with Jesus, your Lord and Redeemer, with God the Father as your loving Abba. This is all through the Holy Spirit, Ruah (the feminine He-

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Deeper Faith *continued*

brew word for breath or spirit), dwelling within you to make you holy as God is holy, that is, compassionate and loving like God. Undoubtedly St. Gerard would be dismayed if your devotion to him led you away from God and not more deeply into loving intimacy with God.

If you place your confidence and trust in St. Gerard, you are ultimately placing your confidence and trust in the same living, loving God in whom St. Gerard placed all his confidence and trust. In loving St. Gerard, you are loving someone God loves very much.

St. Gerard helps you to know, love, serve and worship the very same God that he and Jesus knew, loved, served and worshipped. In communion with St. Gerard, you can participate in his miraculous works. In loving friendship with St. Gerard, you too can become a channel of miraculous grace. You must be open to this possibility, submitting yourself perfectly, like St. Gerard, to God's holy will. St. Gerard was a constant seeker of God's will. He sought to do God's will at all times, in all places, regardless of any necessary sacrifice.

*Prayer is turning
your mind and
heart completely
to God.*

To discern and do the will of God is not always easy. It demands that you overcome selfishness and sinfulness and open your heart to grace. You must allow yourself to be led by God's hand to places you might rather not go, because of willfulness, fear or laziness. Only when you allow God's will to direct you will you become a powerful instrument in God's loving hands, able to touch others with miraculous and healing grace. In this way the Reign of God, always present, becomes visible.

Prayer is turning your mind and heart completely to God. Prayer to St. Gerard, directing your thoughts and heart's desires to him, means that you are turning your mind and heart to God. God and St. Gerard are not competing for your affection. Love for one is also love for the other. There is no jealousy or envy between them, for they already live in the perfect communion of love that exists in eternity between God and God's holy ones, the saints—those who have been washed clean in the blood of the Lamb and fully redeemed in Christ.

Devotion to St. Gerard can only lead you to a deeper faith and loving trust in God, who first loves you.

Testimonials



Almost every day we get messages from people giving witness to St. Gerard Majella's powerful intercession: overcoming infertility, receiving the gift of motherhood, getting through a difficult pregnancy, a safe delivery, a healthy baby, a relationship restored, healing and health recovered, to name a few. We want to share a sample of these messages here because they inspire three things we all desperately need: faith, hope and love.

THANKSGIVING/PRAYER REQUEST FROM ERIKA

I want to give thanks to God and to St. Gerard for his intercession. After seven years of trying to conceive, we have finally given birth to a beautiful baby girl, Allison Geralynn (Geralynn after St. Gerard). She is currently in the NICU and so I am also requesting



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Testimonials *continued*

all the prayer angels to join me in praying that my daughter may come home with me soon and that she will be healthy and thriving. Thank you.

THANKSGIVING FROM EROVI

Dear Saint Gerard, I just gave birth to a healthy baby girl on January 9, 2017. Thank you for watching over my baby and me all throughout my pregnancy. To God be the glory!



THANKSGIVING FROM PATRICIA

I would like to offer thanksgiving to our Blessed St. Gerard and all the people who prayed for me during my pregnancy. My precious rainbow baby, Eliza, was born on Valentine's Day. I know that it was through the prayers to our Lord through St. Gerard that she is a healthy, beautiful girl. Please continue to pray for Eliza and me. May she continue to grow healthy and strong and may my husband and I be good parents to her.

THANKSGIVING/PRAYER REQUEST FROM FLORINDA AND RANDAL

Good afternoon and to God be the glory! I just want to say thank you, first to our God for my safe delivery this past December 27, 2016, via C-section, and secondly to our dear Saint Gerard Majella, for his intercession and for all the prayer angels who helped by continually praying for us. With prayers, nothing is impossible. No words can express how thankful we are for having our first-born baby boy. After two years of marriage God heard our prayers to have at least one child to make us complete as a family. We have no money or material things that we can give back to all of you who helped us to pray, but I know God will give you so much in return. Thanks & more power to this ministry. My baby and I are now two weeks here in our home sweet home! Please continue to pray for us in this new journey. Amen and Amen! We named our son Mariusz Emmanuel because I know that God is always with us! Here are two pictures of him. Thanks be to God. I hope I can inspire many of the readers of this page, especially those who are in the same situation as mine. All I can say is that nothing is impossible for our God, especially for those who believe.



