



Saint Gerard

Mother's Day Issue • 2017

NEWSLETTER

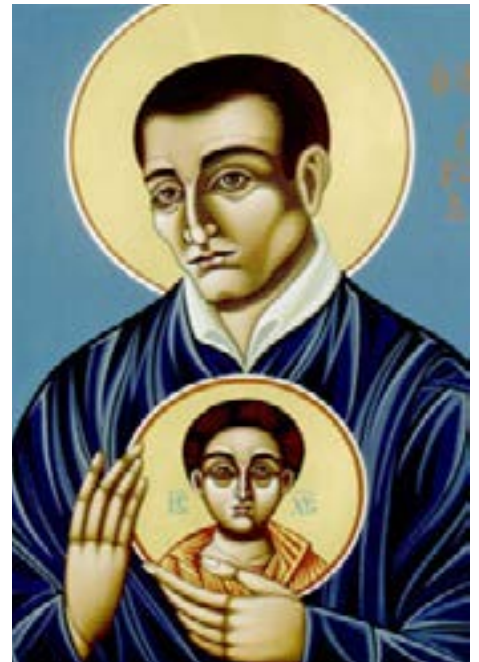
The Joy of Working & Praying with St. Gerard Majella

I am Fr. Joe, a Redemptorist missionary for 44 years, since 1973, and a priest for 38 years, since 1979. I have been sent to work in Brazil, Chicago, Nigeria and Rome. In all these years, I have come to know St. Gerard Majella by reading almost everything there is to read about him. I have always felt a special fondness for St. Gerard, because of his humility, simplicity and closeness to people, especially the poor – all virtues of a good Redemptorist missionary. Only recently have I come to know him as a wonder-worker, powerful intercessor and special patron of mothers.

By Fr. Joe Dorcey, C.Ss.R.

The faith, confidence and trust in St. Gerard of so many mothers around the world has continued and grown through the centuries because there is obviously something to it. Put simply, St. Gerard gets things done. Special, wonderful, extraordinary and miraculous things happen through his intercession. If this were not so, devotion to him would have vanished long ago. Every day I receive powerful testimony proclaiming the positive results of his miraculous and powerful intercession from all parts of the world, through messages on his website and Facebook page, in

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Dear Friend of St. Gerard,

May all mothers be especially blessed not only this Mother's Day, but every day, so that they will have all the graces needed to be the best possible mothers.

In this edition of the League of St. Gerard Newsletter, Bro. Larry Lujan remembers how his mother introduced him to St. Gerard and how this led to discovering his vocation as a Redemptorist missionary brother like Gerard. Fr. Joe Dorcey then shares his experiences, faith and love as coordinator of the Denver Province's promotion of St. Gerard.

Please share this newsletter with family and friends. Tell everyone about [St. Gerard's website](#) and [Facebook](#) page dedicated to praying for and bringing hope to all mothers.



In solidarity with St. Gerard and all mothers,
Fr. Allan Weinert, C.Ss.R.
Redemptorists of the Denver Province

Joy continued

e-mails, and by regular mail and telephone.

St. Gerard is credited with working wonders and obtaining extraordinary graces:

- Couples who have had trouble conceiving overcome infertility and all obstacles that impede conception;
- Women with risky or problematic pregnancies find the strength and courage to confront the difficulties and safely carry healthy babies full term;
- Many who are blessed with safe, uncomplicated deliveries/births;
- Many sick people who are healed and restored to good health.

I was sent to Denver in 2013 to work in the provincial offices and asked to coordinate our Denver Province's expanding efforts to promote devotion to St. Gerard as the Mothers' Saint. Only recently have I begun to walk more closely with Gerard, accompanying him in his ministry to mothers, mothers-to-be and those who desire to be mothers. I have become a true believer in his incredible capacity to work wonders, helping all mothers in a multitude of desperate situations.

I am very happy to assist St. Gerard in his loving ministry. It is a joy and an honor to make St. Gerard known throughout the world. I am proud to promote devotion to him, creating a large, international community of loving people who pray with him for so many intentions received from all over the world. Every day, we ask St. Gerard to take at least one mother by the hand and walk her through a healthful

pregnancy and safe delivery of a healthy baby. My work also involves the League of St. Gerard, his Newsletter, his Facebook page, and his website. I will share more about my work in these areas in future newsletters.

