



St. Gerard Majella

Patron Saint of Mothers

Majella was born in Muro Lucano on 6 April 1726, the youngest of five children. He was frail, and his parents had him baptized the day he was born. He was the son of Domenico Maiella, a tailor who died when Gerard was twelve, leaving the family in poverty.

At 27, the Majella was controversially identified by a young pregnant woman as the father of her child. To avoid exposing the man behind the pregnancy St Gerard accepted the blame silently and his superior St Alphonse Ligouri questioned him and due to his silence banned him from receiving the Holy Communion. After several years the women revealed the truth on her deathbed and testified to St Gerard's holiness.

Some of Majella's reported miracles include restoring life to a boy who had fallen from a high cliff, blessing the scant supply of wheat belonging to a poor family and making it last until the next harvest, and several times multiplying the bread that he was distributing to the poor.

One day, he walked across the water to lead a boatload of fishermen through stormy waves to the safety of the shore. He was reputed to have had bilocation and the ability to read souls.<sup>[3]</sup>

His last will was a small note on the door of his cell: "Here the will of God is done, as God wills, and as long as God wills." He died at 29 of tuberculosis on 16 October 1755 in Materdomini, Italy.