

Founder of the Knights of Columbus.
Venerable 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

America's Next Blessed

These are days of great rejoicing as we prepare for the raising of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney to the status of *Blessed* Michael McGivney. The Mass of Beatification will take place Oct. 31, in Hartford's Cathedral of Saint Joseph. In confirming his holiness of life and the power of his intercession, the Church brings to fulfillment years of devotion and prayer on the part of Father McGivney Guild members. Our prayers have been answered!



Beatification brings to mind holiness of life and spiritual vision. This is the ideal moment to recall the spirituality of the young priest who spent his life faithfully serving the people of God and offering himself in sacrifice on their behalf while preaching the Gospel, teaching the truths of the Catholic faith, administering the sacraments and guiding his people in practical ways within a culture that was both anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant. In a short span of years, dying just after his 38th birthday, this holy parish priest accomplished more than many who live to old age. Father McGivney is best known for the two great graces of his life: First, he was a priest, a man set apart for the service of God and the salvation of souls; second, he established the Knights of Columbus, now a worldwide fraternal society for Catholic men with more than 2 million members. A society based on faith in action, his Knights have carried on his vision and mission to this

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A McGivney Miracle

The healing of an unborn child from a fatal medical condition was the miracle approved by Pope Francis that opened the way for the beatification of Venerable Father Michael McGivney. The child was the 13th for Michelle and Daniel Schachle of Dickson, Tenn., in the Diocese of Nashville. Early in the pregnancy, a routine ultrasound revealed the boy had Trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) and a serious case of fetal hydrops, a relatively rare condition in which two or more major organs of the unborn child fill with fluid. The couple was offered abortion by doctors who said that the boy was sure to die in utero. A pro-life Knights of Columbus family, the Schachles declined abortion and prepared to accept whatever God would send them.

A general agent for the Order's insurance program in Tennessee, Daniel began to pray to Father McGivney with his wife, and asked their children, relatives, friends and colleagues to do the same. If the child survived, they promised to name him after Father McGivney.

In March 2015, Daniel embarked on a pilgrimage with fellow K of C agents to Fatima, and Michelle went with him after getting clearance from her doctors to travel. At the renowned Marian Shrine in Portugal, where the Blessed Mother visited three shepherd children and the Miracle of the Sun occurred in 1917, Daniel and Michelle experienced spiritual consolation and the hint of a healing. Still praying through the intercession of Father McGivney, the couple attended a Mass offered by Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, the Order's supreme chaplain. The Gospel of the day,



Little Mikey poses with a 4-foot statue of Father McGivney after hearing that the miraculous healing he experienced in the womb opens the way for the K of C founder to be beatified on Oct. 31.

read by Dominican Father Jonathan Kalisch, director of chaplains and spirituality for the Knights, told the story of the Roman official who asked Jesus to heal his son, who was sick unto death. When they heard the words of Jesus, "Go, your son lives," Daniel and Michelle looked at one another, and she felt "a veil" lifted from her.

After returning to Tennessee, Michelle visited her doctors for an ultrasound and was told that the child showed no signs of fetal hydrops. Without treatment or medical intervention of any kind, the child in the womb was healed of the fatal condition. Michael McGivney Schachle, affectionately called Little Mikey, was born May 15, 2015, and is now a healthy, active child with Down syndrome, surrounded by a grateful and loving family.

Word of the extraordinary healing reached the Supreme Council a few months after the child's birth, and the postulator of Father McGivney's cause, Dr. Andrea Ambrosi,

directed a preliminary investigation with the assistance of Vice-Postulator Brian Caulfield. A formal diocesan tribunal was opened in Nashville in April 2016 to investigate the healing, assess medical records and call witnesses with firsthand knowledge of the case, including the attending physicians. The tribunal concluded its proceedings in September 2017, when the full 700-page report, including testimonies and medical records, was sent to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Over the course of more than two years, the congregation studied the case and convened

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FAVORS REPORTED

COVID-19

My mother was admitted to the emergency room suffering from a urinary tract infection. My father had just passed away from coronavirus and my mother also tested positive in the hospital. I asked Father McGivney to intercede for a miracle. My mother was given medications, oxygen and blood plasma. She slowly recovered completely after a stay in the hospital. Today she is healthy and happy, and I want to thank you, Father McGivney, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Knights of Columbus, and the holy Catholic Church.

