

gerard majella



Guardian of Mothers

1726–1755

Born in Muro, Italy

Feast Day: October 16

Family Connection: Pregnant Mothers

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Illustrated by Katherine A. Borgatti



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Dedication

To my family:
my parents Jim and Peg,
my husband Bill,
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,
and our precious grandchildren
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege of
teaching throughout the years.

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First Edition

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Saints and Me! is a series of children's books about saints, with six books in each set. The first set, *Saints of North America*, honors holy men and women who blessed and served the land we call home. The second set, *Saints of Christmas*, includes heavenly heroes who inspire us during Advent and Christmas and teach us to love the Infant Jesus.

Saints for Families introduces the virtuous lives of seven saints from different times and places who modeled God's love and charity within and for families. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux felt the love of her family and carried it into her religious community (which included her sisters). Saint Anthony of Padua is the patron of children, especially infants. Saint John Bosco cared for young, homeless boys, raising them like sons. Saint Thomas More, a father of four, imitated Christ's sacrificial love and devotion to the truth until death. Saints Joachim and Anne became the grandparents of Jesus, raising Mary as a sinless disciple. And Saint Gerard Majella, the patron of mothers, blessed families with food, knowledge, penances, and healing miracles.

Which saint stood up against a king? Who became a tailor and a lay brother? Which saint is "the little flower?" Who was known for his excellent preaching? Which saints lived before Jesus? Which saint climbed trees, did flips, and turned cartwheels? Find out in the *Saints for Families* set, part of the *Saints and Me!* series, and help children connect with the lives of saints.

Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate to their lives.

A long time ago, a special baby was born in the small town of Muro, Italy. His name was Gerard Majella. Gerard was a tiny baby. He was not very strong, and he was often sick. His parents loved him very much and took good care of him.

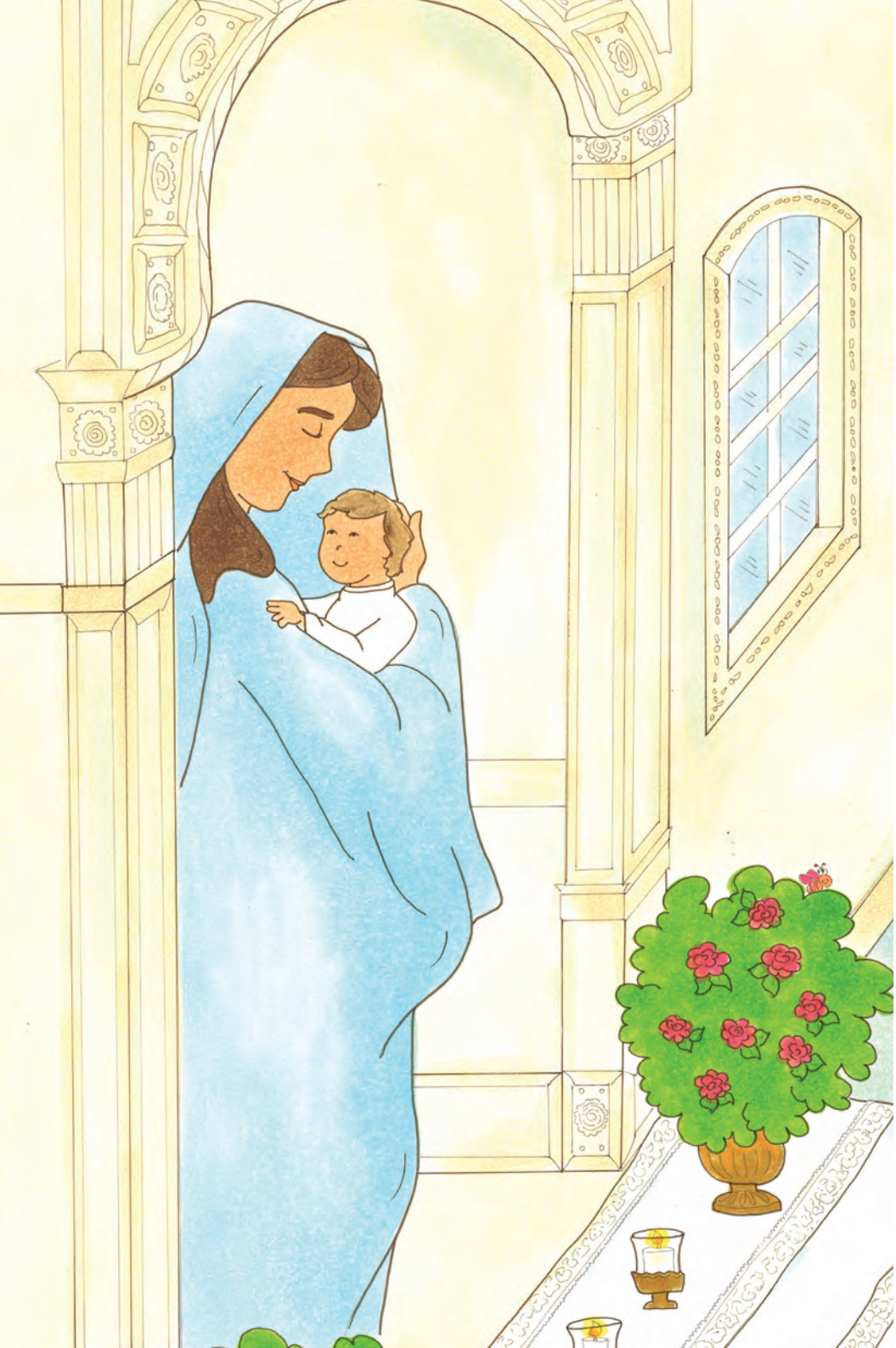




Gerard's father was a tailor who made clothes and suits for people. Gerard's mother took care of baby Gerard and his older sisters. She taught her children how to pray to Jesus and Mary.







As a child, Gerard went to church with his family. He liked to go to church. It was peaceful and quiet. Gerard liked to look at the beautiful statues and pictures. "I love you, Jesus. I love you, Mary," prayed Gerard.

