

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,

Priests in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., as well as those throughout the United States and around the world were privileged to offer Mass with their people on August 13, 2021, the first feast day (memorial) of Blessed Michael McGivney. In this issue, you can read accounts and view photos of this memorable day in the life of the Church and in the history of the Knights of Columbus. In addition to Masses offered in St. Mary's Church in New Haven, where Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, liturgies were held as far away as Poland, South Korea and the Philippines. The worldwide impact of Blessed Michael McGivney was truly on display.



Father McGivney's powerful intercession also has been noted among countless Catholics who call on him for their needs, whether it is relief from cancer, help with family relationships, overcoming addiction, finding employment or even buying or selling a home. No intention is too big or too small for the attention of this heavenly intercessor, as you can see in the following pages of favors reported. Mindful that a second miracle attributed to his intercession is needed for Blessed Michael to move to the final stage of sainthood, we are all asked to storm heaven with our intentions and to send any favors received to the Guild (guild@kofc.org).

Many people lament the state of our culture today, especially as it impacts young people. In his day, Father McGivney also was concerned about young people and the negative influences on their lives. Rather than simply regret the situation, he took action, and sought to form and inform young Catholics as they advanced toward adulthood. Father McGivney invested time with the teens and young adults of his parish, offering them advice and spiritual counsel but also arranging religious and recreational activities to sustain their faith and promote the wholesome values central to

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Worldwide Celebration for First Feast Day

Due to the international reach of the Knights of Columbus, the first feast day of Blessed Michael McGivney was celebrated in a number of countries across the globe with Mass, prayer services and veneration of first-class relics. Since Father McGivney's feast day of August 13 falls between his birthday (August 12, 1852) and day of his death (August 14, 1890), devotees were able to celebrate for three days, highlighting the life, legacy and continuing intercession of America's newest blessed.

As with other blessed in the Church, Father McGivney's feast day (memorial) is inscribed on the liturgical calendar only in the diocese where he lived and died – now the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn. – although the Vatican has allowed votive Masses to be offered in other areas where Knights are present (see sidebar, page 4).

At St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., where Father McGivney founded the Knights in 1882, a votive Mass for Blessed Michael was offered on the evening of August 12, followed by an overnight prayer vigil that led to the first feast-day memorial Mass at 8 a.m., with special prayers, readings and petitions composed specifically for Father McGivney. Memorial Masses were also offered at 10 a.m. and noon that day to accommodate the many Knights and others devoted to Father McGivney.

Dominican Father Jonathan Kalisch, the principal celebrant for the vigil Mass and director of chaplains and spirituality for the Knights, said in his homily, "What strikes me about Blessed

Michael is that he was not singular. By that, I mean, everything he did, he did not simply do alone. He sought again and again to accompany the men, the women, the students, the pilgrims. He walked with them, he encouraged them. He elicited their work and their prayers for the Church and the faith, calling forth something great that they had no idea they had inside of them. Tonight, in this vigil of the first feast day of Blessed Michael, we

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With a portrait of Father McGivney and a first-class relic to his right, Father Pawel Sass, pastor of Nativity parish in Washington, D.C., delivers a homily during a feast-day Mass at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in the nation's capital. Among the attendees were officers of the DC State Council, including State Deputy Christopher Pierno. (Photo: Spirit Juice Studios)

FAVORS REPORTED

Father McGivney has always been a powerful intercessor, but since his beatification last October, the reports of favors received have multiplied greatly. The list of favors below provides a window into the hearts of those who are devoted to Blessed Michael McGivney and provide a testament to his continuing ministry to those in need.

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 servant of God and to spread knowledge and devotion of him in your parishes and Knights of Columbus councils. Please report any favors received to the Father McGivney Guild (guild@kofc.org).

