

OFFICE

M.P.

EVENING P. II

DIVINE OFFICE

BLESSED JOSEPH GERARD, OMI



b. 1831 – d. 1914

Entered Novitiate: 1851; sent to South Africa: 1853

Ordained a Priest: 1854

The Apostle of Basotho (1862-1914)

Beatified: 15th September, 1988.

TIMELINE – BL. JOSEPH GERARD

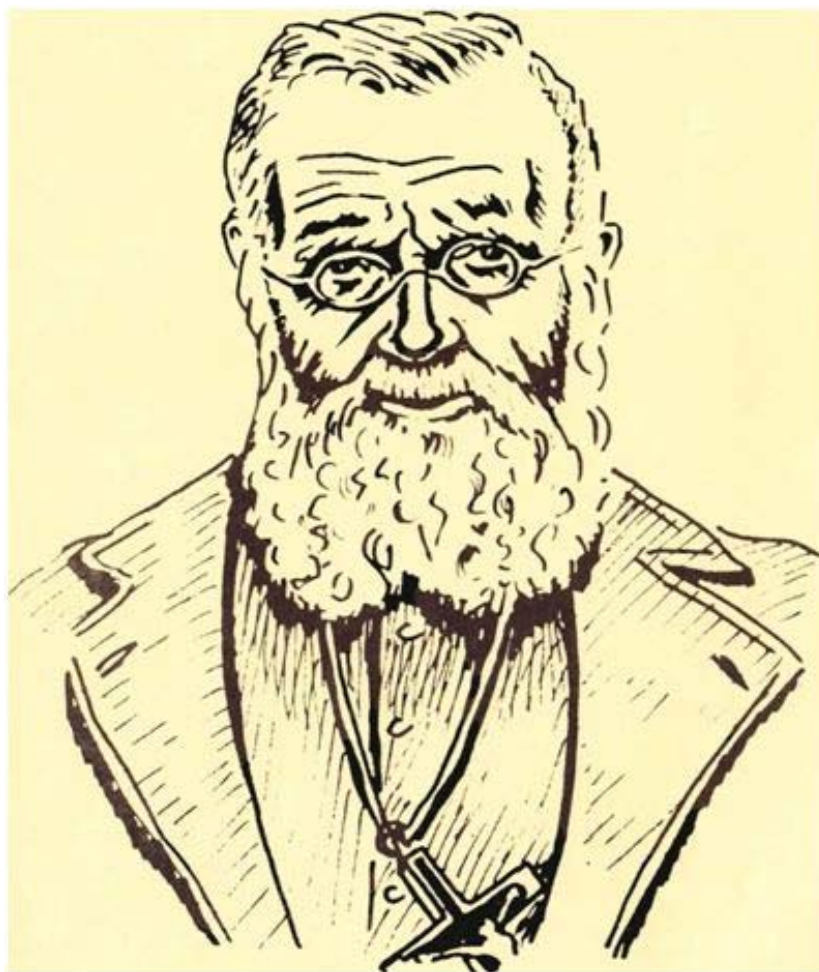
Blessed Joseph Gérard, OMI (12th March, 1831-29th May, 1914) was a French Catholic missionary who chiefly worked among the Basotho people of modern day Lesotho and the Free State province of South Africa. He was born in Bouxières-aux-Chênes, in the Diocese of Nancy and received his religious training from the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, whom he joined at the age of twenty. He wasn't particularly gifted academically, but was quick at learning languages, which would later help him in learning the Zulu and Sesotho languages he used for his missionary work. Gérard moved to South Africa in 1853, and never returned to his home country.

He was ordained a priest at Pietermaritzburg in 1854. He started his work as a missionary among the Zulus in the Vicariate of Natal, but met with little progress there. In 1862 he joined Father François Allard, the Bishop of Natal, in starting the first Catholic mission in Lesotho—there already was a Protestant congregation founded by the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society. With permission from the Basotho chief Moshoeshoe I, they founded the Motse-oa-'M'a-Jesu (Village of the Mother of Jesus) mission around 32 kilometers (20 miles) south of Thaba Bosiu, at the site of present day Roma. By all accounts, Gérard was well-respected by Moshoeshoe for remaining in the country during the Free State-Basotho Wars, and it has been said that it was at Gérard's encouragement that the chief sought British intervention at the end of the conflict. However, Gérard's missionary work still progressed slowly: by the end of 1879, there were only 700 Catholics in the country.

