

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 and Guild Director

Dear Guild Members,

The season of Lent is a time when God calls us in a special way to turn away from sinful or ungodly things in our lives and turn towards the mystery of his abundant love. We often focus on what to give up for these 40 days, which is appropriate.

But we should keep in mind that our Lenten sacrifices are meant to draw us closer to God and neighbor through something that is added to our lives – God's grace.

This time of renewal beckons us to strengthen our commitment to Christ and to serve the needs of our neighbors more generously. We express this commitment in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This regimen echoes the life of Blessed Michael



McGivney, who was known as a true man of God and who tirelessly served those in his pastoral care. The combination of prayer and service became a watchword in his organization of the Knights of Columbus. Knights today, all over the world, are faithful to his vision, praying for God's guidance and reaching out to those most in need. A look at this newsletter shows the amazing works of Knights in the besieged nation of Ukraine, where a new center for orphans has been named for Father McGivney (see story below).

Father McGivney learned the meaning of Lent at home as the eldest of 13 children. His parents were devout Irish immigrants. His deeper understanding of this holy season came from his seminary training, which in the 19th century was rigorous. His professors and formation directors over the years were Vincentian, Jesuit and Sulpician priests. Under their guidance, he developed a true priestly heart and brought to his parish assignments an example of deep prayer and an extraordinary generosity of spirit. He quickly became beloved by his parishioners and formed strong bonds of friendship with men and

See **DIRECTOR'S DESK**, Page 4

McGivney Center for Ukrainian Refugees



The new Blessed Michael McGivney House, with an image of the priest on the façade, serves Ukrainian refugees. (Photo: Tamino Petelinšek)

A resource center for those fleeing Russian aggression in Ukraine was named for the Knights' founder in a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly. The Blessed Michael McGivney House was opened Dec. 3, 2022, at Our Lady of Częstochowa Parish in Radom, Poland, to provide food, clothing and other essentials to individuals and families displaced by the war. Taking part in the ceremony were Knights of Columbus leaders, Bishop Marek Solarczyk of Radom, and the parish's pastor, Father Wiesław Lenartowicz.

In an address to those assembled, the supreme knight said, "At the Supreme Convention earlier this year, I had a message for Poland and Ukraine. That message was that you are not alone, and that we as Knights of Columbus stand together as a family." Noting that the December season of Advent was a time "of great hope and anticipation of the joy of Christmas," he added, "it's also an Advent marked with great suffering. ... But Christ comes to us in our suffering and embraces our suffering with us."

FAVORS REPORTED

Mindful of the fact a second miracle is needed for Father McGivney to advance to sainthood, the Guild continues to ask all members to pray to this Blessed servant of God and to spread knowledge of and devotion to him in your parishes and Knights of Columbus councils. Please report any favors received to the Father McGivney Guild (guild@kofc.org).

Cardiac

When my grandson was diagnosed in utero with a congenital heart condition, I prayed in St. Mary's Church in New Haven at the tomb of Father McGivney. Our grandchild was born with no serious problems and required only few days in the NICU. He is 2 years old and developing normally, with minor issues. We named him Michael. Thank you, Blessed Michael, for your intercession!

New York

I received a text from my mother that one of her best friends had been placed in ICU with congestive heart failure. I prayed to Blessed Michael McGivney for his restoration. Later, I received a text that he is alive and resting at home.

Texas

I collapsed at home, suffering cardiac arrest. My heart struggled to restart, and I was shocked several times. It quivered for nine minutes in the ambulance. I was in a coma and on a ventilator while undergoing hypothermia treatment to save my brain and organs. I was not expected to live. Several prayers were offered through the intercession of Father Michael McGivney. I survived and have recovered completely.

Tennessee

I obtained from the Guild and faithfully wear the third-class relic of Blessed Michael McGivney. I am a Fourth Degree Knight and have dedicated 52 years of service to my assembly. I recently had a stroke that almost took my life. I pray daily for the intercession of Blessed Father McGivney, and I believe he has blessed me in healing.