Here is a sampling of favors reported to the Guild since the last quarterly newsletter:

Newborns

My good friend was told at 18 weeks of her pregnancy that her baby had a reverse umbilical flow and would not survive past 24 weeks. She went into hospital for bed rest and close observations at around 26 weeks. After many novenas were offered, by the grace of God, baby James was born at 30 weeks.

Pennsylvania

I asked that Blessed Michael McGivney grant to my friend Mark and his wife a newborn free of the defects predicted by the Trisomy 13 diagnosis. Maddie was born at 4 lbs. as a beautiful and perfect tiny child! I am so grateful for this intercession. It is truly a miracle!

Connecticut

ALS

My cousin Michael L. was diagnosed about two years ago with ALS, a disabling disease with no known cure. He depended on a wheelchair and walker. When I spoke to his wife recently, she told me that Michael had a sudden improvement so much so that his doctors had no explanation and said Michael could return to work. I truly believe that my prayers for Blessed Michael McGivney's intercession were answered.

New York

Return to Church

My wife was afraid to go back to church due to COVID and would almost be in a state of hysteria if you mentioned going to church. I did the novena prayer for the canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney on August 1 and requested that she would lose her fear of going back to church so she could attend Mass again. On August 14, I asked my wife about going to church, and she said yes. She also said she liked the church. Thank you, Blessed Father McGivney.

Michigan

Recovery

My wife, Barb, and daughter Frances rushed me to the emergency room of the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. I landed in the ICU and was diagnosed with TTP. My heart, lungs, and kidneys were affected. Father John Putnam asked the people at 7 a.m. Mass to pray for me. And pray they did, as well as the local Knights council, the office staff and other groups. As a result of this storming of heaven with prayers, I went home 14 days later. Thank you, Father McGivney.

North Carolina

After suffering a heart attack, I received two stents with a catheter. The drugs used in the procedure reduced my kidney function to 20%, and I was told that the damage was permanent. I started to pray to Father McGivney to intercede for me, and four months later my kidney function was normal for my age of 76.

Ontario

My son was battling alcoholism and anxiety and had three relapses. I prayed to Father McGivney daily for many months, and now my son has been alcohol free and is in a great state of mind for almost six months. I continue my daily prayers to him.

New Jersey

Our son, Gabriel, was diagnosed with diabetic ketoacidosis, a critical condition of Type 1 diabetes. Prior to this, he was vomiting, feverish and hyperventilating for two days. That afternoon, he lost consciousness and was immediately transported to the ICU. I then prayed the rosary and invoked the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney that God would save his life. The next two days he began a stable recovery, and two days later he was discharged. *Vivat Jesus!*

Alberta

A past grand knight in a coma was rushed to the hospital. After an intercession prayer to Blessed McGivney that the Lord lay his hand on the servant knight, we felt miracles happened. He was revived by the doctors in the hospital and found to be COVID-19 positive. Time was a factor. Knights were mobilized in prayer, and he has fully recovered. The initiative of Father McGivney is felt to this day.

Philippines

For nearly four months, my nephew experienced persistent delusional and psychotic behavior due to Weineke-Korsokoff syndrome triggered by alcohol abuse. He was deemed permanently disabled, and the family was told he would spend the rest of his life needing 24/7 care. But after constant prayers to God and Father Michael McGivney, he literally awakened, to the shock of all his doctors and family. Four months later, he has returned to God, is alcohol free with the help of AA, and is an active Knight.

North Carolina

Our 27-year-old daughter felt weak and sick. The nurse told us to get her to an emergency room as the bloodwork was showing liver failure and high levels of potassium that could cause major heart issues. I drove six hours to get her to the ER while praying and asking for prayers through Blessed Michael McGivney. My boss and his family lifted her up to Father McGivney with a rosary in her name. Within 12 hours, the repeat bloodwork showed all levels within normal limits, and we were sent home. Thanks be to God and Father McGivney.

Mississippi

Employment

Unemployed since December 2020, I recently found a good job. My son's godfather and my brother Knights prayed for a good outcome.