In 1875, Gérard founded the St. Monica mission in the Leribe District in northern Lesotho. From there, he serviced not only the Basotho of Lesotho, but also those who lived in the neighboring Orange Free State.

He returned to the Roma congregation in 1898, where he continued his work as a missionary for the rest of his life. As a result of the work partially initiated by Gérard, Catholic Christianity is the majority religion in present day Lesotho.

Gérard was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 15th September, 1988, in a Mass at Maseru (capital of Lesotho).



b. 1831 – d. 1914

Text of Opening Prayer: Approved by
the C. for Divine Worship, June 27, 1987.

Text of Second Reading (Divine Office):
Approved by the C. for Divine Worship, June 27, 1987

OFFICE OF READINGS

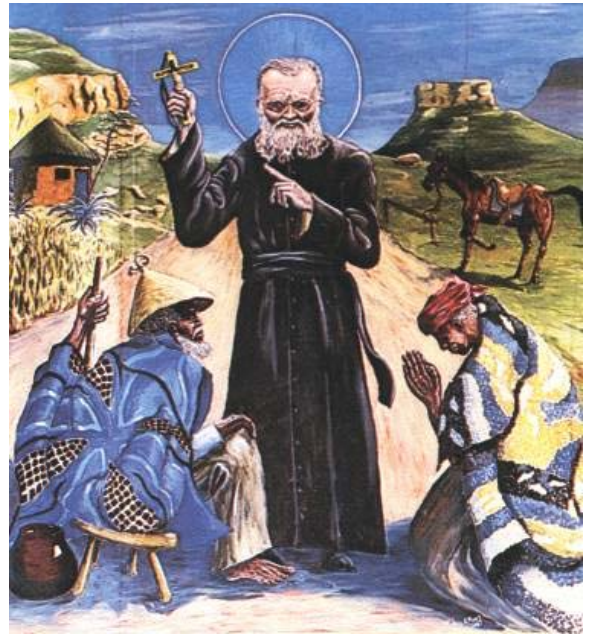
From the Common of Pastors.

INVITATORY:

**On this Memorial/Feast of Bl Joseph Gerard, let us worship
the supreme Shepherd, Christ the Lord (*alleluia*)**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
To him belongs the sea, for he made it
and the dry land shaped by his hands.



Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

For forty years I was wearied of these people
and I said: “Their hearts are astray,
these people do not know my ways.”
Then I took an oath in my anger:
“Never shall they enter my rest.””

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

On this Memorial/Feast of Bl Joseph Gerard, let us worship the supreme Shepherd, Christ the Lord (*alleluia*)

HYMN (*or another appropriate hymn*)

The earth is full of the goodness of Christ,
He feeds his lambs and guards his sheep,
He walks abroad as the Shepherd of souls,
And gathers all into his keep.

We know the voice of our Pastor, the Lord,
He calls our names eternally
Our hearts rejoice at the words that he speaks:
"And I know mine and mine know me."

When danger comes all the hirelings will flee,
But Christ remains to guard our sleep,
When evil comes the Good Shepherd of souls
Lays down his life to save his sheep.

We shall not want, for our Pastor is Christ,
He makes us lie in fields of Grace.
Where shorn of sin and refreshed by his love,
We gaze in prayer upon his face.

Ant. 1 Guided by the Spirit, he urged his own not to accept the grace of God in vain (*alleluia*)

O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king;
how your saving help makes him glad!
You have granted him his heart's desire;
you have not refused the prayer of his lips.

You came to meet him with the blessings of success,
you have set on his head a crown of pure gold.
He asked you for life and this you have given,
days that will last from age to age.

Your saving help has given him glory.
You have laid upon him majesty and splendor,
you have granted your blessings to him for ever.
You have made him rejoice with the joy of your presence.