The first-class relics of the three Redemptorist saints are always with me: Alphonsus Liguori (the founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer), Clement Hofbauer (considered the second founder who first took the Redemptorists and their mission over the Alps, beyond Italy), and of course, our dear Brother, Gerard Majella, truly the Mothers' Saint.

Touching St. Gerard's relic while praying for all the mothers and others I encounter in this work gives me a feeling of proximity to these holy men and their powerful intercession. I want to follow in their Redemptorist missionary footsteps, and love to feel that I am praying with them as they intercede for so many. This practice also makes me feel closer to all the good folks, primarily mothers, who send their prayer requests, petitions, intentions, testimonies and thanksgivings.



I always pray that our devotion to St. Gerard Majella, in which we constantly witness the powerful mercy of our loving God, will make us grow in awareness of the Reign of God in our midst and move us to want to enter ever more fully into this Kingdom of Compassion. Perhaps the greatest grace in this ministry is the gift of hope. So many, often near despair, find renewed hope. One cannot conceive, have a safe and healthy pregnancy and delivery, or be a good mother with only hope. But hope opens the door to new possibilities and makes what was impossible, possible; what was unbelievable, believable. May St. Gerard Majella pray for all of us.



What is the relationship between living, witnessing and preaching the Gospel and a devout relationship with holy St. Gerard Majella?

St. Gerard: A Powerful Friend

By Br. Larry Lujan, C.Ss.R

Saint Gerard, the Mother's Saint. For myself there was never a truer statement. My mother of blessed memory had many friends. Among her friends were many saints, people she often turned to for help or for guidance. St. Gerard Majella was one such friend.

Growing up at my house was an adventure. Even now I can still hear, smell and see the various celebrations and parties that are part of our family's story: First Communions, Confirmations, saints' feast days, weddings, and anniversaries. Like most families, there were also days of doubt, confusion, and fear. It was during these times that we as a family always turned to the saints—friends to whom my parents introduced us. It was during such a crisis that my mother first mentioned to us, her children, one of her most powerful friends: Gerard Majella.

My niece, Nicole, had been diagnosed with a heart murmur at the age of two years old. It was during this time that my mother told my sister that "St. Gerard has God's ear and if you ask him I am sure he will intercede on your behalf." As it turned out, she was right, as my niece's heart seemed to heal itself miraculously. What impressed me most about this exchange, however, was not the miracle but that this was a "new" saint friend I had never heard about from my mother. I remember questioning her about this St. Gerard.

She told me about her own first encounter with St. Gerard. It was during the pregnancy with her third child, my brother, Danny. She told me that she began to have trouble with the pregnancy and the doctor had told her to prepare herself for losing the baby. He recommended bed rest until the child was born. She was five months pregnant. Having two small children to care for, she knew bed rest was out of the question.

It was during this time that she turned to a small prayer book that listed the "Mother's Saint" – St. Gerard. She began a series of novenas to him and never doubted that her new friend would help her out. She continued taking care of her two other children, never really slowing down, and trusting that St. Gerard would work some kind of miracle on her part. My brother, Daniel Gerard, was born healthy and full term. Neither my siblings nor myself knew where Danny's middle name had come from – we knew he was named for our grandfather, Daniel, but

only now does Gerard make sense.

Years later, my mother would go to work part-time for the Redemptorists. She knew St. Gerard, but like most people, did not realize that he was a Redemptorist brother until she discovered his missionary family. My mother's greatest gift to me was that she introduced me to the Redemptorist Missionaries. It was from this initial introduction by my mother that my vocation as a Redemptorist brother was born.

During a visit to St. Gerard's grave in Materdomini, Italy, I lit a candle at the shrine, not for an expectant mother but rather in thanksgiving for my own mother's introduction to this powerful intercessor

to me. My mother had passed away some six years before this visit and, as I knelt at her friend's tomb, I could see my mother's smiling face, knowing that she was with me as I visited this old friend of the family. But just as my mother's faith had been shared with me, I knew that I too would have the opportunity to share my own story and powerful intercession with others. During the visit, I was given a small cloth that was touched to the relic of St. Gerard as a reminder of my visit to his shrine.



