

Founder of the Knights of Columbus.
 Venerable Michael McGivney,
 Apostle to the Young and
 Protector of Christian Family Life,
 Intercede for Us.



FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

FATHER GABRIEL B. O'DONNELL, O.P.

Vice Postulator & Guild Director

Dear Guild Members:

The beginning of a new year is a good time to take stock of the progress of the canonization cause of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. Devotion to Father McGivney continues to grow and the number of favors received through his intercession are regularly reported to the Guild, with some of them published in this Guild newsletter, and all of them posted on the website (fathermcgivney.org). An increasing number of people see in Father McGivney an ideal of Christian holiness that they wish to venerate and imitate. In this way, our venerable patron continues his pastoral work from his place in eternity. He is still the faithful priest leading his flock to Christ.

Since he now enjoys the title "Venerable Servant of God," all that is required for the Holy Father to set a date for his beatification is a



reported miracle attributed to his intercession to be declared authentic by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Like many other candidates for beatification and canonization, Venerable McGivney has been invoked by laypeople in several cases that, by human standards, would appear to be miraculous. Two of these cases have been formally presented to the Vatican congregation but neither was judged to be a clear indication of a direct intervention on the part of God. Appropriately, the Vatican's standards for approving a miracle are very high, in order to protect the integrity of the process. The Church is rigorously careful in such matters so as to avoid any possibility of doubt or accusations of fraud regarding healings or other events involving medical issues or judgments. Indeed, without clear and unassailable evidence of the *"digitus Dei"* ("finger of God") involved in a reported event, beatification is not possible.

A prolonged period of waiting for an authentic miracle is not unusual for candidates for beatification and canonization. In some instances, it takes many years for an authentic miracle to surface. We can be confident that God will act through Father McGivney at the best possible time, when the announcement of an approved miracle will effect the greatest religious good and affect the greatest number of people.

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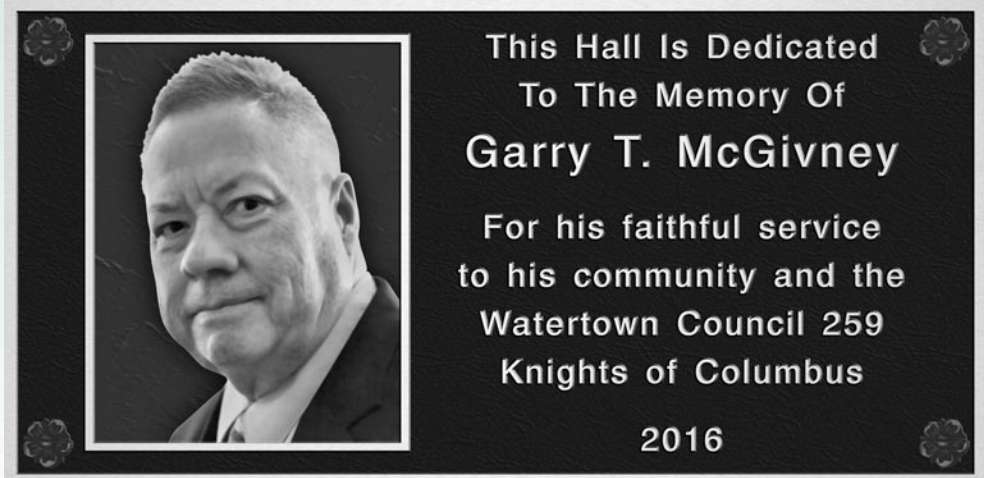
COUNCIL HOME NAMED FOR FOUNDER'S RELATIVE

The McGivney name was honored by a council in upstate New York when it dedicated its meeting place to a relative of the Order's founder. In a ceremony on Oct. 9, 2016, Watertown (N.Y.) Council 259, which was chartered in 1897, named its new home for Garry T. McGivney, a member of the council for 24 years until his death in 2014. His grandfather was second cousin to Father Michael McGivney.

Bishop Terry LaValley of Ogdensburg began the dedication ceremonies by offering Mass at St. Anthony Church in Watertown, and afterward blessed the new council home located in the former parish school building, where a plaque bearing Garry McGivney's image was placed on the wall. Attending the event were Supreme Director Arthur Harris, who presented a bronze sculpture of Father McGivney to the council on behalf of the Supreme Council; Past State Secretary Charles Robinson, representing the New York State Council; and John Morgia, grand knight of Council 259.

McGivney, an Air Force veteran and longtime New York state employee, was

known for his strong pro-life views and charitable efforts for parishes and the needy in the upstate area. In 1995 he won more than \$20 million in the state lottery, and donated \$1 million to his parish, Holy Family, and divided another \$1 million among three other Watertown

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A plaque honoring the late Garry T. McGivney, a distant cousin of Father McGivney, was dedicated during a ceremony at Watertown Council 259.