The king has put his trust in the Lord:
through the mercy of the Most High he shall stand firm.
O Lord, arise in your strength,
we shall sing and praise your power.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Ant. 1 Guided by the Spirit, he urged his own not to accept
the grace of God in vain (alleluia)**

**Ant. 2 He went about the cities and villages, entreating all on
behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God (alleluia)**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night,
on the ten-stringed lyre and the lute,
with the murmuring sound of the harp.

Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad;
for the work of your hands I shout with joy.
O Lord, how great are your works!
How deep are your designs!
The foolish man cannot know this
and the fool cannot understand.

Though the wicked spring up like grass
and all who do evil thrive:
they are doomed to be eternally destroyed.
But you, Lord, are eternally on high.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Ant. 2 He went about the cities and villages, entreating all on
behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God (alleluia)**

**Ant. 3 Like a skilled master builder, he built God's house on
the foundation of the crucified Christ (alleluia)**

See how your enemies perish;
all doers of evil are scattered.

To me you give the wild-ox's strength;
you anoint me with the purest oil.
My eyes looked in triumph on my foes;
my ears heard gladly of their fall.
The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just;
in him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

**Ant. 3 Like a skilled master builder, he built God's house on
the foundation of the crucified Christ (alleluia)**

R/. God's holiness was revealed by them (alleluia).

V/. All nations saw God's glory (alleluia).

FIRST READING: From the second letter of the apostle

St Paul to the Corinthians

2 Cor 4:1-12

(The strength and weakness of the apostle)

Having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. We have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said: "Let light shine out of darkness", who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

RESPONSORY**2 Cor 4: 5-6**

R/. What we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord—with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake (alleluia).

V/. To give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ—with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake (alleluia).

or, in *Easter time*: the Acts of the Apostles 2:1, 14, 36-47

(Call to conversion and baptism)

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and said: Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: "Brethren, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one that the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other words and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation". So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food

with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

RESPONSORY

Mk 16:15-16; Jo 3:5

- R/.** Go out to the ends of the earth, and tell every living creature the good news of Christ—Everyone who believes and is baptized will be saved (alleluia). *repeat*
- V/.** Unless one is born anew of water and the Holy Spirit, one cannot enter the Kingdom of God—Everyone who believes and is baptized will be saved (alleluia).

SECOND READING: *Extracts of Retreat Notes of Fr. Gerard (Book VI, pp. 48-49, 53)*

*"The World belongs to him
who loves it most and proves it."*

I begin this retreat for the salvation of my soul and the salvation of others. I note these few thoughts:

O, my God, will it be possible to be indifferent and not to work with all my strength to prevent one single sin?

It is necessary to be ardent to prevent sin, to pursue it in the poor souls who give it lodging.

There is a secret to be loved, it is to love. Also, for the Basotho, the Matebele, even the heathens, in seeing them we can ask ourselves what to do to convert them? The answer is on every page of the Gospel: we must love them, love them in spite of everything, love them always.

The good God has wanted that we do good to a person in loving that person. The world belongs to the person who loves it most and proves it.

I imagine a priest, a missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate in a Mission. He wants to see everything with his eyes, know with his heart, give joy to everybody by his presence, be all things to all people to win them over to Jesus Christ. His inventive charity knows how to use everything, plans everything. He is not satisfied by these general relationships, where the priest is the priest of everybody, but not enough the priest of each and everyone. This priest would take the occasion to give individually to his people private and direct marks of his dedication, in such a way that each one would believe that he or she is loved uniquely by him.

We must not forget the principle of spiritual life that a witness of a true love for God, of a love that is pure and perfect, is a sincere, ardent desire to suffer for God.

O our good and very beloved Immaculate Mother, in my fears and anguish for the dear souls of this Mission, for their eternal salvation, seeing so many miseries, so many necessities, I confide them to you today, I confide them absolutely all to you, children and adults. I place them under your holy and maternal protection. As you are the Mother of the Good Shepherd keep them against the enemies of salvation, paganism, heresy, devils and bad morals.

I place myself, poor sinner, under your protection. My time is near for the Good Master is coming to call me to him. Soon I will say the last, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart, my soul, my life."

RESPONSE

(2 Cor. 5: 18,20)

R/. It is all God's work, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ *
He gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation.

(Alleluia)

V/. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were
appealing through us.

R/. He gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation.