THANKSGIVING FROM SHARON

Thank you to all my prayer angels who prayed with me to have a safe and uncomplicated delivery yesterday. I am so blessed to have my two girls with me. Twelve years of waiting and praying is all worth it. God has the perfect time. Again, thank you very much. Maryclaire is 6lbs. 8oz. God bless all.



THANKSGIVING FROM THU

I just gave birth to a healthy baby boy two days ago. The process was quick. It's truly a miracle from God. Thank you, St. Gerard,

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Prayer to St. Gerard

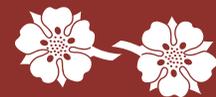
Dear Saint Gerard Majella,
we seek your intercession,
especially for all mothers in a
high risk pregnancy.

Obtain for them the grace,
strength, patience and courage
to overcome all fear and
anxiety, all difficulties and
complications.

May all expectant mothers be
calm and confident, in the face
of uncertainties and problems,
trusting in your powerful
intercession to obtain all that
they most need.

May they give birth safely.
Guide the hands of all who
assist at birth. May all mothers
and babies be healthy, free
from any harm and all danger.
May they be strong in their
conviction that you are with
them, that you take them by
the hand and guide them safely
through it all.

Amen.



Testimonials *continued*

and everyone who prayed for us.

THANKSGIVING FROM JANEILYN

First of all I want to say thank you to St. Gerard for the prayers and for guiding me, and then to all the prayer angels who shared their prayers for us. Thank you very much. This past February 7th I gave birth successfully to a healthy baby boy by normal delivery. Forever grateful.

THANKSGIVING FROM MICHELLE

I first sent in a prayer request on March 5, 2014. Today I'm writing to share my joy and to offer thanksgiving. I asked God for a healthy baby and God has generously blessed me with two! Our twins were born a couple of days ago. I'd like to thank St. Gerard for his intercession and the people in this online community for praying for us. God makes everything beautiful in God's right time!

THANKSGIVING FROM KAREN AND ED

This is a thanksgiving for our granddaughter, Abigail. After enduring four years of great difficulty and exhausting all human assistance, our daughter was advised by her physicians that she would be unable to conceive and bear a child. Be that as it may, it is evident that God had different plans for our daughter. Against all odds, God blessed her and her husband with a beautiful, healthy little girl on December 4, 2016. I firmly believe in the power of prayer. The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Gerard received many prayers and

petitions on behalf of our daughter. As the miracle of the wedding feast at Cana demonstrates, our Mother Mary has a strong influence on her Son. I believe the Blessed Mother Mary intervened on behalf of our daughter and her husband. I also believe St. Gerard was actively involved during my daughter's pregnancy and delivery. While all babies are little miracles, Abigail is a very special miracle for our daughter, her husband and our entire family. All praise be to God!

ANONYMOUS THANKSGIVING

We'd like to give glory and thanksgiving to God. My wife and I were told we had low fertility and that it was very unlikely that we could conceive naturally. But, through the intercession of St. Gerard Majella and St. Jude we adopted two children and my wife also conceived and gave birth to our own son fourteen months ago. And now she is pregnant again! Please pray for her and for a safe and healthy pregnancy and delivery. And to all those struggling with infertility – stay strong and persevere in faith. Also we strongly encourage adopting! We feared that adopting meant we were giving up on getting pregnant. But, that wasn't true and it ended up being the best decision of our lives. May God be praised!

THANKSGIVING FROM RACHEL

Dear St. Gerard, I want to thank you for praying for my baby and me. I delivered a very healthy and adorable baby girl. Please continue praying for my baby girl. Thank you so much, St. Gerard, for answering my prayers. Amen!