Calgary

My son was unemployed since January 2020. After being unsuccessful finding employment due to COVID-19, he started his own consulting company. I asked Blessed Michael McGivney daily to intercede with God to assist my son in the success of his new company. Today, his company was awarded a lucrative five-year contract. Thank you, Blessed Michael McGivney, for answering my prayers.

Virginia

Cancer

In March 2018, my husband was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer that had spread to his lungs and brain (nine tumors). The week we were at Dana Farber Cancer Institute getting diagnostic tests, we ran into a friend who was also there for diagnosis. This friend, a devout Catholic, told us about Father McGivney and said he would add my husband to his daily prayers and the prayers of his congregation. Almost immediately, the treatment started working. My husband is now cancer free, healthy and very grateful for the prayers and intercession of Father McGivney.

Maine

Our family friend was diagnosed with breast cancer last year. Upon receipt of my *Columbia* magazine containing prayers and devotions, I prayed daily the prayer for Blessed Michael McGivney's canonization. Today, I spoke to Linda, and she reports she is clear of cancer. I had told her a few months ago that I had been saying this prayer for her and she wholeheartedly feels that Blessed Michael indeed helped to cure her.

Ohio

My wife was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer. The chemo treatments made her very sick. She was also tested to see if she carried a breast cancer gene; if so, it would put our children at risk. I prayed to Blessed Michael McGivney daily for his intercession to get her through her chemo sessions and heal her. This week, we received news that her PET scan showed no signs of additional cancer, her chemo treatments are done, and she doesn't carry the gene. We offer a joyous prayer of thanksgiving!

Illinois

Two months ago, my wife was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She immediately began radiation treatment and we asked for Blessed Michael McGivney's intercession that the cancer and all its symptoms be removed from her body. Our prayers, through Father McGivney, have been answered. My wife has been diagnosed as cancer free.

South Carolina

I prayed to Father McGivney to intercede on behalf of my husband. He has had prostate and colon cancer as well as various forms of skin cancer, including melanoma. He had recent blood work indicating he may have leukemia. He saw the oncologist today, and while it is likely he does have leukemia, pending further evaluation, it is likely a mild case, stage 0, with no treatment at this time, just follow up every six months. I thank Father McGivney for interceding and for good results today. In the name of Jesus, my husband and I are very grateful.

Connecticut

My Dad was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in March 2021. From that day, I prayed devoutly to Blessed Michael McGivney to heal Dad. He went through a round of radiation and chemo treatments and had a feeding tube feed to supplement calories and nutrition since he could not swallow. When Dad was retested after the treatment ended, he was told there was no cancer! That news came on Father McGivney's birthday, August 12. He's eating, he's gaining weight, and the tube has been removed. Thank you, Blessed Father McGivney, for your intercession.

Pennsylvania

My nephew's wife has a nephew who was diagnosed with cancer. None of them is Catholic but when I found the prayer card inside my *Columbia* magazine, the first person I thought of was the little nephew. I explained to my nephew what I wanted to do and explained the contents of the card to him; he was ecstatic and asked that I pray for the boy with cancer. Recently, I talked with my nephew's wife, and she showed pictures of her nephew, saying his cancer is gone. Praise God!! Thank you, Father McGivney, for your prayers.

Kentucky

We asked Father McGivney for my sister-in-law's colon cancer surgery to be successful, and for my goddaughter to be cancer free after her surgery. Now both are cancer free following surgery!

New Mexico

Blessed Michael McGivney, thank you for providing success with Karen's knee surgery and for guiding her medical team through the surgery that turned out to be complicated. She is so happy she had it done and is making great progress in her healing.

Connecticut

My Heart Stopped

In June, I went into the ER with chest pain. While I was in the catheter lab, my wife went to the hospital chapel. She prayed the prayer for the intercession of Father McGivney. No problems were found in my arteries. I was diagnosed with heart inflammation, observed overnight and prescribed meds. I was being discharged when I collapsed. My heart stopped for 20 seconds. This is known because I was connected to a heart monitor. Before the Code Blue could be executed, my heart restarted without medical intervention.