(Alleluia)

HYMN - Te Deum

You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free
you did not spurn the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come, and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
— Govern and uphold them now and always.

Day by day we bless you.
— We praise your name for ever.

Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
— Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your love and mercy,
— for we have put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope:
— And we shall never hope in vain.

PRAYER

God, Source of peace
and giver of rain and abundance,
who called Blessed Joseph Gerard, your
priest,
to bring the light of the Gospel
to the peoples of southern Africa;
grant through his prayers, that we may
treasure the gift of faith we have received,
share it with our brothers and sisters,
and work for peace and reconciliation in the world.
We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



MORNING PRAYER

HYMN *(or another appropriate hymn)*

The King of love my shepherd is
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine forever.

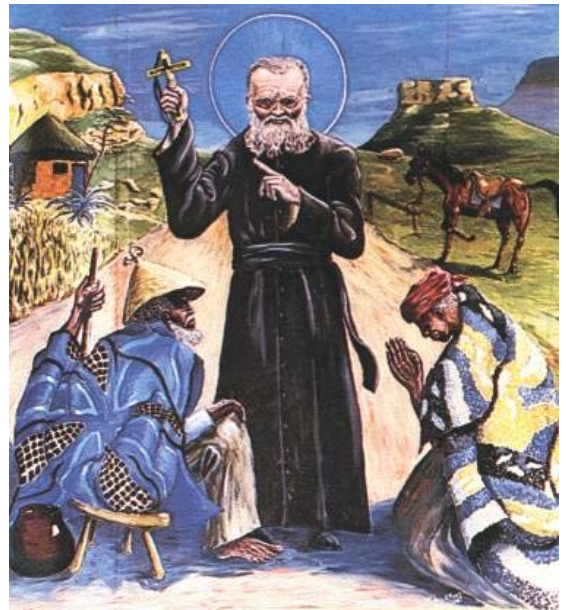
Where streams of living water flow,
To rest my soul he leads me;
Where fresh and fertile pastures grow,
With heav'nly food he feeds me.

Perverse and foolish I have strayed,
But he with love has sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross will ever guide me.

You spread a banquet in my sight,
My head with oil anointing,
And let me taste the sweet delight
From your pure chalice flowing.

And so through all my length of days
Your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
Within your house forever.



**Ant. 1 I press on toward the goal to make it my own, because
Christ Jesus has made me his own (alleluia)**

Thirsting for God

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

**Ant. 1 I press on toward the goal to make it my own, because
Christ Jesus has made me his own (alleluia)**

Ant. 2 Good and faithful servant, the Spirit of the Lord has chosen you to spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ everywhere (alleluia)

*Canticle: Daniel 3:57-88,56
All creatures, bless the Lord*

O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, angels of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, the heavens of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, clouds of the sky, O bless the Lord.
And you, all armies of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, sun and moon, O bless the Lord.
And you, the stars of the heavens, O bless the Lord.
And you, showers and rain, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, all you breezes and winds, O bless the Lord.
And you, fire and heat, O bless the Lord.
And you, cold and heat, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, showers and dew, O bless the Lord.
And you, frosts and cold, O bless the Lord.
And you, frost and snow, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, night-time and day, O bless the Lord.

And you, darkness and light, O bless the Lord.

And you, lightning and clouds, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

O let the earth bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, mountains and hills, O bless the Lord.

And you, all plants of the earth, O bless the Lord.

And you, fountains and springs, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, rivers and seas, O bless the Lord.

And you, creatures of the sea, O bless the Lord.

And you, every bird in the sky, O bless the Lord.

And you, wild beasts and tame, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, children of men, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

O Israel, bless the Lord, O bless the Lord.

And you, priests of the Lord, O bless the Lord.

And you, servants of the Lord, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, spirits and souls of the just, O bless the Lord.

And you, holy and humble of heart, O bless the Lord.

Ananias, Azarias, Mizaël, O bless the Lord.

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

Let us praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit:

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

May you be blessed, O Lord, in the heavens:

To you be highest glory and praise for ever.

