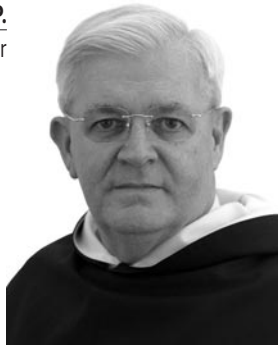


Founder of the Knights of Columbus.
Blessed Michael McGivney,
Apostle to the Young and
Protector of Christian Family Life,
Intercede for Us.



FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

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



Dear Guild Members,

Our mood during the first months of any new year often depends on reports of major news outlets and the commentary of TV analysts. For Christians, the worldly viewpoint of the entertainment and news industries must be measured against the message of the Gospel and the triumph of grace in Jesus Christ. "Let not your hearts be troubled" (Jn 14:1) is our Lord's message in every day and age.

As we head into the holy season of Lent, with Ash Wednesday coming on Feb. 14, we see a need for an increase Christian hope and confidence in God's providence. The peace and beauty of the world seem buried beneath the unfortunate conditions of wars, political divisions, and mass migration on many continents, with the attendant suffering, death, and separation of loved ones. Conflict and the disruption of peaceful daily life can seem like a contagion that invades our lives and homes through various modes of media. Prophets of doom, who relish announcing bad news, are not in short supply. For the Christian, hope and confidence in God are the needed antidotes to fatalism and despondency. We know that Jesus has won the victory over the world, a triumph we celebrate each Sunday, the day of the Lord, and in a special way at Easter (March 31).

As we seek solutions in our lives and peace of mind amid a world in turmoil, we may look to our heavenly intercessor for prayer and intercession. Blessed Michael McGivney was by nature a quiet, reserved young man. He preferred a life of reflection and order. In his busy life as parish priest and pastor, he sometimes longed for the regimen of study and contemplation he knew in seminary. Yet his interior struggle to fulfill the duties of his state in life, even when he was inclined in the opposite direction, became part of his hard-won holiness, his heroic virtue. In contrast to the peaceful ideal he desired, life in late-19th century New England was marked by political and cultural crises that demanded great sacrifice of the young priest. The Irish potato famine, the aftermath of the American Civil War and the waves of immigration from Europe, unwelcome among the upper classes of American society, provided fertile breeding ground for poverty, oppressive labor practices, and domestic disorders that plagued newcomers to the United States. These conditions became a call for a great generosity of spirit from the academically inclined priest and pastor. Holiness often requires that we sacrifice our desires and preferences to serve the needs of others.

Father McGivney could appreciate the sufferings of his people for, in his own life, the struggle to do God's will was so real and intense. He learned the way of sacrifice through the demands of his vocation. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has underlined this point when he says that freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought. Using our freedom for the greater good, even if we suffer in doing so, is the royal road to true holiness.

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

CUA Council Brings Relic to D.C. Campus

The Knights of Columbus' top college council hosted a first-class relic of Blessed Michael McGivney on Oct. 30, 2023, with a procession through campus and a late-night Mass attended by more than 100 students. The event was sponsored by Catholic University of America Council 9542 in Washington, D.C., which was honored as this year's top college unit at an awards ceremony a few weeks earlier.

The relic procession began at McGivney Hall, home of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, where Vice Postulator Brian Caulfield showed a seven-minute video about the *in utero* healing of Michael McGivney Schachle, a miraculous event that led to the beatification of the Knights of Columbus founder. As council members led the way through the evening dark with candles and an image of Father McGivney, Pallottine Father Frank Donio, council chaplain, carried the reliquary holding a piece of bone into St. Vincent's Chapel, where he placed it in the sanctuary for veneration. Among the speakers before Mass was CUA President Peter Kilpatrick, who congratulated the council for its award and spoke about his devotion to Father McGivney and the university's longtime collaboration with the Knights. Father Donio was joined by

Dominican Father Aquinas Guilbeau, director of campus ministry, in concelebrating a 10 p.m. Mass.