Less than two years after this visit to St. Gerard's shrine, a member of our parish named Teresa was told that she was pregnant (after having had two previous miscarriages). She and her husband, Ralph, were excited but afraid. When they came to see me, I shared with them my mother's faith in her friend who had never failed her and I gave them some information

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about St. Gerard. They began to pray for his intercession.

Although Teresa had some minor set backs, everything seemed to be moving along well with her pregnancy. In her seventh month, she began to have many complications and the doctors told Teresa and Ralph to expect the worst. They placed her in the hospital to make her comfortable and to prepare for the inevitable, since they had determined that there was no way she could carry the child full-term. Before I went to the hospital to see them, I remembered the cloth that had been given to me at the shrine and I brought it with me.

I was fortunate enough to spend some time with this couple, praying to and with St. Gerard for God's blessings and for God's will to be done. I remember leaving the hospital and knowing that my own mother was smiling on this moment. How I know this is one of those great mysteries of life, but I have never doubted

that she was there that day as we prayed for the intercession of her friend St. Gerard to help Teresa and Ralph.



True to his nature, St. Gerard worked another of his miraculous intercessions for Teresa and Ralph. Not only did Teresa carry the child full-term, but their son, Gerard, was born healthy, with no problems. Today Gerard is a healthy young teenager with a promising future. Every time I see him, I am reminded of my own mother and this great friend of hers, St. Gerard, who is always interceding on behalf of so many mothers.

As a Redemptorist brother I have witnessed countless other big and small miracles that this confrere of mine, Gerard, has done through the years. He is a great man who continues to become a friend of many men and women with difficulties. And of course, I

am always reminded of my beloved mother who first introduced me to this great saint.

Testimonials



Almost every day we get messages from people giving witness to St. Gerard Majella's powerful intercession: overcoming infertility, receiving the gift of motherhood, getting through a difficult pregnancy, a safe delivery, a healthy baby, a relationship restored, healing and health recovered, to name a few. We want to share a sample of these messages here because they inspire three things we all desperately need: faith, hope and love.

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Testimonials *continued*

THANKSGIVING FROM SHARON AND ELSON

Dear Saint Gerard, we thank you for the blessings of our healthy pregnancy and safe delivery through cesarean section last April 6th, Saint Gerard's birthday! Saint Gerard will always be part of our lives. Through his intercession and with God's blessings, everything is possible. Have faith and trust in God Almighty. May you always continue to intercede for us dear Saint Gerard. God bless us all.

THANKSGIVING FROM ANGIE

Hello, good day. I would like to thank you for always including me in your prayers. I have delivered my baby already by cesarean section. I pray that God will always guide my baby boy and me, and all mothers and pregnant women who keep hoping. Once again, a big thank you. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FROM ONYI

Thanking God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for my sister, Amy, who has just delivered a baby girl today. I thank God for His blessings and mercies. Thank you, dearest Mother Mary, for being with her throughout the pregnancy. Thank you, St. Gerard, for your intercession. May the name of God be praised now and forever. Amen. Thank you all for the great work you are doing.

THANKSGIVING/PRAYER REQUEST FROM ANGELA

This is my son Lucas and he is the result of many prayers and love for Saint Gerard Majella. Please give thanks to God and St. Gerard with me and all my family for this most precious gift. All praise and glory to the Living God, Giver of all Life. Amen. (Editor's Note: St. Gerard loves Lucas, of course, but is also pretty fond of the little bear's shirt!)



A THANKSGIVING/PRAYER REQUEST FROM RUTH AND DOT

Saint Gerard Majella, thank you so much for the most precious gift. I just gave birth to a healthy baby girl. My entire family would like to thank you for the prayers. May Saint Gerard continue to protect, guide and bless us, especially my baby girl. Thank you for granting our hearts need to have a baby.