Ant. 2 Good and faithful servant, the Spirit of the Lord has chosen you to spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ everywhere (alleluia)

Ant. 3 The Holy Spirit has made you overseer, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son (alleluia)

Psalm 149

The saints rejoice

Sing a new song to the Lord,

his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,

let Zion's sons exult in their king.

Let them praise his name with dancing

and make music with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people.

He crowns the poor with salvation.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,

shout for joy and take their rest.

Let the praise of God be on their lips

and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles in fetters of iron;
to carry out the sentence pre-ordained:
this honour is for all his faithful.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

**Ant. 3 The Holy Spirit has made you overseer, to shepherd
the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his
own Son (alleluia)**

READING

2 Tim 1:8-12

Do not be ashamed of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but take your share of suffering for the Gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearance of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.

RESPONSORY

R/. Declare the Lord's glory—among the nations. . *repeat*

V/. His wonderful deeds among all the peoples—among the nations. **R/.**

V/. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **R/.**

EASTER:

R/. Declare the Lord's glory among the nations—
Alleluia, alleluia. *repeat*

V/. His wonderful deeds among all the peoples—
Alleluia. Alleluia. **R/.**

V/. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **R/.**

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. **Fired by an ardent love for Christ and touched at the sight of the Church cruelly ravaged, Blessed Gerard did all in his power to rekindle the flame of faith that had all but died in the hearts of so many (alleluia)**

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

**Ant. Fired by an ardent love for Christ and touched at the
sight of the Church cruelly ravaged, Blessed Gerard did
all in his power to rekindle the flame of faith that had all
but died in the hearts of so many (alleluia)**

INTERCESSIONS

To Christ, High Priest and Good Shepherd, who gave his life for his
people, we pray with confidence:

R/. Save your people, Lord.

Christ Jesus, you raised up in your Church Bishop Blessed Joseph Gerard to preach the gospel to the poor—rekindle his spirit in those who follow him as father and master.

You gathered the Twelve around you to be your companions and your messengers—may your call and your presence among us bind us together in charity and in our common mission.

You felt pity for the tired and helpless crowds, wandering like sheep without a shepherd—send into your harvest numerous workers who will seek out new ways to make known the message of salvation.

You preserved your Mother Mary, the Immaculate Virgin, from all stains of sin—keep us free from sin and make us living temples of your Spirit.

OUR FATHER

PRAYER

God, Source of peace
and giver of rain and abundance,
who called Blessed Joseph Gerard, your priest,
to bring the light of the Gospel
to the peoples of southern Africa;
grant through his prayers, that we may
treasure the gift of faith we have received,
share it with our brothers and sisters,
and work for peace and reconciliation in the world.
We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



DAYTIME PRAYER

On a solemnity, the complementary psalmody is used.

MID-MORNING

Ant. Jesus called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him (alleluia)

READING

1Thes 2:10-12

You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our behaviour to you believers; for you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

V/. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples (alleluia).

R/. If you have love for one another (alleluia).

MIDDAY

Ant. This is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he has commanded us (alleluia)

READING

1 Tim 1:15-16

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

V/. I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses (alleluia).

R/. That the power of Christ may rest upon me (alleluia).

MID-AFTERNOON

**Ant. Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well (alleluia)**

READING

Col 3:12-14

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

V/. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts (alleluia).

R/. To which indeed you were called in the one body (alleluia).

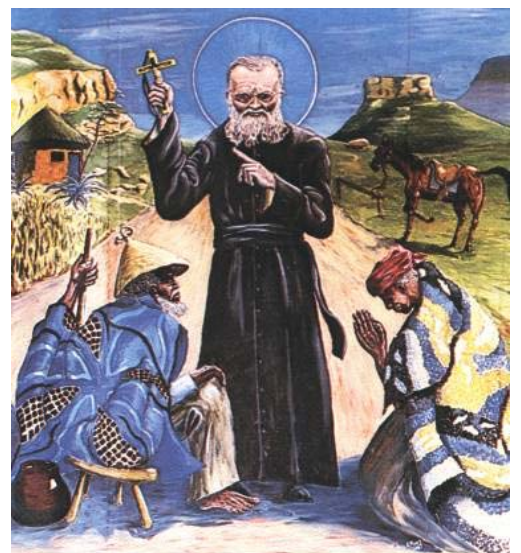
PRAYER as in Morning Prayer

EVENING PRAYER II

HYMN (*or another appropriate hymn*)

Shepherd of souls, in love come, feed us,
Life-giving Bread for hungry hearts!
To those refreshing waters lead us
Where dwells that peace your grace imparts.
May we, the wayward in your fold,
By your forgiveness rest consoled.

