

*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:

**A**s we settle into a new calendar year, you are asked to make a firm resolution to “storm heaven” with prayers that Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney will soon be beatified, the next step in his cause for canonization and eventual sainthood. With beatification he would be called Blessed Michael J. McGivney. His holiness of life and heroic virtue were officially recognized in 2008, when the Vatican bestowed on him the title of venerable. A miracle through his intercession is now needed for his cause to move to the next level. As you can read in each copy of this newsletter, many favors are granted through devoted prayer to Father McGivney, and we know that he is active in the lives of his Knights and their families. But most of these favors, though significant, do not qualify for what the Vatican would accept as miraculous. The standards of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints are understandably high, and usually a medical healing is needed to meet them.

The Guild is fortunate always to have under investigation a report of an extraordinary medical event, so we urge you to pray that the



incident currently being investigated will eventually be accepted as miraculous. From other causes, we know that it often takes many years for such a miracle to be approved, but we should also recall the words of Our Lord that by asking we shall receive. Perseverance in this prayer of petition is one of the best ways we can imitate Father McGivney himself, who never gave up on following the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, with confidence and hope.

We should remember that his path to founding the Knights of Columbus was far from smooth and at one point he wrote that his new fraternity had nearly died before being fully formed. His exaggerated expression highlighted a deep frustration over the lack of progress of an organization that he knew would benefit Catholic men and their families; but Father McGivney did not let disappointment overtake him. His sure and steady will and vision should be an inspiration to Knights today who may be discouraged by the difficulties within the Church or a lack of enthusiasm or commitment among Catholic men they seek to recruit. In all your meetings, and before setting out on any charitable or recruitment program, pray fervently to Father McGivney. Ask the founder for strength and a holy zeal as you join with brother Knights on the good works of our Order.

Just think of the immense spirit of hope and hard work that went into the early years of the Knights, growing from one council in New Haven, with a handful of parish men. It spread across Connecticut, to Massachusetts and other states, into Canada and Mexico and then overseas to the Philippines. More recently, the Order has been established

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## HEART OF A PRIEST



The incorrupt heart of St. Jean Vianney is shown within an antique reliquary in the Holy Family Chapel at the Knights of Columbus headquarters.

**A** major relic of the patron of parish priests was brought to the hometown of the holy parish priest who founded the Knights of Columbus, to help commemorate Venerable Father Michael McGivney's first Mass after his ordination.

On the weekend of Dec. 22-23, 2018, the incorrupt heart of St. Jean Vianney was displayed for veneration in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, Conn., the parish where Father McGivney offered his first Mass after ordination, on Dec. 24, 1877. About 1,500 people from as far away as Springfield, Mass., came to the basilica to venerate the relic, including priests, seminarians and young families.

“We are very conscious of the legacy of Father McGivney in this parish and this city,” said Father Christopher Ford, pastor of Immaculate Conception, where the prayer for canonization is recited after each Mass. “We pray that one day soon Venerable Father McGivney will join St. Jean Vianney as a canonized saint.”

The heart relic has been entrusted to the Knights of Columbus by the Shrine in Ars, France, where St. Jean Vianney was pastor for more

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## Cancer Recovery

Just over one year ago, my wife was diagnosed with one of the rarest and deadliest forms of cancer known to medicine. I placed my silver Father Michael McGivney medal along with several others and his relic prayer cards at her bedside during her time in the hospital and her three-month recovery from surgery at home. These are still in her room today. I asked for Father McGivney's intercession on her behalf along with our Lord's blessings. On October 5, 2018, we celebrated her being cancer free for a year! While we still have one year to go before she is safe, I continue to ask for our founder's blessings and the Guild members' prayers. Thank you and God bless.

Rhode Island

## New Job

After my contract at my job was cut to part time, I sought Father McGivney's intercession to find a new job. Through his prayers, I was able to get a new job which paid much more and had benefits. Thank you, Father McGivney!