Liam Foley, grand knight of Catholic University of America Council 9542, delivers remarks during relic veneration in St. Vincent's Chapel on Oct. 30.

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).

In Utero

My daughter is a year old. A few months ago, she was having daily multiple infantile spasms to the point where we were going to put her on a keto diet. All of a sudden, the spasms ceased, and her neurologist said that there's no medical explanation why. We prayed to Father McGivney nightly.

Minnesota

Sight Restored

After 14 years with no sight in his right eye due to a botched surgery, Father James now has 90 percent vision in that eye! Periodic exams had deemed that damage was irreversible. Father prayed for two years for Father McGivney's intercession. Then came along another optometrist's optimistic opinion for corrective surgery. When Father James awoke from surgery, he knew a miracle had occurred. Praise the Lord!

Connecticut

Neck Fracture

Thank you, Father McGivney and the Guild, for all the prayers for my husband Matt's successful surgery from his fractured neck. Matt is now able to raise his left arm without any pain. I am forever grateful! God bless!

New York

Favorable Diagnosis

I prayed to Father McGivney that my wife be free of cancer. The surgery was successful, and no metastases were found. Thank you, Father McGivney.

British Columbia

My PSA levels had been gradually increasing until this year when they spiked. My doctor agreed to test them again in a month before performing biopsies. I began praying to Father McGivney every day, specifically asking for good PSA numbers. I got tested four weeks later, and when I saw my doctor, he said he can't explain it. My PSA numbers were the lowest they have been in ten years! Thank you, Father McGivney!

Michigan

Reconciled

My wife and I had a serious issue and were prepared to separate with irreconcilable differences. I prayed to Father McGivney, and overnight my wife saw fit to forgive me. Having disappointed my wife previously, it was impossible to expect her to forgive. The power of prayer, Father McGivney's intervention, and the love for each other overshadowed the anger and hate.

Illinois

Employment

My prayers for my brother-in-law to find a job have been fulfilled. He was out of a job since May of this year and will start his new job this week.

Alcoholism

My son is an alcoholic who suffers from liver disease. I have been praying the prayer for Father McGivney. As a result of that prayer, my son has stopped drinking for about five months, and his liver function is improving. He is still sick, but has greatly improved. Thank you, Father McGivney.

Texas

Exams

I am grateful and thank God for the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney, whom I asked to help my daughter pass her exams. It was a big problem for her; there was a lot of material and very little time, but everything ended successfully. She passed on the first time.

Poland

House

Thank God, through the intercession of Father McGivney, I have been able to buy my house, and my decision about my job was also made. Father McGivney, thank you for your intercession. All my requests have been heard in God's time. Let's pray for everyone. Amen.

Honduras

Recovery

The baby daughter of a friend was dying. She'd been in a coma for weeks as her body shut down. I asked Blessed Michael McGivney for his intercession and prayers that she be made healthy enough to receive a donor liver. Three days later, she turned a corner and was moved to the top of the transplant list. Yesterday, she received a donor liver and survived the procedure. I believe fully this is a miracle granted through the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney. After speaking with my friend, I asked her permission to report the favor.

Florida

I have been praying, asking Blessed Michael McGivney to heal some of my friends. One had a brain bleed, and I prayed that she be healed. She has fully recovered. This may not be a miracle, but I feel that Father McGivney's hand lifted her. Thank you.

Maine

My stepfather had aneurysm surgery and was in ICU for three weeks with a fever, but they could not find the source of infection. After praying with a first-class relic of Father McGivney, he recovered and was released from the hospital with a good bill of health.

Connecticut

My wife severely sprained her ankle yesterday. She stays at home with our four children, and she was in a lot of pain. I asked for Blessed Michael McGivney's prayers, and she reported that her ankle was healed and that she doesn't feel any more pain from the sprain.