Texas

New Home

A good friend was in need of an apartment she could afford. I prayed, and others did as well. We just received the good news that she is accepted and will move into her new, affordable apartment at the end of August, with prayers answered through the intercession of this great priest and Blessed of God, Michael McGivney.

Ontario

My husband and I both have disabilities and health issues, and so does our daughter. We lost our home due to our struggles, and we had to find another place to live. My husband had joined the Knights and struggled due to disability issues, but we received a prayer card of Blessed Michael McGivney. We prayed to him. It is hard to explain, but we began to feel and know he was (and is) with us in our struggles. We have received many favors, including a new home, almost too many blessings to count or explain. Would write more here if there was room. Thank you!

South Dakota

Family Reconciliation

I recently prayed a novena to Father McGivney that through him my oldest daughter's family would grant me healing between my son-in-law and myself while they were visiting me these past few weeks. Through Father McGivney's intercession, I truly believe that we were given the blessings to heal our differences and become closer.

Washington

COVID-19

We have had a family member diagnosed with COVID-19. His prognosis was not good; he was told that he would have to be put on a ventilator. I began to pray to our beloved Father McGivney. Within a few days he was breathing on his own and on his way to recovery.

Florida

Guidance on Celebrations of Feast Day

According to a directive from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, August 13th is inscribed on the liturgical calendar as a memorial of Blessed Michael McGivney for the Archdiocese of Hartford only. The congregation, however, noted that “it will be possible for gatherings of Knights [of Columbus] to celebrate a votive Mass in honor of Fr. McGivney with the permission of the local ordinary and respecting rules or precedence laid out in the Table of Liturgical Days.”

In accordance with this guidance, Knights of Columbus chaplains as well as pastors with active councils in their parishes outside of the Archdiocese of Hartford may seek permission from their diocesan bishop to offer a votive Mass of Blessed Michael McGivney each year on August 13. In this way, Masses honoring Blessed Michael McGivney may be offered in all places where the Knights of Columbus is active around the world, provided the permission of the local ordinary is obtained.

A votive Mass in honor of Blessed Michael McGivney may also be offered on other days, again with permission of the diocesan bishop, when Knights of Columbus gather for special occasions, as long as the chosen day does not conflict with a solemnity or other obligatory observance on the Church’s liturgical calendar.

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ask the Lord to open the treasury of graces to all those people and things and areas of life that Blessed Michael particularly loved and worked for in his time.”

Mass and other devotions were held also in parishes throughout Connecticut and other U.S. states, as well as in Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, South Korea, France, Poland and other nations where Knights of Columbus are active. It was a display of great Catholic unity brought about by the humble parish priest who founded the Order on the principles of unity and charity that is now a worldwide fraternity of more than 2 million members.

In addition, the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center in New Haven, formerly the Knights of Columbus Museum, hosted an international novena August 4-12 with clergy from many different countries leading prayers each evening for the online virtual service. Among the participants was Cardinal Gérald Cyprien Lacroix of Quebec, primate of all Canada; Mexico’s Msgr. Eduardo Chávez, postulator for the canonization cause of St. Juan Diego; Msgr. Pedro Quitarioro, director of communications for the bishops’ conference in the Philippines; Father Philip Brown, rector of St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore, where Michael McGivney studied for the priesthood; Father Paul Gaggawala, whose religious community cares for AIDS orphans in Uganda; and Maryknoll Father Gerald Hammond, recipient of the Order’s Gaudium et Spes Award in 2018, who has spent most of his 50-plus years of priesthood as a missionary in Korea.

