

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


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

Vice Postulator & Guild Director

Dear Guild Members:

Last December we passed a significant milestone in the cause for canonization of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. Dec. 18 marked the 20th year since the cause was officially opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., with the Knights of Columbus serving as the “actor,” or sponsor, for the founder of our Order. This anniversary provides us with a renewed incentive to pray for progress in Venerable Father McGivney’s cause and to report to the Guild any and all favors received through his intercession. As we have stated here many times, a positive judgment on a reported miracle would open the door to beatification for our beloved founder.



As I look back on these 20 years, allow me to relate a few memories that may move others to a stronger and more personal devotion to Father McGivney. In 1996, I was named postulator for the cause and began a wonderful period of prayer and learning both about Father McGivney and the Church’s process for sainthood. For a veteran seminary professor to assume the role of postulator opened a new chapter in which I came to know Father McGivney as a spiritual friend and was introduced to the remarkable family of his Knights. The project was fueled by the energy and determination of our supreme knights – first, Virgil Dechant, who retired in 2000, and now Carl Anderson. The cause would not have been introduced or moved forward without them.

As postulator, I was charged with overseeing the painstaking process of researching and documenting every aspect of Father McGivney’s life and priestly ministry. The years-long process culminated in the compilation and writing of the official *positio* that would serve as the central document making the case for his heroic virtue and holiness of life. This research brought him to life and introduced me to a vibrant spiritual man who accomplished the ordinary duties of a parish priest

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GREAT ‘PITCH’ FOR MCGIVNEY CENTER

The McGivney legacy was recognized at a celebrity fundraiser featuring former major league pitching great David Cone, who helped raise money for the McGivney Community Center in Bridgeport, Conn. Located on the parish grounds of St. Charles Borromeo, the center is sponsored by the Diocese of Bridgeport and provides after-school education and recreation programs for needy young people.

The parish has a close association with the McGivney family. Two younger brothers of Father Michael McGivney served as pastors there: Father Patrick McGivney (1913 to 1928) and Father John McGivney (1928 to 1939). All three McGivney brothers served at different times as supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus.

A five-time All-Star and a Cy Young Award winner, Cone played for five teams in his stellar career and pitched a perfect game with the New York Yankees in 1999. He retired from the sport in 2003 and has worked as a TV analyst for Yankees’ games.

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David Cone speaks to the attendees at an event to benefit young people.

Overcoming Aneurysm

I am 37 and suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm last December. I left the office and got to my car. As I went to unlock the door, all of the sudden I got a splitting headache — the worst of my life. My neck became stiff, and I couldn't move it left or right. My ears were clogged like when you get off of an airplane but worse and more intense than any pressure I had experienced previously with both ears clogged. It felt like someone was lifting my neck up while also pushing down on my head. Nausea set in, and I was fully aware of what was going on but couldn't explain medically what was happening. I had never been more scared in my life. There was no warning or prior build up.

I stood in the parking lot for a minute or so before getting in my car and waiting for about five minutes for the ear clogging to subside. I immediately prayed to Father Michael McGivney, asking for him to get me home safely. I promised him that I would do whatever it took to help advance his cause to sainthood if he would but help me get home to see my wife and children. It felt like the right thing to do because he founded the Knights for people in my situation – at risk of dying and leaving behind a wife and children, but I did not die.

After getting a CT scan, I learned I had suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm. I was admitted to the hospital and had another CT scan,

where they discovered not only that a medium-sized one ruptured but also that I had a second, smaller one behind my right eye. I was scheduled for emergency surgery the following day for the ruptured one.

The surgery went well and my recovery has been faster than expected. Thank you, Father McGivney.

Virginia

New Job

I just heard from my nephew that he obtained an entry level job in his chosen profession. He is bright and hard-working but has had difficulty in his search. I submitted my prayer request in September and am very grateful to Venerable Michael McGivney for his prayers on behalf of my nephew.

Florida

Confession

I asked for Father McGivney's intercession that I may find the fortitude to go to Confession, which I believe I found almost immediately. Not as dramatic a favor as some other examples, but it's very important to me.

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As featured speaker at the breakfast fundraiser, he thanked the 350 attendees for supporting a center for young people in the Bridgeport area. He also expressed his appreciation for the McGivney Center, speaking on the importance of the sense of community and family that the center creates for students. Turning to baseball, Cone shared memories from his days as a Yankee.

Before Cone took the podium, Bridgeport Bishop Frank Caggiano delivered the invocation and reflected on the value of a neighborhood in the life of a child. "In a world where many are guarded or do not feel safe, we must create real neighborhoods where young people are respected, cared for, and loved. That is precisely what the McGivney Center does each and every day, and for that, I am deeply grateful," said the bishop.

Youth speaker Briana Johnson won the hearts of the gathering with her thoughts on the role that the McGivney Center plays in her life. She said that in the future, she wants to be a nurse so that she can give back to the center that has meant so much to her.