THANKSGIVING FROM JEDNNETH

Good day, Father Joe, and all the Saint Gerard Majella prayer angels. It's me again, Jednneth. I had been sending prayer request since 2014 and my last message was last year,

asking my Saint Gerard Community to help me pray for a safe pregnancy. My baby was born premature (at just 26 weeks and 4 days), last September 21, 2016, via Cesarean Section, as I had experienced heavy bleeding earlier that day. My baby boy was kept in the NICU for three months. During that time, my husband and I, and our entire family, never failed to ask our Lord God, and of course Saint Gerard, for my child's fast and complete recovery. He was born so tiny (just 870 grams). His heart had not closed yet. He had complications with his lungs, and his eyes were not fully developed. His doctor even suggested a laser operation, lest my child go blind. The worst was that, since my child was premature, he could easily have gotten bacterial infections. During those first three months, he was diagnosed many times with high levels of bacteria in his blood. But because of our faith and our prayers, my baby made it. He fully recovered. The laser operation scheduled for his eyes has been cancelled and he was discharged this past December 30th. We cannot contain our happiness as we celebrated the New Year with our son. By the way, I named my child Khian James Gerard. I gave him the name Gerard because of Saint Gerard, whose intercession I have sought since 2014. Today, on behalf of my family, I thank Saint Gerard Majella and the whole Saint Gerard community for your prayers. May you continue to include our family, especially my child, in your daily prayers. Thank you and may God bless us all. The photos are of my God-given gift, my son. You can publish this Father Joe. You can include my name and my sons photos too. Glory to God in the highest and thanks to Saint Gerard for his intercession. Amen.



ANONYMOUS THANKSGIVING

I continue to be grateful for all the prayers and support you and others have extended to me during both of my pregnancies. I feel so blessed to be touched by the love and kindness of strangers and to have the opportunity to be able to carry my babies and be their mother. Life is a miraculous thing and an amazing way to be invited to share God's love. Thank you for the wonderful work you do. God and prayers are powerful. They offer us hope and a chance to express our gratitude.

ANONYMOUS THANKSGIVING AND TESTIMONY

I thought you might like this: Another granddaughter by marriage just had a baby. She didn't have any religion.

Testimonials *continued*

I sent her the enrollment in the League of St. Gerard and she wore the medal and prayed to St. Gerard. Before the baby was born in February of this year, she took instructions to enter the Church. Not everyone knew about it. So, when the priest was going to baptize the baby, he announced that there would be “two baptisms today,” the mother and the child. What a surprise! We are so grateful for this grace.

THANKSGIVING FROM MARG, ON BEHALF OF MALISHA AND SURESH

We praise and thank our heavenly Father for the gift of our beautiful baby niece, born healthy and safe on April 21, 2017. We thank our Blessed Mother, Saint Gerard and all our dear brothers and sisters for interceding for us. Please continue to keep us all in your prayers! God is good! All glory to God! Amen!



THANKSGIVING FROM CHIBUZOR

Hello, thank you so much for all the prayers. My baby was delivered on Friday, April 7th. I had him through a C-section, even though I had prayed for a normal delivery. God had better plans for me, and I saw the reason why I ended up with the C-section. One thing I've learned in all of this is that God definitely has the big picture and we must learn to trust God completely! I'm so grateful for the gift of motherhood and I pray sincerely for all women who are still in the waiting room, that our good Lord, through the intercession of St. Gerard, might grant them their hearts' desires. Amen.

AN ANONYMOUS THANKSGIVING

I would like to give thanks and praise to our Mothers' Saint, Gerard Majella. Through his powerful intercession with our Lord, Jesus, the Christ, I was able to deliver a healthy baby girl named Emma, on April 1st, despite some complications along the way. We are safe and sound! Thank you so much for your continuous prayers.

THANKSGIVING FROM AILEEN AND JOEL

Hello, Saint Gerald Majella community. I am here to thank you for your prayers for all mothers, those that have children, those expecting to have children and those praying to become mothers. You have always prayed for me and my husband during our difficult moments, like when we lost our babies in 2006. By the grace of God we were able to conceive again during the first quarter last year and I delivered baby Aiyannah last October 27, 2016 and now she's five months old. To God be the glory!”

THANKSGIVING FROM ADLINE

I am using this opportunity to thank those who prayed on my behalf for a safe delivery. The good Lord has done it for me. I gave birth to a baby boy on the 25th of February and I named him Gerard, because of St. Gerard's intercession. God really answered him and the other saints who also interceded for me. I say thank you so, so much, and also to all of you, my fellow members of Saint Gerard Majella, I thank you for your prayers. I'm sorry this is coming late, but just that



Prayer to St. Gerard

Blessed St. Gerard on this day specially dedicated to mothers, when we lovingly remember all our mothers, we ask you to intercede for all mothers and obtain for them the distinctive graces and blessings they need to live their vocation and mission faithfully and joyfully.

