

THE LEAGUE OF

Saint Gerard



PRAYERS • DEVOTIONS • MEMBERSHIP • GIFTS • RESOURCES • FALL 2008

Persevere in Prayer

Those of you who regularly receive the Saint Gerard newsletter are no doubt aware of the annual October novena held in his honor in the Redemptoristine monastery chapel. In the enclosure area of the monastery is a large statue of Saint Gerard Majella—the Mother’s Saint. Attached to it are photos of smiling babies and their radiant parents, each sure theirs is the most beautiful baby in the world.

The smiling babies and happy parents in those photos are answers to prayer through the intercession of Saint Gerard. They are not all necessarily “miracle” babies, but they are all positive answers to parents who prayed in faith and trust with the backing of a heavenly saint, in this case, Gerard.

Miracles do happen

However, there *are* miracles! We like to recall one event in particular because it represents the “miracle” we like the best.

One of our sisters had friends who had prayed for a long time to begin a family. The mother could conceive, but each time she had a miscarriage. This happened *seven* times. When the sisters



Feast of Saint Gerard Majella October 16

heard the woman was pregnant again, they lent the couple a first-class relic of Saint Gerard. The mother was in the hospital, hoping and praying to give birth. The father pinned the relic on her hospital gown. Two hours later, she gave birth to a tiny, premature baby. This child today is healthy and has been followed by other healthy babies. Naturally, in our minds, this is a Saint Gerard miracle family.

The babies in the monastery photos represent perseverance in intercessory prayer. When we turn to our Blessed Mother Mary or a saint for some special,

urgent intention, we are not praying alone—we have with us powerful heavenly support. Saint Alphonsus prayed to Mary, “My Lady, God listens to your slightest wish; ask him to make me faithful forever.”

Saint Gerard’s “mother” apostolate began in his lifetime, and it continues to this day. One of the first striking answers to Gerard’s prayer was for



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Novena to Saint Gerard 2008

The contemplative order of Redemptoristine nuns of Liguori, Missouri, are offering a novena October 8 through 16 in preparation for the feast day of Saint Gerard Majella. They are happy to remember your needs in their prayers.

Dear Sisters,

Please include the following petitions in your prayers:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



To send your request for specific intentions or general prayers, clip this coupon, place it in an envelope, and mail to
St. Gerard Novena
C/O Liguori Publications
One Liguori Drive
Liguori, MO 63057

a woman close to death as she gave birth. Gerard prayed; the mother lived and gave birth to a healthy baby. The Vatican examined the story of this “miracle” and found it to be cause for Gerard’s canonization. So the word got around: “Ask Brother Gerard to pray for you.”

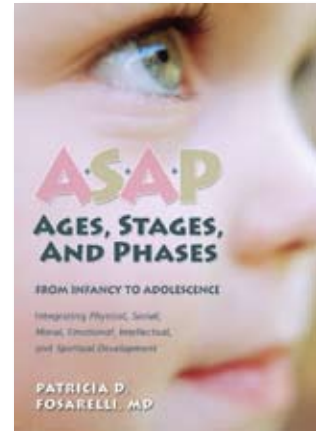
God listens

In Saint John’s Gospel, the Pharisees write off the testimony of the man who was cured of his blindness by Jesus. Saint John’s entire account (chapter 9) of the healing of the man who had been blind from birth is truly delightful. After his cure and a few encounters with the unbelieving Pharisees, the man becomes a theologian. He tries to teach

the Pharisees a very basic truth: “God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will” (9:31). That’s the secret: be a worshiper of God and do God’s will. These were the hallmarks of the humble Gerard Majella. He ran away from home to become a religious brother, the better to worship God and obey his will.

Always with us

In this season of ordinary time, we celebrate the feasts of many “ordinary” saints. These saints, from their privileged place in heaven, have not forgotten us. Nor have we forgotten them: Mothers and mothers-to-be continue to invoke Saint Gerard, and they always will.



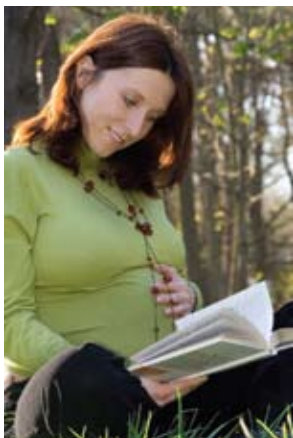
Prayer to Saint Gerard

Saint Gerard, we are told that in the joy of your great love for God you actually danced for joy. The very thought of God and his goodness brought you to your feet as you sang, “Tis thy good pleasure not my own, in thee, my God, I love alone.”

From the abundance of your love of God, Saint Gerard, obtain an increase of love for me. My need at this time is to be (to become) a good mother and give birth to a healthy baby.

Please, Saint Gerard, present my prayer to Mary, the mother of the Lord. I place all my confidence in your intercession, Saint Gerard.

Amen.



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Enroll me in the League of Saint Gerard.
(English: G0101; Spanish: G0107)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

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Check this box if you cannot afford the enrollment fee; you may still participate as a member. Saint Gerard has been good to us.

Please send enrollment gifts to the following people:
(English: G0101; Spanish: G0107)

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ADDRESS _____

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NAME _____

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember the following intentions in the weekly Mass offered in honor of Saint Gerard:

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 Mass is \$5.00.

I have enclosed \$ _____ for this purpose.

DONATIONS

In gratitude for favors received, I wish to make a donation to help spread devotion to Saint Gerard.

I have enclosed \$ _____ for this purpose.

The Heart of the Matter



Send your prayer requests and letters to
miss-spon@liguori.org
or League of Saint Gerard,
One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057-9999.

PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

God's Kin

by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

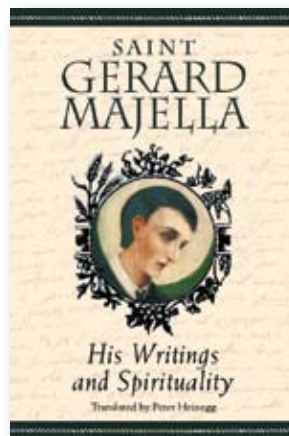
There is no summit you may not attain,
No purpose which you may not yet achieve,
If you will wait serenely and believe.
Each seeming loss is but a step to'rd gain.

Between the mountain-tops lie vale and plain;
Let nothing make you question, doubt, or grieve;
Give only good, and good alone receive;
And as you welcome joy, so welcome pain.

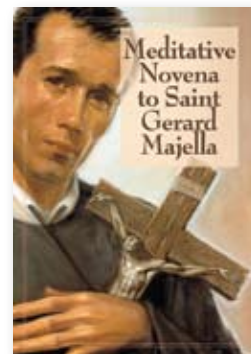
That which you most desire awaits your word;
Throw wide the door and bid it enter in.
Speak, and the strong vibrations shall be stirred;
Speak, and above earth's loud, unmeaning din
Your silent declarations shall be heard.
All things are possible to God's own kin.

From **Simple Graces: Poems for Meditation and Prayer**,
Liguori Publications, 2008.

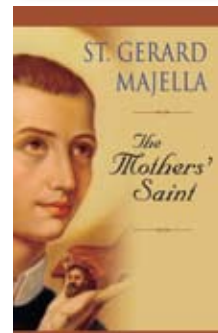
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