FAVORS REPORTED

Dear Father:

I prayed the novena prayer regularly to Venerable Father McGivney imploring his help to help my daughter to complete and pass her college diploma. My daughter passed with flying colors with honors. Thank you, Venerable Father McGivney.

Ontario

Dear Father:

I would like to give public witness for the opportune intervention of Father McGivney in answering my prayers for successful double surgeries that I went through in the months of May and October.

Philippines

Dear Father:

I have persevered in prayer for a long time for the canonization of Father McGivney and for other loved ones in need of healing. However, when I was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, testing had to be done to see if the cancer had spread. I prayed to Father McGivney for intervention for me this time. Good results from all the testing. No cancer anywhere else. I am forever grateful for prayers answered and will continue to pray for his sainthood.

Pennsylvania

Dear Father:

Due to work-related stress and other personal issues, I was unable to work for a year, causing distress to me and my family. I implored the help of our founder via the novena prayer. I asked Venerable Father McGivney to help me recover and for an amicable settlement with my employers. I also promised to visit his tomb at St. Mary's Church in New Haven. I am pleased to report that I am now on my way to full recovery and have received a generous settlement from my employers. In early November, I drove alone from Toronto to New Haven and back, to fulfil my promise to visit his tomb. I asked Venerable Father McGivney to keep me safe during my long drive and I never felt safer. In addition, I received several other important favors in the past year through the direct intercession of our founder.

Ontario

Dear Father:

Hurricane Matthew was predicted to make a direct hit on South Florida. At that point the prayer card for the canonization of our Venerable Father McGivney was emailed to 640 members requesting the special intention of protecting Floridians in Matthew's path. Our prayers were answered.

Florida

McGIVNEY COUSIN HONORED, from Page 1

parishes. He also gave \$2.5 million to a community assistance organization, with \$1 million earmarked for a scholarship fund for needy students.

The March 1993 issue of *Columbia* magazine carried a story on McGivney, in which he explained his pro-life views. "I now consider it more important than ever that what skills I have in writing and speaking be used to change people's minds about the sanctity of human life," he was quoted as saying. "No reversal of *Roe vs. Wade*, no exhausting battles in state legislatures, will be successful unless a fundamental change in public attitudes on abortion is successfully effected."

Supreme Director Harris, who lives in Rochester, N.Y., welcomed Garry McGivney's family members to the dedication, and said that his dedication to charity was in keeping with Father McGivney's vision for the Order. "All Knights are called to work together to help others," he said. "Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus."

Grand Knight Morgia said, "We are honoring someone who did so much for the Knights of Columbus and his community and went unrecognized for a number of years. Now we have given him the honor he deserves."



Representing the Supreme Council at the dedication ceremony, Supreme Director Arthur Harris presents a bronze sculpture of Father McGivney to Bishop Terry LaValley of Ogdensburg and Grand Knight John Morgia of Watertown Council 259.

GUILD ITEMS

Please Send Items Below To:

Indicate the number of items desired in the space provided. All prices are in U.S. dollars and include shipping and handling, unless otherwise noted.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

- _____ Mousepad — \$8
- _____ Pen — \$8
- _____ Coffee Mug — \$12
- _____ #A/#B Note Cards (6-pack) — \$5
- _____ #A/#B Note Cards (12-pack) — \$10
- _____ 4-Foot Statue Flyer/Order Form
- _____ 4-Foot Statue — \$2,400 (Plus Shipping & Handling)
- _____ 8" Figurine (Fiberglass) — \$50
- _____ 8" Figurine (Wood) — \$150
- _____ Reliquary (Case with Second-Class Relic) — \$25 donation
- _____ 1" Sterling Silver Medal — \$25
- _____ 18" Women's Chain — \$14

- _____ 24" Men's Chain — \$15
- _____ Guild Lapel Pin — \$7.50
- _____ Red Rosary (PG-614) — \$10
- _____ White Rosary (PG-615) — \$10
- _____ Pewter Spoon — \$11
- _____ Luggage Tag — \$5

PRINTED ITEMS — FREE OF CHARGE, EXCEPT AS NOTED

- _____ Parish Priest (Paperback, 240 pp.) — \$12
- _____ Parish Priest Study Guide
- _____ A Model for Our Times booklet
- _____ Prayer for Canonization

COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE FATHER McGIVNEY GUILD, 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: FATHER McGIVNEY GUILD.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS MAY ALSO BE SENT TO THIS ADDRESS.

Write your petitions and send them by April 3, 2017, for inclusion in the Easter Triduum of Masses.