During the 139th Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention, hosted in New Haven August 3-4, a week before the feast day, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said in his annual report, “By elevating our founder, the Lord has called us to greater depths of courage and faith, and greater heights of charity, unity and fraternity. In the beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney, the Lord has not only confirmed where the Knights have been in the past. He is showing us where we must go in the future. We go forward confident that the intercession of our founder is guiding us. And we go forward with renewed hope for his canonization.”

At the convention’s opening Mass in St. Mary’s Church, Hartford Archbishop Leonard Blair said in his homily, “Whereas Blessed Michael once offered inspiration, action and guidance on earth, now he does so from his place in eternity. He is close to his brother Knights and their families still; close to the brother priests who have followed him as

chaplains; close to all the faithful who invoke his name and intercession in their need.”

Archbishop Blair also offered Mass on August 13 to close the archdiocesan synod that was postponed by a year due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. He chose the date for the synod Mass to coincide with the feast day of Blessed Michael. “We are truly blessed to celebrate for the first time on the Church’s liturgical calendar one of our own priests” who more than a century earlier had empowered the laity and built up the Church in the way that the synod is designed to do, said Archbishop Blair in his homily during the Mass held in an arena in Wallingford, Conn., to accommodate more than 1,000 lay synod participants from archdiocesan parishes. “Father Michael McGivney, now Blessed Michael McGivney, set out for the deep in his day to make a catch for Christ. He did not content himself with simply managing his parish, but he went out to the periphery, where social ills and deprivations were robbing people of a decent life, and even their faith, in the midst of life’s woes.” The archbishop said that Father McGivney has left a legacy of faith, hope and charity to all Catholics in the archdiocese and beyond, noting that his legacy is “alive, active and vibrant in the organization he founded, the Knights of Columbus. Like their blessed founder, they strive to be staunch in upholding the Catholic faith and in their empathy and outreach.”

Special guests of the Knights of Columbus and the Father McGivney Guild included members of the Schachle family, who drove from their home in Tennessee to take part in many activities related to the feast day. Daniel and Michelle Schachle brought seven of their 13 children, including their youngest, 6-year-old Michael McGivney Schachle, whose healing from a fatal condition in the womb was the miracle that led to Father McGivney’s beatification. The couple gave a witness talk before the Mass and all-night vigil August 12 in St. Mary’s Church, took part in the feast day Mass and festivities, and participated in a tour of significant sites in the life of Father McGivney in Waterbury, where he was born, and Thomaston, where he was pastor of St. Thomas Church at the time of his death.

Three days of celebration concluded on August 14 with Mass on a mountain overlooking Waterbury, where Father James Sullivan, rector of Immaculate Conception, Father McGivney’s boyhood parish, celebrated Mass with a dozen fellow priests and hundreds of lay faithful.

New Haven



At St. Mary's Church in New Haven on August 12, Daniel and Michelle Schachle speak about the healing from a fatal condition of their youngest son in the womb after doctors had advised abortion. The healing of Michael McGivney Schachle, now an active 6-year-old, was declared a miracle by the Vatican and led to the beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney. *(Photo: Aaron Joseph)*

Waterbury



With the city of Waterbury and an image of Father McGivney as a backdrop, Father James Sullivan, rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Father McGivney's boyhood parish, offers Mass on the mountaintop with fellow Connecticut priests. *(Photo: Aaron Joseph)*