Arkansas

## Healing Power

A family member was extremely sick and admitted to CICU unit with very small chance of survival. Prayers to Father and God turned

her sickness to recovery. The power of prayer and faith was an absolute miracle. Recovery will be long and difficult, a true testament to God's healing power.

Oklahoma

## Medical Problem Solved

I have dealt with gastrointestinal issues for about 15 years. I've gone through multiple tests with no solid answers. Most doctors have come to the conclusion that I am just very sensitive to gluten. So, I've eaten gluten-free for about five years now. My issues have intensified in the last four years and I have asked Father McGivney to help me find the answers to the mystery of my health. Recently, I think I discovered the problem. Water. We have well water. I haven't drunk our well water for three weeks now and feel completely fine! I started slowly re-introducing gluten into my diet and have had no issues at all. I believe Father McGivney has been a major part of this as he wants me to continue on with his work as a field agent. Not knowing what makes you sick is tough on a person and ultimately is very depressing. I believe that my prayers to Father McGivney have been answered. I had to endure some tests and suffer a long time before the answer was clear. My life as a father, husband, and field agent can now be better than ever! Thank you, Jesus, and thank you Father McGivney!

## DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 1

in Poland and neighboring European countries and South Korea. The spirit of the founder should be our spirit today, and part of our commitment should be to pray each and every day for his beatification. More than his own beatification, we can safely say that Father McGivney ardently desires that all Knights and their families should pursue holiness in their own lives. Thus we know that, in this new year, Father McGivney is asking from you a renewed commitment to prayer, to regular attendance at Mass, to building a domestic church within your home, and to the Order's new Faith in Action program model.

Never doubt that your works and prayers have both immediate and eternal value. Indeed, they may be the tipping point for a miracle that will move Father McGivney toward beatification.

May the year 2019 be filled with Venerable Father McGivney's zeal for the transformation of our world, and may God grant that in answer to our prayers he will be raised to the honors of the altar.

*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**

## 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reliquary (case w/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

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

(Please write your prayer intentions in the space below and mail to the Guild.)



### Father McGivney Medal

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

**Sterling Silver Medal: \$25**



### 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**

**(Back in stock)**

### 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 Pen

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



### 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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### HEART OF A PRIEST, from Page 1

than 40 years till his death in 1859. When his body was exhumed in preparation for his beatification, it was found to be incorrupt, and the heart was taken to serve as a sign of his burning love for God and penitents. Known as the Curé of Ars, he was famous throughout Europe as a confessor and spiritual counselor, spending up to 16 hours a day in the confessional, and was named patron of parish priests in 1929 by Pope Pius XI. In 2009 Pope Benedict XVI named him the patron of the Year for Priests.

The Knights of Columbus began a nationwide tour with the heart relic in early November at the historic St. Mary's Spiritual Center on Paca Street in Baltimore, where the seminarian Michael McGivney had prayed during his four years of priestly formation. More than 200 people came to the chapel to venerate the relic, and Dominican Father Jonathan Kalisch, director of chaplains and spiritual development for the Knights of Columbus, offered the opening Mass of the relic tour.

The relic also was available for veneration during a day of prayer at the U.S. bishops' annual meeting in Baltimore, November 12, and was later brought to two seminaries in the area, St. Mary's and Mount St. Mary's. It was present for two days at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, where Father McGivney founded the Order in 1882, and served as the centerpiece when the parish observed a Solemn Vigil for Purification in reparation for the sins committed by clergymen over the years.

The relic was displayed at the St. John Paul II National Shrine and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, both in Washington, D.C., with Mass offered in the latter site by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio. It also was brought on pilgrimage through the Southeast and Midwest, and made a stop at the Indianapolis conference of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), which was attended by 16,000 young people. The saint's heart will make a West Coast trip from late February through early March.

The Knights of Columbus will continue the relic pilgrimage until early June, when it will be returned to the Shrine in Ars.



On the first day of the relic tour, Nov. 10, 2018, college students knelt to venerate the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney. The relic began a nationwide tour at St. Mary's Spiritual Center in the restored chapel of the former seminary where Father McGivney studied for the priesthood.