Life-giving vine, come, feed and nourish,
Strengthen each branch with life divine;
Ever in you O may we flourish,
Fruitful the branches on the vine.
Lord, may our souls be purified
So that in Christ may we abide.



Sinful is man who kneels before you.
Worthy of you are you alone;
Yet in your name do we implore you,
Rich are the mercies you have shown.
Say but the word, O Lord divine,
Then are our hearts made pure like thine.

**Ant. 1 Called with a holy calling, according to God's purpose
and grace, he gave himself fully to the preaching of the
Gospel (alleluia)**

Psalm 14 (15) - Who is worthy to face the Lord?

“You have come to Mount Sion, to the city of the living God” (Heb 12:22)

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent
and dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue;

he who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord;

he who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Ant. 1 Called with a holy calling, according to God's purpose and grace, he gave himself fully to the preaching of the Gospel (alleluia)

Ant. 2 Christ lives in me, who loved me and gave himself for me (alleluia)

Psalm 111 (112) - How blessed are the just

“Be like the children of the light; for the fruits of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth” (Eph 5:8,9).

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
grinds his teeth and fades away;
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

**Ant. 2 Christ lives in me, who loved me and gave himself for
me (alleluia)**

**Ant. 3 He became minister of the Church and strived for it
with all the energy which Christ mightily inspired within
him (alleluia)**

Canticle - Apocalypse 15 - A hymn of adoration

Great and wonderful are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the ages!

Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord?
For you alone are holy.
All nations shall come and worship you,
for your judgements have been revealed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

**Ant. 3 He became minister of the Church and strived for it
with all the energy which Christ mightily inspired within
him (alleluia)**

READING

1 Pt 5:1-4

I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the
sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is to be

revealed. Tend the flock of God that is in your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed you will obtain the unfading crown of glory.

RESPONSORY

R/. This is a man who loved his brethren—
and ever prayed for them. *repeat*

V/. He spent himself in their service—and ever prayed for them. **R/.**

V/. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **R/.**

EASTER:

R/. This is a man Who loved his brethren and ever prayed for them *
Alleluia, alleluia.

V/. He spent himself in their service. Alleluia.

V/. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **R/.**

CANTICLE OF MARY

**Ant. Through Blessed Gerard, a pastor overflowing with love
for Christ the Saviour, the Gospel reached the far corners
of the earth and the poor with their many faces saw the
salvation of our God (alleluia)**

Canticle: Magnificat - My soul rejoices in the Lord

My soul glorifies the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her lowliness;

henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.

He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

**Ant. Through Blessed Gerard, a pastor overflowing with love
for Christ the Saviour, the Gospel reached the far corners
of the earth and the poor with their many faces saw the
salvation of our God (alleluia)**

INTERCESSIONS

Father, source of all holiness, you continually raise up new witnesses
in your Church. Through the prayer of the saints and the strength
of their example, make us like your Son as we say:

R/. Renew us in your Spirit.

You call us to fulfil our mission in communion with the successor of Peter and the pastors you have given to your people—may we receive their word with docility and in faith, and collaborate in a spirit of fraternity with all Gospel workers.

You reconciled the world to yourself by the blood of Christ—fill the ministers of reconciliation with mercy so that they may greet all with a heart full of compassion.

The Messiah you sent has sown the good seed of the Word—grant an abundant harvest to those who toil to preach the Gospel.

