

# THE LEAGUE OF Saint Gerard



PRAYERS • DEVOTIONS • MEMBERSHIP • GIFTS • RESOURCES • SUMMER 2008

## Ordinary Time, Extraordinary Saint

**L**ITURGICALLY SPEAKING, this is the Ordinary Time of the year, the time when priests don vestments of green—the green of the evergreen and pine trees that remind us throughout winter that spring will come, the green of the new life that rejuvenates us each spring, the green of the beautiful countrysides that help us relax and have fun.

Easter can fall anywhere from March 22 through April 25, and therefore the anniversary of Saint Gerard's April 6 birth can fall during Lent, the Triduum, or the Easter season. This year it fell on the Third Sunday of Easter. The feast of Gerard's religious congregation, the Redemptorists, is celebrated during Ordinary Time. So every year, Gerard accompanies us through the joyous hosannas and alleluias of the Easter season into the quieter, more peaceful period of Ordinary Time.

### ***Following the ordinary path to salvation***

This year, had Gerard been alive to hear the Gospel of Luke (24:13–35) on his birthday, he would have gone into a state of ecstasy. Saint Luke's account of the walk to Emmaus is a magnificent piece of literature that says the disciples walked away from Jerusalem in discouragement: "But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." Walking along with them, the Lord then explained the Scriptures:

**BOOKLET**  
**Gerard Majella:**  
**The Mothers' Saint**  
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“Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

Saint Gerard himself suffered much during his short life of twenty-nine years. He longed to give himself completely to the Lord as a dedicated and vowed religious, but he was denied entrance into three religious congregations. His moment didn't come until fifteen missionaries of the congregation founded by Saint Alphonsus, in a storm of missionary zeal, spiritually took the entire town of Muro.



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Saint Gerard lived in this Italian town. This mission was *it* for Gerard. He was sure the Lord had saved him for *this* congregation.

He made a nuisance of himself as he begged the missionaries to accept him into their congregation. When the mission ended, the priests suggested his mother lock him in his room so he couldn't follow

them. But locks and keys couldn't keep the future saint from following what he knew to be God's will. He escaped through his bedroom window, leaving his poor mother a note that didn't exactly make her unhappy: "I am gone to become a saint." So it was! One of the early biographies of Saint Gerard, *To Heaven Through A Window*, is aptly titled, for the humble brother was certainly on his way to heaven.

Gerard professed his vows on July 16, 1752. Besides being the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, it was also the feast of the Most Holy Redeemer, the titular feast of the Redemptorists and Redemptoristines. We celebrate this feast on the third Sunday of July, during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time.

The liturgies of Ordinary Time present the saints in an intimate way: as helpers along the road of our own personal spiritual journey. We discover that saints had to grow the same way we do, the *ordinary*

way, through springtime rains and summer sunshine. The ordinary way is the *human* way of pain and joy, little deaths, small resurrections.

**Gerard is with us through the everyday, every day**

Gerard's reputation as a holy brother, even a miracle worker, soon began to circulate among the people. After he professed his vows, Gerard continued to follow the missionaries, praying beneath the pulpits during the great mission sermons. People began to seek his advice on spiritual matters and to ask for his prayerful intercession.

After some mothers attributed their healthy pregnancies and beautiful babies to the prayers of Gerard, he was sought out more and more by expectant mothers. His move into heaven has not changed this because of all the little and big miracles attributed to Saint Gerard by the mothers of today.

But Saint Gerard is happy to help us with *any* needs we encounter. We can bring before this extraordinary yet humble religious brother even *ordinary* events that require a little extra heavenly help as we continue to walk in the summer heat of life.



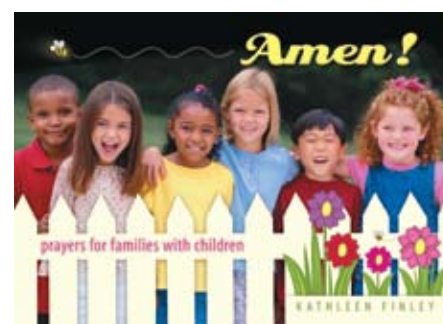
**Prayer for Ordinary Blessings**

O Good Saint Gerard, you are a model for us in our daily lives. Give me a loving, cheerful outlook and help me to endure the trials of ordinary life with dignity, patience, and grace. Amen.