Father McGivney Medal

This medal can be worn with a chain (not shown). 1" in diameter.

Chain sold separately.

Sterling Silver Medal: \$25

18" Women's Chain: \$14

24" Men's Chain: \$15

(BACK IN STOCK)



Collector's Spoon

Crafted in pewter by Fort USA. Features a color portrait of Father McGivney resting atop a winged dove of peace. Cross and K of C emblem also featured. Measures approximately 5". **\$11**



8" Figurine of Father McGivney

Crafted by Italian sculptors. Depicts Father McGivney holding a book with the emblem of the Knights of Columbus embossed on the cover. This figurine can remind us of Father McGivney's presence in our lives and his role as intercessor for our needs. Available in fiberglass with a golden-bronze finish. **\$50**



Guild Pen

Featuring Father McGivney's face on the dome. Blue ink. **\$8**



Luggage Tag

Pick out your luggage at the airport with this distinctive tag. An image of Father McGivney on one side and spaces for your name and contact information on the other side. **\$5**



Guild Lapel Pin

An attractive cast-bronze lapel pin featuring a color portrait of Father McGivney and the emblem of the Order. Approximately 1 1/4" in diameter. **\$7.50**



Full-Color Mousepad

Featuring Antonella Cappuccio's painting "Founding Vision: Father Michael J. McGivney and the Knights of Columbus." **\$8**



FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY GUILD

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS • 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA • NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326



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 Submit Your Intentions

Triduum of Masses

Guild members and their intentions will be remembered in a triduum of three Masses during the week following Easter Sunday, which is April 16, 2017. Guild members are encouraged to send in their intentions for placement on the altar during each Mass. You may submit your intentions by regular mail, by email or through the Father McGivney website (fathermcgivney.org), for inclusion in the Easter triduum of Masses. The deadline for submissions is April 3, 2017. The mailing address is: Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510. The email address is: guild@kofc.org.

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These observations underline the great need for Guild members to continue to pray with fervor that as the new year progresses, so will the Cause of Venerable Father McGivney. Spreading the word of his mission and holiness of life is the best form of promotion we can undertake. He was a parish priest who was constantly bringing the Good News of God's love and mercy to those who carried life's heaviest burdens. He understood the reality of suffering and human misery.

Pope Francis, in his pastoral letter marking the end of the Year of Mercy, speaks of how Christ is always near to those who are in misery. In fact, the letter is entitled *Miserecordia et misera (Mercy and Misery)*. The letter begins by explaining the title, which is a "phrase used by St. Augustine in recounting the story of Jesus in meeting with the woman taken in adultery (Cf. John 8:1-11). It would be difficult to imagine a more beautiful or apt way of expressing the mystery of God's love when it touches the sinner: 'the two of them alone remained: mercy with misery.'"

The pope goes on to describe how the mystery of God's mercy touches the heart of the sinner. This outreach of love and mercy to the sinner is at the very heart of the mystery of the Incarnation, in which we celebrate God becoming one of us by taking on our human nature. One of the prefaces for the Mass states: "For you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin."

No better message could guide us in this new year. In the sacred humanity of Jesus Christ we find the mercy of God that can sustain us in all our difficulties, in all our miseries. Our Lord understands our lives because he took our human nature, except for sin. He is the "King of mercy," declares Pope Francis, and we can turn to him at any moment, most especially when we are discouraged or even in the depths of our misery. In turning to the crucified Christ, we meet the only one who fully understands the pain and suffering lodged deep within our souls. When the misery of our hearts encounters the sufferings of the Sacred Heart, we

can experience some measure of peace and even joy in the midst of the difficult cross we bear.

In his earthly life, Christ was not naïve about the human condition. His passion was marked by terrible physical cruelties, but in addition, he did not escape the miseries of hatred, betrayal, abandonment, rejection and injustice. These he experienced deep within his heart, mind and soul. He understands the physical, spiritual and psychological pains that we endure in our earthly pilgrimage. Broken hearts are often more difficult to bear than broken bodies. Yet divine mercy is near to us in our misery.

Venerable Father McGivney was a man who followed Christ in his ministry of mercy, and was aware of the meaning of human misery. Growing up in an immigrant community that was struggling to survive in a new country brought the young Michael McGivney into contact with poverty and a host of domestic disorders that often accompany severe deprivation. He knew the miseries of life. Inspired by the example of his parents, his relationship with Christ determined his choice to be a "missionary of mercy."

This is a year to storm heaven for the favor of one miracle through our founder's intercession that can be accepted by the Vatican, so we can soon rejoice that Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney will become a *Blessed* Servant of God.

Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, pray for us.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P.

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Guild Director

Vice Postulator