Texas

More than a Dream

Twenty-five years ago, I had a dream of walking on a dirt road to a church. As I got closer, I saw a priest sitting in a large wooden chair dressed in a black vestment from another time. He greeted me and said he was waiting for me. As we walked, he told me my life was about to change and I would do much for those in need. A few weeks later, I joined the Knights of Columbus. In the council chambers, I noticed a picture of Father Michael McGivney and realized this was the priest I saw in my dream!

New York

Back to Normal

I was diagnosed with chronic lymphatic leukemia in January 2019. The oncologist began medication treatment in January 2020 when my white blood count had risen way above normal. In July 2020 a CAT scan showed my lymph nodes returned to normal and a blood test showed my white blood cells were in the normal range. I prayed to Father McGivney to intercede, to guide me to the right doctor and her to the right treatment. I pray thanksgiving and for continued progress in my health.

Virginia

Employment

I lost my job in June because of the pandemic and experienced daily anxiety which led to depression. Sometime in July, my mother asked me who Father McGivney was and what he did in his lifetime. I told her he was the founder of the Knights of Columbus and he will be beatified this October. My mother started a novena to Father McGivney that concluded on August 3. On August 4, I received an email from my former employer asking me to work for them again! Thank you, Father McGivney, for your intercession!

California

My prayer for a job was interceded for by our Venerable Father McGivney. I keep praying that he will soon be canonized for all the miracles he has presented to our Almighty God.

Arizona

I was unemployed for two years when I entered the Santuario de Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Barcelona, where I found a newsletter about Father McGivney in a side chapel. I was impressed by the infinite graces that the Lord grants through him. I began to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and, together with the Venerable, I asked the Almighty Father to hear our prayer. So it was when I left the church, I received a call for a job interview. I am still working more than a year later!

Spain

Foot Saved

On Easter weekend, I developed blood clots in my right leg which caused my right foot and toes to turn purple and black. After four surgical procedures to improve circulation, it was determined that I would need my right foot amputated. Rosaries and prayers to Father McGivney were offered. On the morning of my surgery, there was an unexplained, dramatic change in circulation and surgery was cancelled. In July, my condition of blood circulation had miraculously improved to the point that only my right little toe and a slight portion of my right foot were amputated instead of my entire foot. I attribute this "miracle" to the power of prayer and the intercession of Father McGivney.

New Jersey

Addiction

My grandson had a difficult upbringing. At 16, he dropped out of school and began a life of drug addiction and all the suffering, crime, and loss of self-respect that goes with it for eight years. He overdosed and kept going until he was homeless. I prayed to Father McGivney to intercede as he has done so many times to help young people. My grandson came home and has been clean for nine months. He is facing all his debts, working full-time. It is a miracle. He is filled with positivity and happiness. Thank you, Father McGivney, for your intercession.

New York

One of my brothers is a recovering drug addict who has been clean for many years and has rebuilt his professional focus and family. I gave him Father McGivney's prayer card when he was still struggling to rebuild his life. I just found out that he keeps the card on his desk and prays to Father for professional guidance.

Connecticut

Cancer

My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019. As she started her chemotherapy in January 2020, I started asking Father McGivney for his intercession that she be healed. After months of chemo sessions and surgery, the doctor said her breast cancer was gone.

California

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a board of medical experts who declared that the healing had no medical or scientific explanation. The congregation also referred to a panel of theologians who affirmed the exclusive intercession of Father McGivney. On May 26, 2020, the case was brought before Pope Francis, who approved the miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney and declared that the founder of the Knights of Columbus could now be beatified, the last step in the canonization process before sainthood. The Vatican announced the Holy Father's approval the next day.

In his annual report at the Supreme Convention last August, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said that the healing of Little Mikey was a true Knights of Columbus miracle, having involved the Order's commitment to protecting human life from conception to natural death, the dignity of persons with intellectual disabilities, the

centrality of the family as the domestic church and the mission of the insurance program to protect families for generations.