Ontario

Our dear friends and neighbors, a good Catholic couple, decided to move to Maryland so the wife could have a severe pulmonary problem treated at Johns Hopkins. An operation ensued, and she got an infection, which prompted a small heart attack and stroke. Her husband told a neighbor that he felt like all he could do was watch his wife die. I encouraged all our neighbors to pray, and I focused my prayers on Father McGivney. After several days, she started to recover.

North Carolina

Cancer

My dad is 84 years old and has been ill with bladder cancer for a number of years. I asked for Father McGivney's intercession that my dad may receive a good medical report. He saw his doctor today, and there is no sign of cancer.

Newfoundland

My husband and I have been praying for healing of his cancer and to send the Holy Spirit into our souls so we will be prepared for the Lord's answer. At our post-op appointment one week after surgery to remove his bladder, no cancer could be found. They said he was cancer-free. Thank you, Jesus! Through the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney, he has been healed.

Indiana

A dear friend's teenage granddaughter found a tumor growing on her neck. After they prayed daily to Father McGivney for a

successful treatment, doctors were able to shrink the tumor with medication to a small size so it could be excised. After four months, there has been no recurrence.

New Jersey

Blessed Michael McGivney, we thank you that through your intercession, Chrissy turned a corner in her fight with lymphoma. We continue prayers for your intercession with any required treatments and guidance for her team of doctors and strength and encouragement for all. Thank you.

Connecticut

Recovery

I thankfully report a miracle in my own life. Daily prayers to Father McGivney have been answered with a cure of my 50-year addiction to alcohol. Thanks be to Blessed Michael's intercession on my behalf and to God's abundant grace!

Texas

My son was hospitalized with bipolar disorder and attempted suicide. Upon release, he wanted no part of therapy and medication. I have been praying to Blessed Michael McGivney that he accept his illness and seek a stable life with medications and therapy. Little by little, he has progressed and is doing his therapy. He is taking his meds and realizing he must take care of himself for life. It has changed his and his family's life.

Connecticut

Healing

A woman from my parish was hospitalized due to septic shock. When I visited her, she was in a coma. I celebrated the last rites for her, invoking the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney to bless her and give her strength. Together with her parents, I also displayed his holy card and prayed the special prayer for his intercession. Miraculously, she recovered the next day and was able to return home before the end of the week. Thank you, Lord, through the intercession of Father McGivney.

Missouri

My son was diagnosed with a stomach growth and severe stress. I said special prayers and intentions for improving his health, including reciting the Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney and the Holy Rosary daily. I'm very happy to write that my son's growth has diminished in size, and his stress level has also been greatly reduced.

California

My husband was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease that had him very ill this past summer. I prayed the novena to Father McGivney, and my husband has responded very well to the treatments and is heading towards remission.

New York

I prayed for Father McGivney's intercession for the healing of a friend's son after an auto accident. He had three fractures in his neck, three in his spine, several broken ribs and a collapsed lung. The accident was on a Saturday evening, and he was in the ICU for three days, then a room for one day, and was released on the fifth day. After two weeks, he is back in school.

Louisiana

GUILD ITEMS

Please Send Items Below To:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

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. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

- _____ Beatification DVD — \$45
- _____ Blessed McGivney Beatification Medallion — \$40
- _____ Reliquary (case w/third-class relic) — \$20 donation
- _____ Father McGivney Plaque — \$190
- _____ 8” Figurine (Fiberglass) — \$50
- _____ Red Rosary (PG-614) — \$10
- _____ White Rosary (PG-615) — \$10

_____ Pewter Spoon — \$11

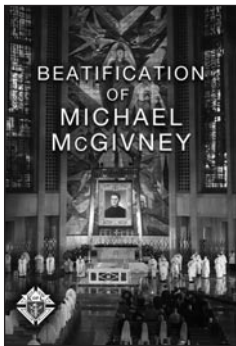
PRINTED ITEMS — FREE OF CHARGE UP TO 25 COPIES

- _____ *A Model for Our Times* booklet
- _____ Prayer for Canonization card
- _____ Prayer for Canonization card (with third-class relic)

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.