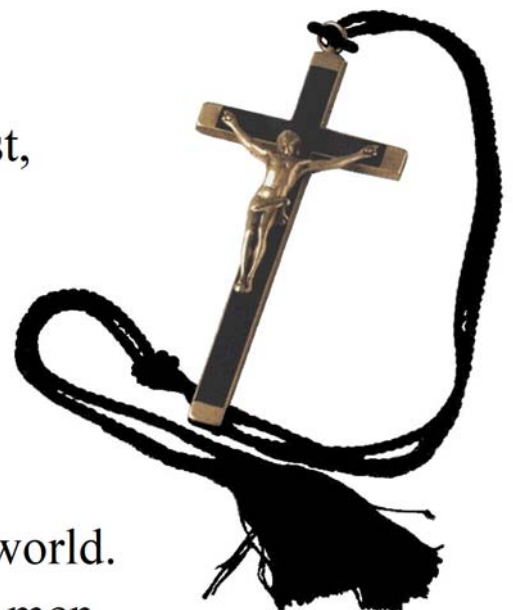
The Immaculate Virgin consecrated herself entirely as a humble servant to the person and work of the Saviour—grant us to persevere united in prayer and love with Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

Strengthen our faith in the resurrection and glorification of your Son—receive our deceased brothers, relatives and benefactors into your heavenly glory.

OUR FATHER

PRAYER

God, Source of peace
and giver of rain and abundance,
who called Blessed Joseph Gerard, your priest,
to bring the light of the Gospel
to the peoples of southern Africa;
grant through his prayers, that we may
treasure the gift of faith we have received,
share it with our brothers and sisters,
and work for peace and reconciliation in the world.
We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



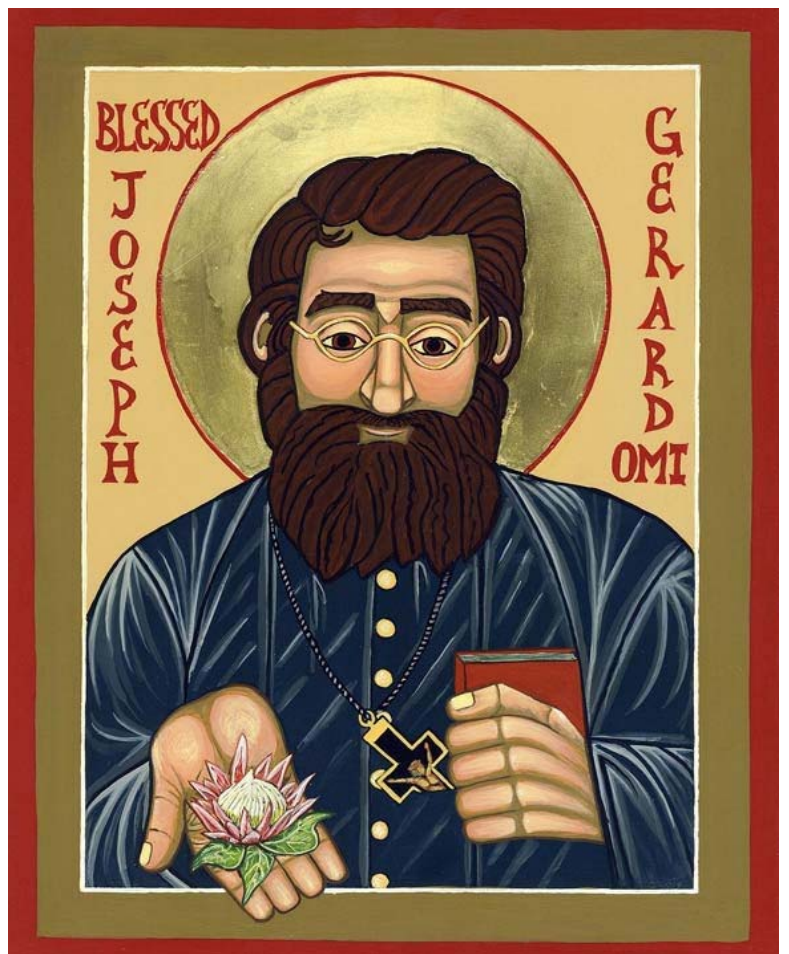
**PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION
& CANONIZATION OF HOLY OBLATES**

O Lord , our Saviour,
we come to you in prayer.
Among the Oblates
now with you
in the Father's house
there are some whose holiness
you have chosen
to make more manifest.

