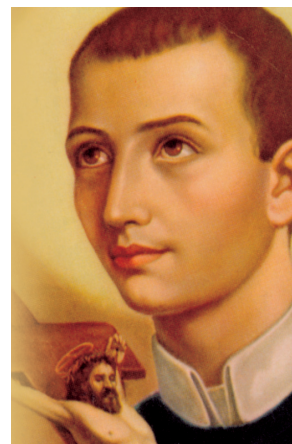


THE LEAGUE OF Saint Gerard

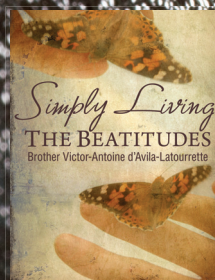


PRAYERS • DEVOTIONS • MEMBERSHIP • GIFTS • RESOURCES • FALL 2010

PRAYER IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT of Christian life. We offer God our hopes, dreams, desires, fears, and love. Prayer enlightens our hearts and minds to what God is doing in our lives. We give ourselves to God so we can receive the divine life within us.

Pray Your Heart Out

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◀ Saint Gerard: Model Prayer

As a master of prayer, Saint Gerard shows us different ways to pray as we encounter God in every situation.

Prayers of blessing and adoration

Saint Gerard continuously offered his heart in a loving response to God's gift of love and was filled with humility and a divine assurance deep within his soul. Thus, in blessing and adoration we find ourselves to be children of God created out of love to love and please God. This prayer puts our lives into proper perspective and accordance with God's will.

Our prayer ascends in the Holy Spirit through Jesus, uniting all of our prayers into the one eternal prayer the Son offers to the Father. Then the blessing and grace of God descend to us from the Father through the Son and in the Holy Spirit, giving us a deep inner peace the world cannot give us.

Prayers of petition

Saint Gerard stayed faithfully rooted in the teachings of the Church. He avoided anything that would sadden the Holy Spirit, used the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit to build up the Body of Christ, and bore the fruits of the Holy Spirit in all he did and said.

Thus, in the prayer of petition we first seek more complete union with God and with the Church. We seek the things we really need—but we don't always know what we need, and sometimes we confuse our needs with our wants. The Holy Spirit prays for us so we will rightly ask for what we need.

We first ask for forgiveness so we can be righteous. Then we ask that God's kingdom be more fully established on Earth. Once we pray for the needs of the Church, we may ask for help with personal needs.

Prayers of intercession

In the fullness of that kingdom, everyone's needs would be fulfilled, so in prayers of intercession we pray for others. It's not enough that I get *my* daily bread; for the kingdom of God to be fully realized, the common good must be attained.

The saints are famous for interceding for us. They pray as Jesus prayed, offering continuous prayers and supplications on behalf of other people, even those who oppress or persecute us. Jesus prayed for his enemies even from the cross.

So true love of neighbor seeks what is best for everyone in the world. For example, when wrongly accused by a woman, Saint Gerard did not seek revenge or even defend himself. Instead, he prayed for the woman's conversion. This helped the woman, freed Saint Gerard, and showed that following Christ elevates our true humanity to a greater existence.

Prayers of thanks

When we give God thanks, we realize that everything that occurs in life—sufferings and joys—are graced opportunities to grow closer to God.

We like the joyful gifts, so it's easy to thank God for them. However, the sufferings of our life can teach us lessons and help us grow. Near the end of his life, Saint Gerard was thankful to God for his illness because he saw his bed as his cross. He realized he didn't suffer alone—Jesus was with him. This helped Saint Gerard find joy even in the midst of affliction.

The saints tried to avoid suffering, but when suffering was unavoidable they sought meaning in suffering to turn it into a moment of salvation.

Prayers of praise and glory

These prayers enter the community of faith to proclaim boldly who God is. They give witness to the wonders of the Lord. This is clearly seen in the Eucharist, the most sublime prayer, when the community of faith gathers to offer praise and glory to God simply because God is God.

The people who knew Saint Gerard said they heard him singing songs of praise or saw him silently adoring the King of Glory.

Prayer completes us

Saint Gerard shows us how prayer makes our lives more complete and fills us with divine life. Through prayers of blessing and adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise and glory, we give our lives to God in exchange for the divine life.

May we take a lesson from the life of Saint Gerard and engage the life of prayer even more fully and in every moment so that we, too, may give our lives for the glory of God.

Prayer

SAINT GERARD, you were a master of prayer. Teach us how to pray with you so all of our moments reflect the glory of God and his kingdom.

Help us adore and bless God in all we say and do.

May our petitions always be before the Lord, and may we always offer our

intercessions for all the people of the world. May we be filled with zeal to give God thanks and praise for the wonders of his love in every moment. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Novena to Saint Gerard 2010

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. _____



To send your request for specific intentions or general prayers, clip this coupon, place it in an envelope, and mail to

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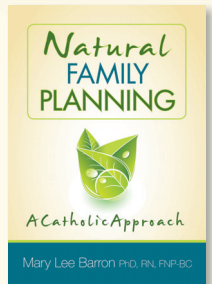
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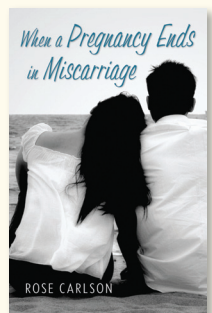
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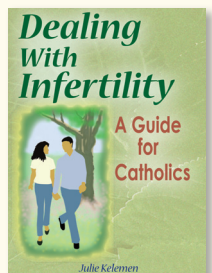
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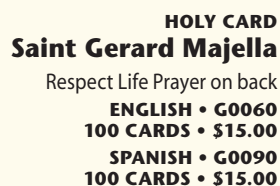


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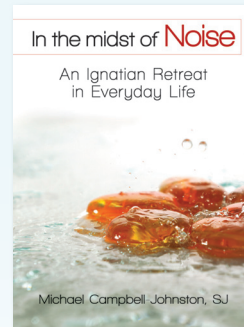
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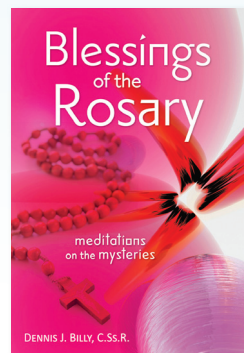


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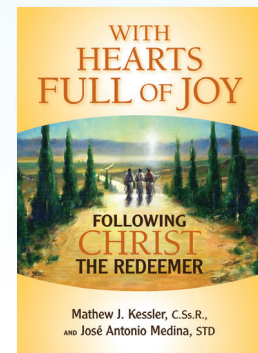


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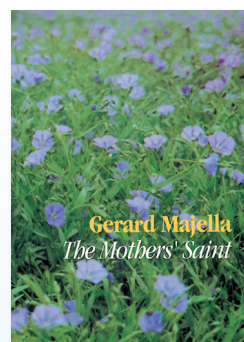


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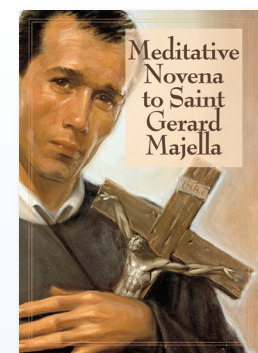
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