

Gerard was beatified by Leo XIII on January 29, 1893, and canonized by Saint Pius X on December 11, 1904. He is invoked as patron of mothers, especially in time of pregnancy. Couples hoping to conceive a child also seek Saint Gerard's intercession. His feast is October 16.

Just how Gerard came to be invoked by parents seeking to conceive and by women experiencing difficulty in pregnancy is not certain... but we will explore this part of the story tomorrow, on the second day of our Triduum.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION...

Gerard Majella's life was short in terms of length of days, but long in terms of the shadow it has cast over our history as a Redemptorist Family and in the Church at large.


- What aspects of Gerard's life speak to you?
- Gerard's simplicity could be deceptive, and still can be! How do you understand the virtue of simplicity in the life of Gerard? ... in your own life?
- Gerard was a brother in the Redemptorist community, and a brother to all he met. How are you sister or brother to those you meet along life's roads? How do you accompany your travelling companions?

THE WORDS OF GERARD

"It is true that sometimes we find ourselves confused and weak. But there is no confusion with God, there is no weakness with God's power, because it is certain that in our battles the divine majesty helps us with his powerful arm. And so we can be joyful and grow in strength [by accepting] God's will. And we bless his most holy works for all eternity."

From a letter of Saint Gerard, January 22, 1752

AND SO, WE PRAY OUR NOVENA PRAYER ...



Novena Prayer

Almighty God,
from his boyhood years
you blessed St Gerard with generosity of soul,
and led him to do your will in heroic ways.

By your grace he lived his brief life
in intense love for you
and for those in need.
Hear his prayer for us
and for all poor souls in trouble.

St Gerard, friend of sinners,
friend of the poor,
friend of mothers and children,
it is our joy and consolation to come to your
Novena to remember the goodness of your life,
your burning sense of God,
your tender love for Our Lord and his mother,
Mary, your kindness and care
for everyone in need.

Pray for us now in our time of need.
Pray for us in our sickness.
Pray for us in our confusion and despair.
Pray for us in our struggle with life
and its mysteries.
Remember especially those who long for
Children and mothers about to give birth.
Remember those who have wandered
from the practice of the faith
and need the grace of reconciliation.
Remember all of us poor sinners in our
particular needs

Pause and make your own intention.

Amen.