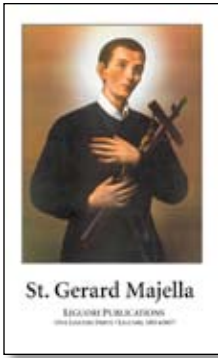
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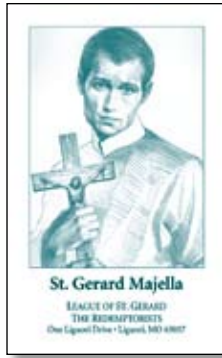
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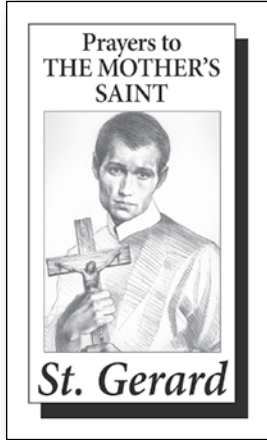
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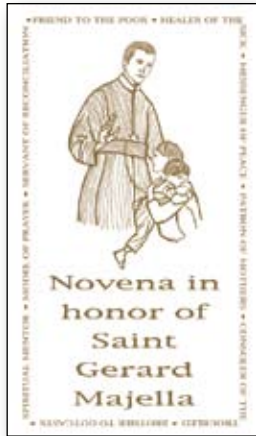
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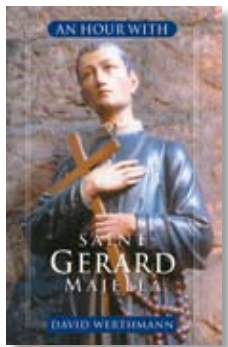
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Each enrollment is \$10.00 and includes a certificate, an aluminum Saint Gerard medal, a wallet-size picture of Saint Gerard, a prayer leaflet, and the booklet *Gerard Majella: The Mothers' Saint*.

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
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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)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
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 SIGNATURE ON GIFT CARD \_\_\_\_\_

## 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

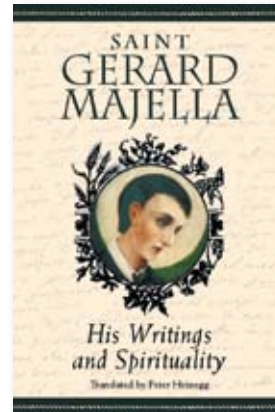
In gratitude for favors received, I wish to make a donation to help spread devotion to Saint Gerard.

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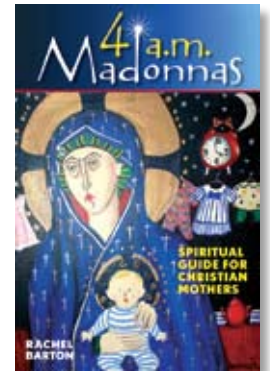
# The Heart of the Matter



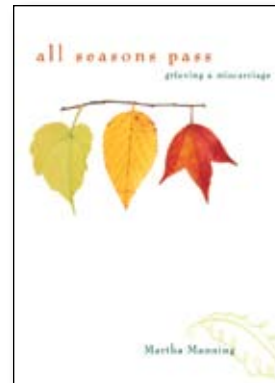
Mail your prayer requests and letters to  
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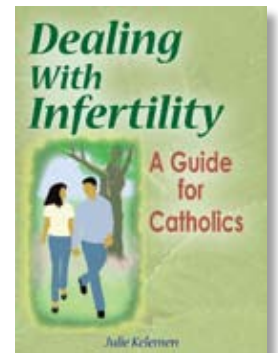
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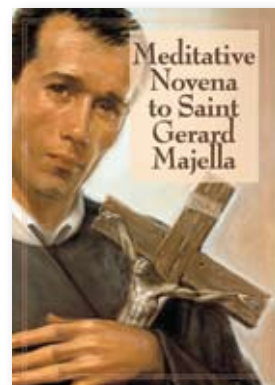
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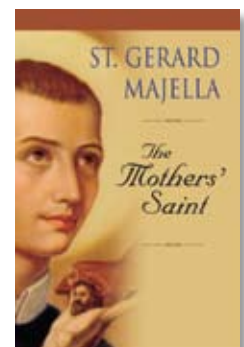
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