



BLESSED GERARD MAJELLA, C. SS. R.

A perusal of the many extraordinary favors that have been obtained, in late years, by devout clients from God through the intercession of the Redemptorist Blessed Gerard Majella, has prompted us to give the readers of the MESSENGER a sketch of the life of this really great saint and wonder-worker, whom Leo XIII. called "one of the angels who are given by God to His Church on earth as models for Christian peoples."

Gerard was born in Muro, in the kingdom of Naples, April 6, 1726. His father, Dominic Majella, and his mother Benedetta, happily realized from the beginning that God had entrusted to them a treasure of special value, and they began early to cultivate the seeds of virtue in his soul. What a sweet impression it leaves on one to read, in the account of the child's life, that his first words were Jesus and Mary, and his first action the sign of the cross.

The boy began to go to Mass with his mother when he was but five years of age. The tremendous Sacrifice had an especial attraction for him, and he tried to be present as often as possible; he felt that he was near God, and there is where he wanted to be. One day, his biographer tells us, the Infant Jesus left the arms of His Blessed Mother, came to little Gerard, played with him, and then gave him a snow-white loaf of bread. The Divine Child appeared to him again, one day, while he was playing with other children, and made him a similar present.

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