He said, "Why did this miracle heal an unborn child in the womb? Why was that healing discovered through ultrasound technology? Why was a child with Down syndrome saved? Why was he conceived into a large Catholic family, a family whose father sees his business as a vocation of service to fellow Catholics, a father who is a dedicated brother Knight of Columbus? The answer to all these questions must have deep meaning for the future of the Knights of Columbus. ... How can we not see in the circumstances of this miracle an affirmation of the vision and legacy of our founder? And how can we also not see in the circumstances of this miracle the call to each of us, as brother Knights of Columbus, to live more fully our own vocation of charity, unity and fraternity?"

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 _____

- _____ Mouse Pad — \$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/third-class relic) — \$20 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.

(Write your prayer intentions in the space below and mail to the address above.)



Father McGivney Medal

This medal may be worn with a chain (sold separately). 1" in diameter.

Sterling Silver Medal: \$25



Full-Color Mouse Pad

Featuring Antonella Cappuccio's painting "Founding Vision: Father Michael J. McGivney and the Knights of Columbus." **\$8**



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**

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**



Guild Lapel Pin

An attractive cast-bronze lapel pin featuring a color portrait of Father McGivney and the emblem of the Order. Approximately 1 1/4" in diameter. **\$7.50**



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**



Father Michael J. McGivney Guild

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Spirit Juice Studios

Michael McGivney Schachle, at left, whose healing as a child in the womb was declared a miracle through Father McGivney’s intercession, sits with his parents, Daniel and Michelle, and six of his 12 siblings.

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day, reaching out to those in need, supporting and strengthening family life and the domestic church, and promoting Catholic values amid an increasingly secular culture.

Father McGivney’s training for the priesthood was rigorous and intense. Seminary formation in his day emphasized the supernatural ideal of the priesthood and the need for the Catholic priest to be a man of discipline and spiritual depth. Seminaries in North America understood the priest as one set apart for the service of God. The central focus of this program was the role of the sacraments, especially the holy sacrifice of the Mass, Confession, Anointing of the Sick, and the typical prayers and devotions of that era. His daily prayers included the Divine Office in Latin, filling the hours with prayer and contemplation. Evidence of his piety was discovered during the initial exhumation of his body from the family gravesite in Waterbury, when a sewn image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was found under his vestments along with a brown scapular and a white scapular, the latter worn by Third Order Dominicans.

Well aware of the prejudices and injustices suffered by many immigrants, the seminarian Michael brought to this training a heart made compassionate and sensitive to the sufferings of those around him. He understood the social ills that flowed from the poverty and family dysfunction common among those recently arrived on the shores of America. The priest Michael McGivney was exemplary as one steeped in a prayerful relationship with Jesus Christ and prepared to lay down his life for his neighbor.

Founding the Knights of Columbus flowed from his unwavering faith in the love of God and the mystery of the cross of Christ. “Greater love than this, no man has, than to lay down one’s life for one’s friend” (John 15:13). Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he organized

a fraternal benefit society of Catholic men who would band together in faith and “lay down their lives” in generous service to those most in need. In turn, this would strengthen their appreciation for their lay vocation to become faithful and faith-filled husbands. Such “dying” would build up the family unit. The fraternity of the Knights would soon identify charity as its first principle.

Faith in Christ and his Church could, in Father McGivney’s vision, become an instrument to transform the larger social structures beyond the parish, town, city or state. The founder intended that the influence of his fraternal society would have an impact beyond the borders of racial, religious or social stereotypes. The history of the Knights of Columbus proves the wisdom of the spiritual vision of this extraordinary parish priest and founder.

Father McGivney was a man ahead of his time. He anticipated the movement within the Church, expressed fully in the Second Vatican Council, to call upon the lay faithful to become more involved in the work of evangelization. He was a man of vision, a man of God, a founder and a priest. His beatification scheduled for Oct. 31 is surely a day the Lord has made.

Devotedly in Christ,

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

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Guild Director

Vice-Postulator