We pray in particular for women who are trying to be mothers in very difficult situations: where there is war, bombs and bloodshed, violence and injustice; where there is hatred, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and xenophobia; where there is a need to flee from home and country in search of freedom, safety and security; where there is poverty, homelessness, unemployment, no access to housing, health care or good schools.

May every mother be blessed with wisdom and understanding, peace and patience, courage and strength generosity and compassion, and all other virtues needed to help them be the best possible person, the best mother possible. Amen.



Testimonials *continued*

after child birth I was very down, but now I am very strong, in Christ. Thank you.

AN ANONYMOUS THANKSGIVING

I would like to thank St. Gerard and all those who prayed for me previously, that I would carry my baby full term, after two previous miscarriages. My perfect little baby girl was born healthy. Thank you, Lord, for blessing me with such a gift and may you continue to ensure that my little bundle of joy lives a happy and healthy life. Also, watch over all others who have trouble conceiving and bless them with the fruit of the womb, in Jesus' name. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FROM JING



Hi, I would like to give thanks to Saint Gerard Majella for his intercession when I had my biggest worries during my pregnancy. I thank God every day for this wonderful blessing given to

me. Meet Laly, a precious creation of God. She's 19 days old and was very healthy when I delivered her, despite some complications in the pregnancy. We have to trust God and God does works wonders. Thank you also, friends of Saint Gerard, for all the prayers. Have faith. (Attached is a photo and you can post this. Thanks!)

THANKSGIVING FROM MARIEL AND RONIE

My husband Ronie and I would like to say thank you to everyone who prayed for us, for the safe delivery of our son. We waited five years for this wonderful blessing and I safely delivered our baby boy, David Luis, at 37 weeks, on February 28, 2017. God is good, all the time. Have faith and never lose hope. Again, thank you for including us in your prayers. St. Gerard, thank you for praying for us. God bless us all!

THANKSGIVING FROM JOSELITA

Thank you, St. Gerard, for our friend who asked us to pray for your intercession that she would conceive. She did,

and just yesterday delivered her most beautiful baby girl!!! Praise the Lord!!!

A THANKSGIVING/PRAYER REQUEST FROM MARIA

Could you please post the following: first I want to say thanks so much for posting for me. We were happily surprised to just learn that we are newly pregnant, and at the very beginning of our pregnancy. We want to express our thanks for all the prayers. While excited, we are a bit nervous, given our age (in our 40's) and the fact that my husband had a loss from a miscarriage with his ex-wife very early on. We have our first visit for heart beat on March 26th and would very much appreciate continued prayers for a healthy pregnancy, baby, and safe delivery. We will continue to pray for others as they have prayed for us. God Bless. I'm actually tearful now because I just realized that the first prayer request went out on February 4th and we conceived approximately twenty short days thereafter. God is so good and we are so blessed. Thanks for the service you provide Saint Gerard Majella - The Mothers' Saint.

AN ANONYMOUS THANKSGIVING

I would like to say thank you to everyone on this page who prayed for me and my family. I am now 25 weeks pregnant with a beautiful little girl, after years of trying. Please don't ever give up on God. Pray with hope and don't worry. God is merciful and will hear your prayer. God bless everyone. I can't thank you all enough.

THANKSGIVING FROM SUNSHINE AND HER FAMILY

We thank St. Gerard and all those who prayed and interceded for Sunshine. She safely and successfully gave birth by C-section to a beautiful 5.5-pound baby, Olivia. We give all glory, thanks and praise to God for his love and mercy. We also ask prayers for continued protection of both Sunshine and Baby Olivia. Many, many thanks.

THANKSGIVING FROM OLIVE

Thank you so much for all your prayers. Jenny delivered her baby girl, Macey Olivia. They are both in good condition. God heard and answered our prayers. Thank you everyone. St. Gerard you really took the hand of Jenny and walked with her. Thank you so much. God bless us all.