



## St. Gerard

St. Gerard Majella is the patron saint of expectant mothers. At the Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Mass on October 18th at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, couples desiring a child were blessed with a relic of St. Gerard by Archbishop Vigneron. Below is a picture from that mass.

St. Gerard was born in Muro, Italy in 1726. In 1749, he joined the Redemptorist at the age of 23.

St. Gerard dedicated his life to helping the needy and the poor. He died in 1755 at the age of twenty-nine. He is considered the patron saint of motherhood because of a miracle that happened for a woman in labor as the result of his prayers.



In 2004, Pope John Paul II in a letter celebrating the Gerardian Year wrote: "...Gerard penetrated the mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven and spread it in simplicity to all who approached him."



Archbishop Allen Vigneron blesses couples desiring a pregnancy with the relic of St. Gerard at the annual Mass on the third Sunday in October at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament .

*Prayer for Motherhood*  
*O good St Gerard, powerful intercessor before God and wonder worker of our day, confidently I call upon you and seek your aid. On Earth you always fulfilled God's designs, help me now to do the holy will of God. Implore the Master of Life, from whom all paternity proceeds, to render me fruitful in offspring, that I may raise up children to God in this life, and in the world to come, heirs to the Kingdom of His Glory. Amen.*

## Announcements from the USCCB

On July 15-17, 2010, the USCCB will co-sponsor the interdisciplinary conference, **Human Fertility—Where Faith and Science Meet**.

The mission of the conference is to promote research on the science of Natural Family Planning and academic thinking about the subjects that it supports (e.g., marriage, responsible parenthood, family, etc.).

In 2010, the conference will be hosted by Marquette University's Institute for NFP and held in Milwaukee. Currently, they are finalizing details but can tell you that registration will be through their office (nfp@usccb.org). Also, continuing education unites will be awarded as well as Continuing Medical Education Unites to qualified attendees.

This conference is ideal for NFP teachers, faculty of NFP training programs, theologians, physicians, nurses, midwives, and, of course anyone who has a serious interest in the subject.

Please send topics, articles, questions, and suggestions to [jdorsten@gmail.com](mailto:jdorsten@gmail.com)