

Founder of the Knights of Columbus.
Blessed 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 Member,

The beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney, an answer to our many prayers, has brought an abundance of joy and blessings on the whole Church. With the title “blessed” comes the assurance that the founder of the Knights of Columbus is in the presence of God interceding for those who seek his heavenly assistance. The beatification Mass on Oct. 31, 2020, was a glorious celebration of God’s goodness and mercy that highlighted the miraculous *in utero* healing of Michael McGivney Schachle. Now 5 years old, “Mikey” endeared himself to all by carrying the relic of his namesake to Cardinal Tobin, who represented Pope Francis at the Mass. Guild members can view the video of the beatification ceremony and an account of the miracle at fathermcgivney.org.

We rejoice because our prayers have been answered but also because beatification is one step away from canonization, or sainthood, which will require a second miracle attributed to Father McGivney’s intercession. At this final stage of the long process

that was begun with the opening of the cause in December 1997, we need to focus even more on the Guild’s simple formula:

1. **Join** the Father McGivney Guild. You will receive a quarterly newsletter, and your intentions will be remembered in a weekly Mass offered for Guild members.
2. **Pray** for Father McGivney’s intercession, especially in times of great need.
3. **Report** all favors to the Father McGivney Guild.

Father McGivney was, first and foremost, a parish priest. In declaring him “blessed,” the Church presents an example of fidelity and self-sacrifice that can inspire priests and parishioners alike. His willingness to be of service at any moment and in every situation made him an effective advocate for the families of his parish in a time when the immigrant communities of New England suffered from poverty, illness and the general hostility of society. The premature death of many working men deprived families of a steady income, and the adversity of daily life fostered the abuse of alcohol and other family dysfunctions. Blessed Michael became a friend and helper to all those who turned to him in need, as he continues to do for us today.

It was this heart of charity, the heroic offering of himself, that prompted him to found the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal benefit society whose first principle is charity: charity among the

See **DIRECTOR’S DESK**, Page 4

‘How Good God Is’

The following is an excerpt from the homily of Cardinal William J. Tobin, C.Ss.R, archbishop of Newark, N.J., who represented Pope Francis at the Mass of Beatification for Blessed Michael McGivney in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Oct. 31, 2020.

What we celebrate today is, first and foremost, the faithfulness of God to the Body of his Son, the Church. In recognizing the holiness of Father McGivney, there are timely signs of God’s providential care that can speak in a personal way to each one of us, especially at this moment of our history. Michael McGivney received the faith of the son of immigrants, and gave his life in pastoral service of those most recently arrived in this country. We meet the eldest of 13 children, who worked to keep families united in dignity and security. We are in the presence of an apostle who cared for victims of an epidemic before he himself would die of the disease. We acknowledge gratefully the providence of God in confirming the holiness of this witness by the miraculous cure of an unborn child, healed *in utero* of a fatal multi-organ failure after prayer by his family to Father McGivney. We praise God for the timeliness of this celebration, because 130 years after his death, the brief life of this holy man speaks eloquently to our own path to holiness. ... Each one of us

can certainly find encouragement in the life of Father McGivney, but none more than those of us who are called to become saints as parish priests.

A parish, of course, is more than a priest. A parish is meant to be “the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters” (*Christifideles Laici*, 26). Pope Francis teaches that the parish retains its relevance as an instrument of the Gospel if it “really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 28) and is willing to go out of itself in missionary work. Father McGivney’s life is an illustration of how a holy priest can provide the necessary and intimate connection so crucial in the life and mission of a parish. ...

Father McGivney had no need to advance himself and was content and effective leading his people from behind the scenes. He enjoyed their company and organized activities that created community. He was with them in their sorrows, in the times of death and bereavement. He was sanctified by doing what good priests,

See **“HOW GOOD GOD IS,”** Page 2

Cancer

My sister-in-law was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer and had undergone surgery. I was personally asking for the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney for healing. Her surgeon was so surprised at the result of the post-surgery pathological examination that it was performed three times. It was not cancer!

Philippines

I have been praying for a young woman to go into remission from her cancer, and today she received notice that she has no new growths.

New Hampshire

After my doctor took six ultrasound specimens from my prostate, I was found to be free of any reoccurring cancer. I had had been praying to Blessed Michael McGivney for a couple weeks to ask him for a miracle that I might be cured of any cancer, and my miracle happened.

