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The Mothers' Saint, 1726-1755

Saint Gerard was born at Muro in 1726. Sickly at birth, he was baptized that same day. He became a tailor like his father, and entered the Redemptorist Order as a lay brother in 1752. As porter of the house at Caposele he daily fed and clothed hundreds of the poor, apparently in a miraculous fashion. Other miracles were attributed to him during his lifetime. He is known to have raised a young boy from death, to have multiplied food for a poor family, to have saved fishermen in stormy weather.

Always in poor health, St. Gerard died shortly before midnight of October 16, 1755 at the age of 29. He was beatified by pope Leo XIII in 1893, and canonized in 1904 by pope St. Pius X.

Many miracles happened after he died. A young mother, close to death at childbirth, touched a handkerchief that St. Gerard had given to her years before when she was just a young girl. Both she and the child lived. Other mothers were helped by the intercession of Saint Gerard. He is venerated as the patron saints of mothers.

Mothers and mothers-to-be are encouraged to enroll in the League of St. Gerard; to do so write to:

The Redemptorists,
One Liguori Drive
Liguori, MO 63057-9999.

Send articles, questions, suggestions, letters, to the editor, Dorothy Stapel by: phone: 313-237-4679 or 313-292-1294 or fax: 313-237-5867 e-mail: nfp@aod.org USPS: Department of Education, NFP 305 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48226-2605

National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

You are invited to celebrate with us at a Mass on Sunday, October 16 at 10:00 AM in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral
Celebrant:

Bishop John M. Quinn



R.S.V.P.
313-237-5893
nfp@aod.org
Please leave your name
phone number

State if you would like a blessing for desiring a pregnancy.

State the name of the baby, infant, or child to be mentioned in the prayer at Mass.

Children are forever

There are many more miscarriages than assumed. Three in four fertilized eggs do not implant. After implantation, especially if it occurs late (after 12 days), one of three babies does not live past the third week of life. Such an early loss is usually experienced as a late, heavy period, while the woman may not even realize that she was pregnant. After three weeks the survival rate goes up to 90%, after six weeks to 95%. and after three months to 97.5%, while during the last three months it rises to 99%.

The survival rate of medically confirmed pregnancies is six out of seven. If the first pregnancy resulted in a miscarriage the survival rate for the next one is four of five; this rate goes down quickly with each unsuccessful attempt. Yet well over half the women with recurrent miscarriages can have a successful pregnancy later.

Some miscarriages are caused by a mismatch of genes of the man and woman; others are caused by a medical condition. General health considerations, such as enough rest, good nutrition, vitamin and mineral balance, and moderate exercise, with little or no tobacco, alcohol, coffee or drug consumption can improve chances of a baby's survival.

Although many women experience a miscarriage, it is a taboo subject, and women feel that they are not allowed to share their experience without censure. Fortunately this situation is changing and support groups are forming. Giving the baby a name, or a memorial service for the baby, a tree planted in the baby's memory, a book or box with keepsakes, and prayer are ways that can help with our grief.