Many more Father McGivney promotional and devotional items may be purchased online with a credit card or check at the KnightsGear website (knightsgear.com).

Write out your prayer intention below and mail to the Guild, or submit an intention online at www.fathermcgivney.org



Beatification DVD

The historic Mass of Beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney is captured on this DVD of the ceremony of Oct. 31, 2020. Relive the moment when Father McGivney was proclaimed “Blessed.”
\$45.00 (includes shipping)



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**



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**



Father McGivney Plaque

This semi-relief plaque is perfect for hanging in a council meeting place. Solid yet portable, it measures 12 in. high, 10 in. wide, a half-inch deep, and weighs 4 lbs. Made of compressed marble powder and plated with a composite of copper and nickel, each piece is hand-designed by a U.S. Catholic art house. **\$190**



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and other Knights of Columbus leaders conducted a Coats for Kids event at the new Blessed Michael McGivney House in Radom, Poland, which serves Ukrainian refugees. (See story on Page 1.) (Photo: Tamino Petelinšek)

IN THIS ISSUE —

From the Director 1
 McGivney House for Refugees
 Favours Reported 2
 Guild Items 3

DIRECTOR’S DESK, from Page 1

women from every walk of life. Lawyers, politicians, day laborers and the unemployed found a sympathetic ear in the young priest. Housewives and young single men and women depended on his understanding and advice. Their concerns and the needs of their families moved him to form a fraternal organization at once spiritual and practical.

When the Knights of Columbus were founded, ordinary Catholics took on serious penance and sacrifices during Lent. Every weekday was a fast day, and giving up pleasures and entertainments was commonplace. To encourage a spirit of self-denial, many parishes had evening devotional services, and Fridays were marked by Stations of the Cross and extra time for confessions. Focus on the passion and death of Christ found its source in the holy sacrifice of the Mass, and Lenten practices were an extension of the celebration of the Eucharist. All that Father McGivney preached and all the good he did for the poor and the marginalized found its source in his daily Mass.

Pope Francis frequently urges us to rediscover the spiritual riches of the Mass. In addition to Sunday attendance, Mass during the week and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can provide the spiritual nourishment the Holy Father sees as paving the way to true renewal in the Church, both in our personal lives and in our families. For Pope Francis, a sincere celebration of Christ’s resurrection at Easter depends on our spiritual investment in the life of prayer and sacrifice through the season of Lent. This reality sparked the zeal of Father McGivney and continues to be the lifeblood of the Church today. Our attention to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and his presence deep within our hearts will increase our confidence and hope, even in the face of today’s moral confusion.

The meaning of Lent and the sacraments and devotions of the Church that help us to grow spiritually have not changed since the time of Blessed Michael McGivney. No longer a matter of obligation, many Lenten practices require a personal determination to deepen our relationship with Christ. Prayer and sacrifice continue to lead us to give time and attention to God’s presence in our lives and should compel us to reach out to those who need our understanding, our compassion and our material support. The vitality of Father McGivney’s vision can be seen in the ongoing work of the Knights of Columbus; it is a vision for all of us to take up and imitate.

This Lent is the ideal time for prayer that Blessed Michael McGivney’s canonization will not be long in coming. A second miracle is required by the Church as the sign of approval from God. Guild members have already witnessed the answer to our prayers for his beatification. Now we must storm heaven for the declaration that Father Michael McGivney is a saint.

Easter will be all the more joyous after we have spent our Lenten season in a sincere response to the call for holiness of life and greater care for our neighbor. This is the legacy of our founder, and it is ours for the taking.

Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us!

Devotedly in Christ,

Father Gabriel B. O’Donnell, O.P.

Father Gabriel B. O’Donnell, O.P.

Guild Director

Vice-Postulator