Ohio

In the fall of 2019, a brother Knight said that he had stage 4 throat cancer, and his doctors told him that he had maybe six months to live. On Christmas Day, he gave us all the very exciting news that his doctors have told him that he had no active cancer cells. Many Knights had been praying for him for many months.

California

Back to Baseball

My 15-year-old son has been playing baseball since he was 5. He has been having several arm injuries and has not been able to play the game to his fullest potential. When he recovers from one injury, he gets hurt again with another. This was disappointing as he very much wanted to make his high school team. I prayed to Blessed Michael McGivney, and my prayers were answered. All glory to God!

Georgia

Ultrasound

In December, our council started an appeal to raise money for an ultrasound machine for a new pregnancy center. I gave pulpit talks at Masses wherein I showed a picture of Father McGivney to the congregation and said, "I am praying to Blessed Michael McGivney, that through his intercession he may grant favor on our council and on our parish and inspire us to give generously." By Christmas, we had raised \$22,000 to purchase the ultrasound with matching funds from the Supreme Council.

Colorado

Safe Delivery

My daughter was experiencing anxiety due to a high-risk pregnancy with the possibility of extremely heavy bleeding during delivery. I received the third-class relic of Father McGivney and began praying for his intercession for a safe delivery. When the morning came, my daughter had some strong contractions, but was calm and said she was ready to go. I talked reassuringly to her and reminded her that God was by her side protecting her and the baby, and to hold the relic in her hand as much as she could and to pray through any fears or stresses. She said she was feeling positive and certainly had a different, self-assured look. Her husband was able to go in with her – no temperature check, no questions asked about his cold. I believe Blessed Michael McGivney's intercession helped every step of the way and that angels were placed in our path. Annabelle was born that evening, a healthy 6 lbs., 3 ounces, and my daughter delivered with no more than normal bleeding. She looks great!

Connecticut

Pain Relief

I had pain in my left leg for a long time. A specialist could find nothing wrong, but the pain did not go away. I prayed to Blessed Michael, and the pain went away. This was before he was elevated to Blessed. I thank Blessed Michael McGivney and God for this favor.

Florida

My husband was having pain in both feet. He had difficulty walking, and sometimes could not concentrate on work or sleep well. We received Columbia magazine with a prayer for Father McGivney's canonization. I started praying to Father McGivney for nine days. Praise God, my husband's feet are now better. The pain has not completely disappeared yet, but he is better now and no longer taking any pain reliever.

New York

I had been suffering from hip pain for months which was getting worse. A couple of weeks before my doctor's appointment, I came across the Father McGivney prayer card and started to pray for the healing of my hip. I was quite amazed to find that the pain started to diminish rapidly. In fact, I thought about cancelling the appointment; however, my wife insisted. The doctor found some very minor arthritis but an otherwise healthy hip.

Alberta

"HOW GOOD GOD IS," from Page 1

good parish priests do today, day in and day out. His "parish" was never limited by the registration rolls. He was not a stranger to jails or hospitals. He fostered respectful relationships with other Christian churches and civil authorities. He was a bridge builder who shunned walls.

Even the signature accomplishment for which he is most remembered, the founding of the Knights of Columbus, grew out of his ministry as a parish priest. This great brotherhood of 2 million men, now spanning the globe, was born from the pastoral ingenuity of a parish priest to respond to the twin challenges faced by the people he served. Because he knew his people well, so well, he recognized the need to help men care for their families, provide for their families in the event of their death, and to remain always united with the Church. Far from the traditional parish society that existed under a real or imagined clerical thumb, the Knights nevertheless had

an essential connection with the Body of Christ. Father McGivney had no need to control the Knights of Columbus. He offered a vision born from practical charity and then trusted the Knights. ...

Brothers and sisters, how good God is to give the Church Blessed Michael Joseph McGivney at this moment of our common pilgrimage. In a time of suffering and division, we glimpse his face among the cloud of witnesses that surrounds us and urges us on. In Blessed Michael, we are reminded that life is not transactional but a gift to be shared. We appreciate that true worship, like fasting, is always centered on a right relationship with God and others, particularly those on the margin of society, and that Christian unity is more than a simple adherence to a common belief. We accept that like him, God calls each one of us – in our own day and our own way – to be vessels of mercy and so enter into our heavenly inheritance. Amen.

GUILD ITEMS

Please Send Items Below To:

Name _____

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.

