

trade in the world, all his savings went to the poor. In the monastery, his prayers and wise counsels did even greater things than money. In the frequent journeyings that he made with the Fathers on their missions, he himself preached, like St. Francis of Assisi, by his example. God had given him an extraordinary power of reaching souls. In his own humble way he enlightened those in doubt, confirmed the weak, encouraged religious vocations and converted sinners. His biographer has recorded several instances of Gerard's gift of reading men's souls and revealing to them the hidden sins of their lives.

In 1755, a remarkable event took place which showed the power that the humble lay-brother possessed near God. During the construction of a monastery at Caposele, the means of paying the workmen gave out. Gerard had charge of the work, and in his quandary presented a petition to our Lord in the Tabernacle, simply saying, as he laid it there: "Lord, Thou seest our petition; we expect a reply," and he remained the whole of the following night in prayer. At day-break he rapped at the door of the Tabernacle, when suddenly he heard the door-bell of the monastery ringing. Gerard hied thither and found two small bags of money on the door-step. This was an evident answer to his prayers.

It was during a trip that he made to gather funds to complete the monastery at Caposele that Blessed Gerard was stricken with his last illness. He was always delicate in health; his virtue, rather than physical strength, kept him up so long. Gerard fell into consumption, and after a struggle of a few months against this insidious and unconquerable enemy, he had to succumb.

On the fifth of September he received the last rites of the Church with the fervor of a seraph, and gained strength for a few days. But early in October, the advanced symptoms of the disease returned. The saint had one wish all through his life, and that was to resemble our Divine Lord as much as possible, chiefly during His Passion, and he did what