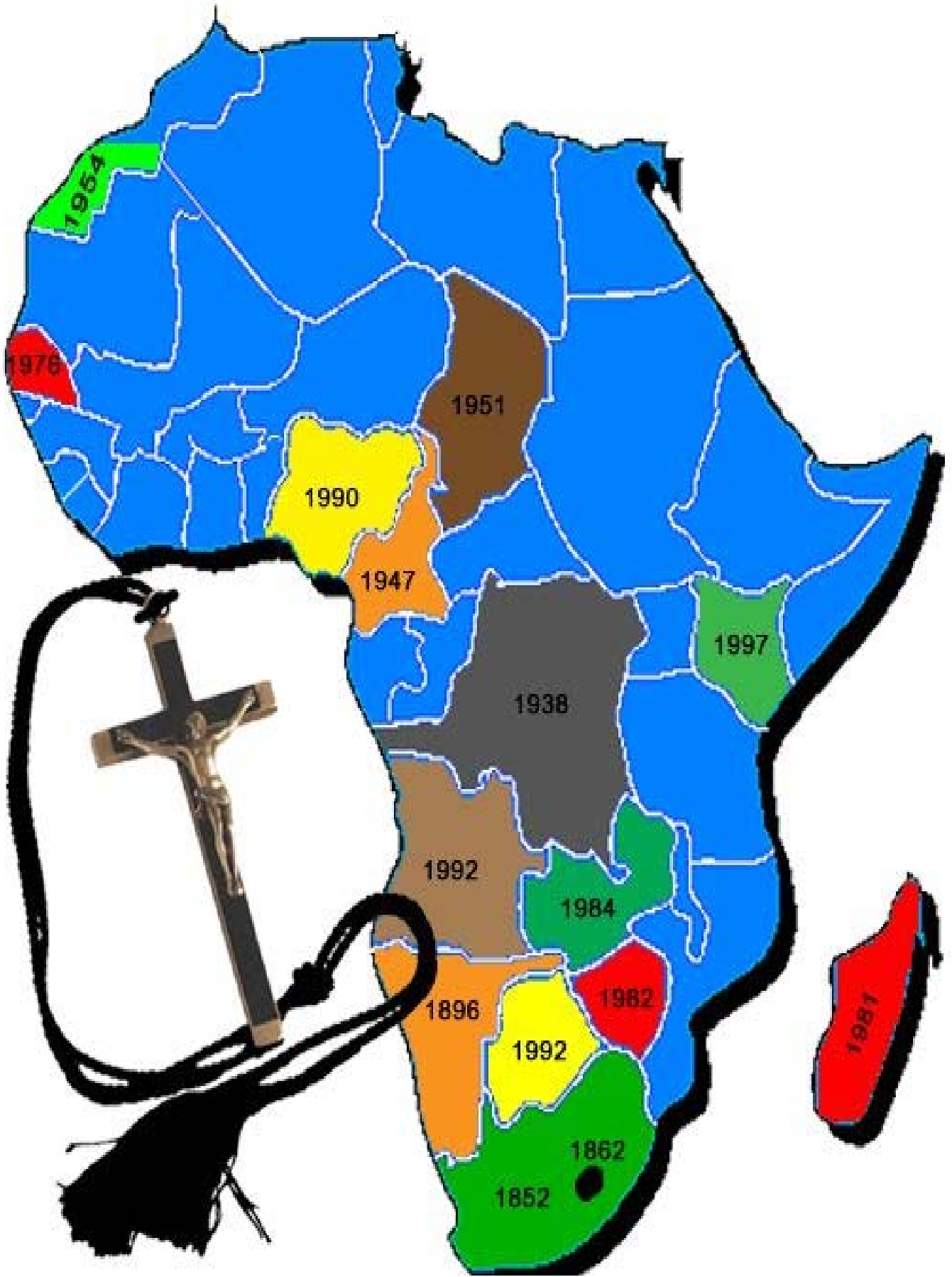
We ask you to show
even more clearly
the marvellous work
you achieved in them
during the days
of their earthly existence.

Grant your Church
the light to present them
to all people as men
who have lived fully
the love you offered them.

O Mary, Mother of Mercy,
intercede with us
before your Son,
who lives and reigns
with the Father and
the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever. Amen.



Icon from USA (2013)



**African Countries where the Oblates Minister
and the Year the Oblate Presence Started**