Address _____

City/State/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

- _____ #A/#B Note Cards (6-pack) — \$5
- _____ #A/#B Note Cards (12-pack) — \$10
- _____ Blessed McGivney Beatification Medallion — \$40
- _____ Beatification Mass Booklet — \$10 one copy / \$6 each additional
- _____ 4-Foot Statue — \$2,400 (Plus Shipping & Handling)
- _____ Reliquary (case w/third-class relic) — \$20 donation

- _____ Red Rosary (PG-614) — \$10
- _____ White Rosary (PG-615) — \$10
- PRINTED ITEMS — FREE OF CHARGE UP TO 25 COPIES
- _____ A Model for Our Times booklet
- _____ Prayer for Canonization
- _____ Prayer for Canonization card (with third-class relic)

Many of the Father McGivney Guild promotional and devotional items previously listed on this page may now be purchased online with a credit card or check at the KnightsGear website (knightsgear.com).

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 prayer intentions in the space below for the Easter Octave of Masses, and mail to the address above.)



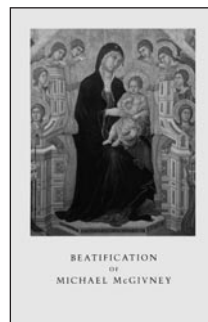
Prayer for Canonization card
Now that Father McGivney is "Blessed" this prayer card for his canonization is more necessary than ever. Order up to 25 prayer cards.



Beatification Medallion
A beautiful bronze medallion featuring a bas-relief by Chas Fagan, based on the official image unveiled at the beatification by the same artist. The reverse depicts the coat of arms of the Archbishop of Hartford, host of the beatification, and inscriptions memorializing the occasion. Comes in a blue gift box. While supplies last. 2.75" x 0.25" **\$40**



Third-Class Relic
A small piece of cloth touched to the bodily remains of Father McGivney is contained in an ornate reliquary and placed in a solid plastic case. Use for personal prayer and devotion. **Donation: \$20**



Beatification Program Booklet
A 52-page perfect-bound booklet from the beatification Mass with a short biography of Father McGivney; texts for the Rite of Beatification, including the apostolic letter in Latin and English; the Collect for Blessed Michael McGivney's liturgical memorial and a description of Hartford's Cathedral of Saint Joseph. While supplies last. **Single copy: \$10**
Additional copies: \$6 each

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael 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 Blessed Michael 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.



Father Michael J. McGivney Guild

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



Photo: Aaron Joseph

Sisters of Life, shown gathered at the statue of Father McGivney in Waterbury, Conn., conducted an “In the Footsteps of the Founder” pilgrimage in December 2020, visiting significant sites in the life of Blessed Michael McGivney in his hometown of Waterbury and in Thomaston, where Father McGivney was the pastor of two parishes. The pilgrimage was led by Sister Veronica Sullivan, S.V., who grew up in Waterbury. Her brother Father James Sullivan offered Mass for the pilgrims in Waterbury’s Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, where he is rector.

IN THIS ISSUE —

From the Director 1
 Homily by Cardinal Tobin 1
 Favors Reported 2
 Guild Items 3
 Easter Octave Masses 4

DIRECTOR’S DESK, from Page 1

members, brother to brother; charity within the Church in collaboration with the priest; charity toward all those in need, regardless of race or creed. The widow and orphan were for him symbols of a world suffering from neglect, violence, injustice and other assorted evils.

As a newly ordained priest arriving at St. Mary’s in New Haven in 1878, he had little inkling of his future as the champion of those with little social standing or material resources. Shy and retiring by nature, but intensely zealous in spirit, he quickly developed an ability to communicate easily and effectively with a wide range of people. His transparent goodness and gentleness combined with his inner spiritual strength to form what a fellow priest described as an “indomitable will.” It was this gracious mixture of gentleness toward people and power in pursuing the good that drew parishioners to entrust to him their troubles and the care of their immortal souls.

In the end, his holy life and heroic virtue were based on his close daily, prayerful union with Jesus Christ amid struggles, setbacks and illness. He is an inspiration for all of us, clergy and laity. May his cause for canonization go forward with the support of our prayers and the invincible grace of God, so that we may one day call him a saint.

Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

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

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

Easter Octave Masses

Guild members and their intentions will be remembered in the holy sacrifice of the Mass over eight days, beginning Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. 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). The deadline for submissions is April 1. Mail: Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510, or email: guild@kofc.org.