Texas

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

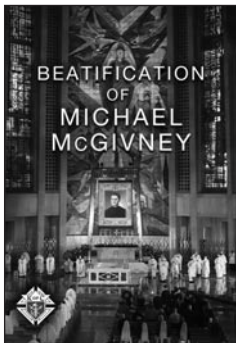
PRINTED ITEMS — FREE OF CHARGE UP TO 25 COPIES

- _____ *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**



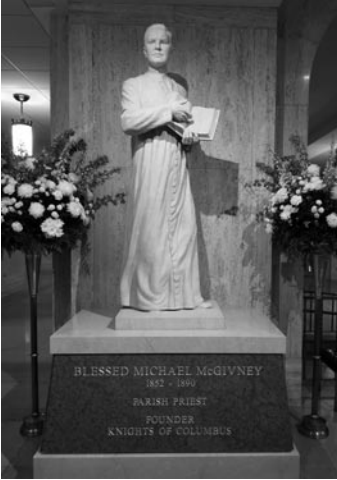
8” Figurine of Father McGivney

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**



A new marble statue of Blessed Michael McGivney was installed and dedicated on Dec. 8, 2023, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington, D.C. A full report of the event will be published in the next issue.

IN THIS ISSUE —

From the Director 1
 CUA Campus Hosts Relic 1
 Favors Reported 2
 Guild Items 3
 McGivney Relative Pens Story 4

DIRECTOR’S DESK, from Page 1

In spite of the chaotic state of the world in which he lived, Father McGivney was able to preach a gospel of hope. Setting aside his own preferences, he drew upon his relationship with God and his faith in God’s providence to remind his parishioners that in Jesus Christ God conquers all the ills and evils of this world. Father McGivney could not have preached a gospel of hope without reference to the ultimate goal of our faith – life with God in heaven for eternity. Clever and insightful as he was in analyzing the problems of the culture and society, it was faith, sustained by prayer, that provided him with the strength and wisdom to lead his flock to understand that we are destined for eternal bliss in the vision of the Blessed Trinity.

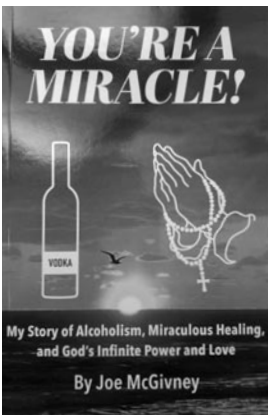
This spirit of self-sacrifice and spending oneself for others was at the heart of his founding of the Knights of Columbus. He envisioned a fraternal society in which Catholic men would squarely face the difficulties of the times; but rather than

becoming overwhelmed by the situation, they would draw upon their confidence in God and their acceptance of the truth that the duties of our vocation must direct and nurture our lives. Wherever there are Knights of Columbus, Blessed Michael McGivney’s principle of self-sacrifice and trust in God’s providence is found. That is his spiritual legacy and one of the chief expressions of his sanctity. We pray that he will soon be canonized, but for the moment we ask for the grace to imitate his example and remain faithful to our vocation. 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



McGivney Relative Pens Story of Recovery

In an engrossing, well-told tale that details his struggle with alcohol and near self-destruction, Joe McGivney offers a glimpse into the dark world of addiction and the bright hope of recovery that he found through prayers to Blessed Michael McGivney. Joe was far from his Catholic faith, living to drink, and somehow carrying on with a financial investment career when he was diagnosed with alcohol-

induced psychosis and committed to a locked psychiatric ward. How he recovered nearly overnight and learned about Father McGivney’s intercession and how his long-suffering wife saw him through recovery is the basis of this amazing story. “You’re a Miracle: My Story of Alcoholism, Miraculous Healing, and God’s Infinite Power and Love” (available on Amazon) will inspire every reader and carries a special message and meaning for anyone who has struggled with addiction. Joe has traced his lineage to Father McGivney and was the subject of a feature story in *Columbia* magazine (March 2022 issue).