The McGivney Community Center was founded in 1992 to create an educational "safe haven" by providing stimulating and enriching programs that foster academic success and self-esteem.

Programs include homework assistance, enrichment activities, Friday club, cooking classes, computers, recreation, holiday events, school vacation program, youth council tutorial services and summer camp.

(This story is excerpted from the December 2017 issue of Fairfield County Catholic.)

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

The power of prayer is shown throughout sacred Scripture. From the words of Jesus to the letters of St. Paul, the centrality of prayer to the Christian life is demonstrated over and over.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray the Our Father, the perfect prayer which offers praise to God and meets all our needs. Jesus also told a parable "about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary" (Luke 18:1).

St. Paul exhorts the disciples often to pray with persistence and faith, telling the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing" (1 Th 5:16-17). To the Ephesians, he wrote, "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit" (Eph 6:18).

As members of the Father McGivney Guild, we are called to pray in a special way. We receive many benefits from the Guild, including a weekly Mass offered for our intentions and regular novenas, yet we also have a commitment to fulfill. That commitment is to pray for the canonization of Venerable Michael McGivney and report any favors received through his intercession. With Father McGivney's cause open and active at the Vatican, it is a perfect time for you to storm heaven for the beatification of this holy priest and founder.

For your convenience, the Prayer for Canonization is printed on this page. You may also contact the Guild to obtain one or more copies of the official prayer card.



PRAYER FOR CANONIZATION

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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
- _____ 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 intentions and submit them by March 25 for the Easter 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**



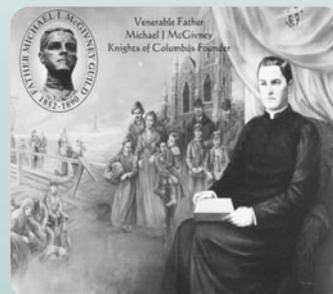
Luggage Tag

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 1¼" 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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Easter Masses

Guild members and their intentions will be remembered in the holy sacrifice of the Mass each day during the week following Easter Sunday, which is April 1, 2018.

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 Masses.

The deadline for submissions is March 25, 2018.

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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in a most extraordinary way. His prophetic emphasis on the role of the lay faithful in the life of the Church, his concern for the protection of the family and ongoing outreach to the marginalized in our society marked him as an outstanding leader in spite of his youth and natural shyness. During his lifetime, his fidelity to the Church and his strong relationship with Christ the Good Shepherd were recognized as the foundation stones of his effective ministry as a parish priest and the founder of a Catholic fraternal society dedicated to faith and family.

Besides the culling and examination of historical documents, my years as postulator involved meeting and working with many wonderful and interesting people. The surviving relatives of Father McGivney were always gracious in offering their inherited memories and stories of "Father Mike," as he is affectionately known among family members. A number of Supreme Council staff members were especially helpful throughout the entire process. Through the efforts and prayers of so many people, Father McGivney was named Venerable in 2008 by the Vatican in recognition of his heroic virtue. A postulator in Rome now handles the major aspects of the cause, and I continue as vice postulator.

I must mention also the notable role in the cause that has been played up to the present by all our brother Knights. These Catholic men, spread throughout many parts of the world, reveal every day the heart and soul of Father McGivney's vision and spirituality. Their dedication to the Church, their families and their countries, and their untiring service to the poor and needy of our society, continue to bring their venerable founder's spirit to life. His vision and mission are evident in so many Knights and their families. Father McGivney intended his fraternal society to prepare men to become better husbands and fathers. He desired them to give of their talents and time to impact the culture. As a result, Father McGivney's Knights are men of prayer and action. They know how to pray intensely and to tackle a project with determination and competence. They are loyal sons of the Church, dedicated to their faith and the works of mercy.

Venerable Father McGivney welcomed everyone into his pastoral care regardless of social or economic status, but like Christ himself, he had a special spot in his heart for the needy and those in trouble. He was attentive to the needs of the families of working men and understood the social problems of unemployment, poverty, alcoholism, domestic disruptions and early death. The problems and sorrows of families touched his heart and moved him to action. The deep well of his relationship with Christ spilled over into his relentless efforts to better the conditions of those who were in need.

The most edifying aspect of getting to know Father McGivney has been the discovery of his spiritual help when called upon in prayer. Early in my work as postulator, I began turning to Father McGivney, begging his intercession for many intentions and favors. From that day to this, I have never been disappointed. He is a spiritual companion who hears our cry for help, as shown by the many reported favors that are printed in each issue of this newsletter. Though we have not yet received Vatican approval of a miraculous event involving the intercession of Father McGivney, we trust that such a favor will come in God's good time. In the meantime, members of the Father McGivney Guild can trust that they have a powerful intercessor before the throne of God.

Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, pray for us.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

**Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P.
 Guild Director
 Vice-Postulator**