

When the time came for Gerard's First Communion, our Lord filled him with a great knowledge of His Presence in the Sacramental Species, and gave him a burning desire to receive Holy Communion. In the eyes of those over him, his tender age was an obstacle to the accomplishment of this great event, and he was put off for a time. But our



BLESSED GERARD MAJELLA, C. SS. R.

Lord did not let him wait long ; the next night Saint Michael came down from heaven and brought him this supreme consolation. When he had, at last, the privilege of making his First Communion, like other children, a new era opened up for him. Our Lord thenceforward took complete possession of his heart. He consecrated his virginity to our Lady at the age of twelve, although never did

he, in thought, word or deed, tarnish the most delicate of virtues.

The loss of his father obliged Gerard at an early age to become a bread-winner himself for the family, and he was apprenticed to a tailor, an excellent man who appreciated the virtues of his little ward, and gave every facility to carry out the spiritual obligations and works of piety he had undertaken.

After a period as a servant in the household of the Bishop