

THE LEAGUE OF Saint Gerard



PRAYERS • DEVOTIONS • MEMBERSHIP • GIFTS • RESOURCES • SPRING 2009



Faith + Charity = Hope

Ah, spring is in the air, the flowers are beginning to bloom, the robins have returned, and new life seems to be everywhere. In the midst of this spirit of new life, we experience Easter, a time of hope in new life because of the power of Christ's resurrection. Death has been conquered, for the Father has raised Jesus' mortal body—and spiritual immortality is a gift to all the heirs of the reign of God.

One of the greatest displays of this new life occurs at the Easter Vigil, when the elect are baptized into the one Body of Christ. Having now died with Christ as they entered the waters of baptism, they have been raised anew to the eternal life in Christ. This is a powerful expression of faith in Christ and the power of his resurrection.

Saint Gerard understood this profound sense of faith in Christ, as do all the saints. I recall a story in which Saint Gerard gave all the bread in the house to the poor and the hungry, infuriating his rector because he didn't leave any bread for the brothers to eat. But Saint Gerard, in faith, prayed that Christ would supply the needs of the brothers and,

miraculously, the cupboard was filled with freshly baked bread.

God answers all of our prayers in one way or another. In this case, he didn't give just enough bread, but because of Saint Gerard's faith and charity, Christ gave an overabundance of hot, freshly baked bread to supply the needs of the community and those who were still hungry.

Ask in faith

Saint Gerard understood a simple and yet profound truth: *The generosity of God can never be outdone.* By fulfilling the mission

of the Redemptorists to preach the Good News of our Lord in both word and deed to the poor and the most abandoned, Christ blessed that effort and made certain that all that was needed to accomplish the mission was provided. However, that took a great act of faith on the part of Saint Gerard. He didn't hesitate to ask in faith for what was needed to accomplish the mission he was to share with Christ. He believed in the power of the resurrection, the power to make all things new, the power to fulfill the promises of God, and the power to bring forth a new reality in our lives.

Faith begets faith

Saint Gerard's faith engendered faith in others then, and it still does today. When Saint Gerard's little prayer for bread was answered, the faith of those who witnessed it was affected. This act of faith created faith in those who were present. Faith begets faith.

Even today, people ask for the prayers of Saint Gerard so that through his great faith in Christ, their own faith may be increased. When the fruits of those prayers are realized, how can we not be stirred with wonder and awe, how can we not love God all the more, and how can we not have an increase in our own ability to cast all our cares on God because we have realized that God really does care for us? (see 1 Peter 5:7).

It's all for the best (even when it doesn't seem like it)

Even if our prayers aren't answered in exactly the way we expected or in the timely manner we wanted, if we maintain our faith, we can see all situations through the lens of that faith. We may come to realize that the answers we do get to our prayers come from an even greater wisdom than we ourselves realized. Perhaps if we had gotten what we wanted on our own terms, things might have worked out in a less-than-fruitful way. All our prayers are answered so we may realize the glory of God and come to love God even more.

However, when it seems God hasn't answered our prayers or has delayed the answer, in faith we must hold to the idea that something even greater than what we asked is to be accomplished.

That isn't easy to do in the heat of the moment. But Saint Gerard is there to remind us to keep our faith, to constantly hope for the future, and to realize that even in our sufferings of the present moment, the power of Christ and Christ's resurrection will prevail. God will never abandon us, God will always provide for us, and God will always love us. Our faith is the ability to

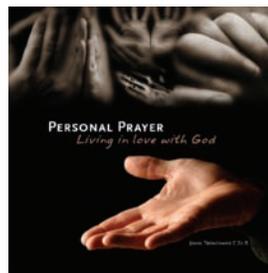
accept this as the truth even when we don't see it in the present moment.

Give to get, get to give

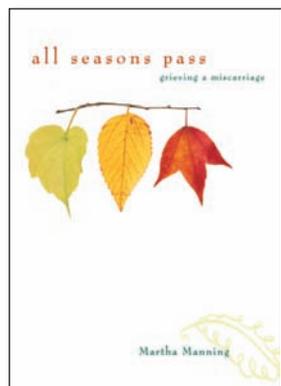
Thus, with spring in the air and the hope of new life all around us, let us renew our faith in Christ and join Saint Gerard in expressing that faith through all we say and do this day and every day. Our faith can lead us to great works of charity to make the reign of God ever more present in our lives and the in the world around us. And just as when Saint Gerard gave away all the bread, our own acts of charity can lead to even greater acts of faith.

Charity and faith build each other up into an ever-spiraling tower into heaven that stands as a monument to the Glory of God. Faith begets charity, and charity begets faith. When they work together, faith and charity give us the hope of a new, bright, and glorious future, a future in the risen Christ that will last for all eternity.

When our faith is lacking, let us remember that Christ has already given us a gift—the gift of Saint Gerard—to increase our faith and enlist the strength of his aid and faith when we are at our weakest moments.

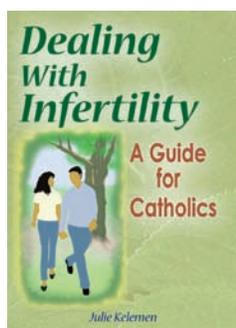


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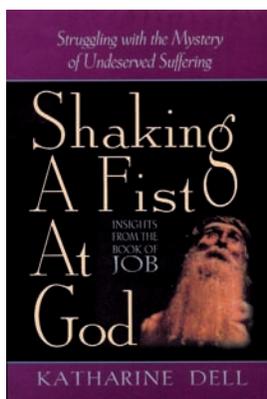
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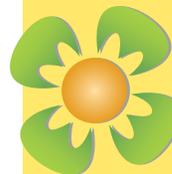


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Prayer



Saint Gerard,

your faith in Christ was unshakable. You cast all your cares on the Lord, and you expected Christ

to powerfully answer your prayers.

Help us share that same faith in Christ so we, too, may witness the power of Christ's love. Help us always be mindful that Christ has made all things new. And then, empowered with this faith, may we always assist those most in need so faith may ever increase in the hearts of all people. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

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 _____
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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 _____
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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

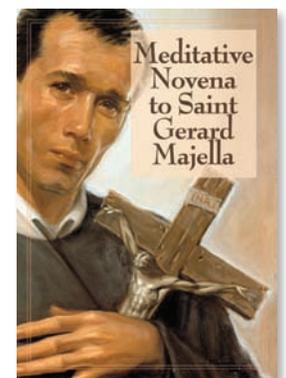
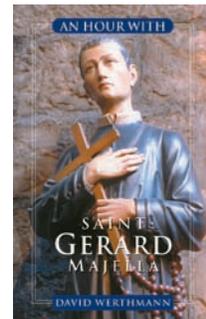
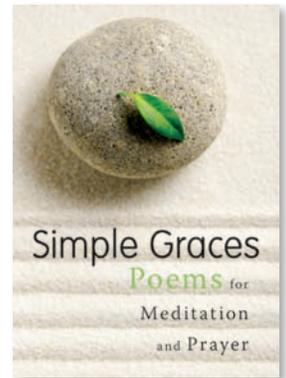


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 miss-spon@liguori.org
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