Poland



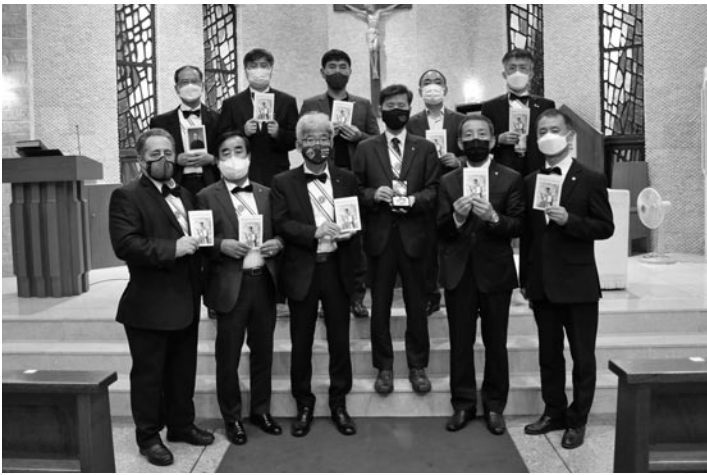
Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, archbishop emeritus of Krakow, leads Knights in prayer before a first-class relic after offering a feast-day Mass at the Shrine of Divine Mercy. *(Photo: Maciej Maziarka)*

Mexico



Following a feast-day Mass offered at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, Msgr. Eduardo Chávez, postulator of the canonization cause of St. Juan Diego, holds a first-class relic; and Francisco Saenz, director of fraternal mission in Mexico, holds a portrait of Blessed Michael McGivney. *(Photo: Cristian Salvatierra)*

South Korea



Knights of Columbus leaders in South Korea gathered for a prayer service for the first feast day during which a first-class relic of Father McGivney was offered for veneration. Among those attending were District Deputy Anthony Gray and Territorial Deputy Shin Kyoung-Soo.

Philippines



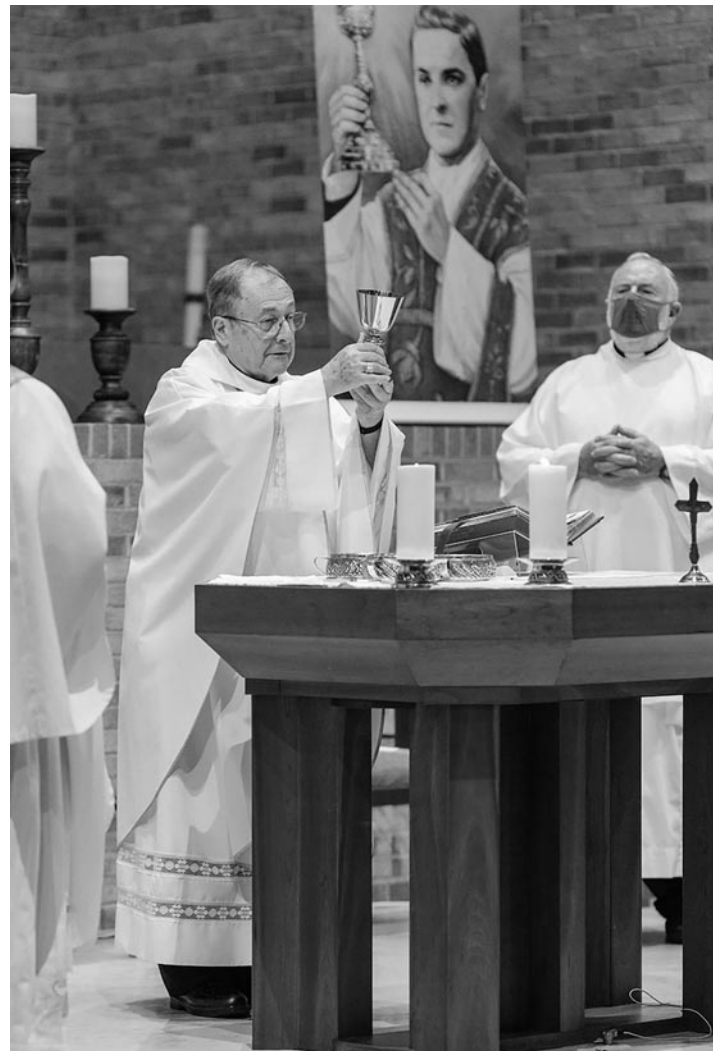
Knights of San Miguel de Marilao Council 8581 in Bulacan gather around a poster of Father McGivney after a feast-day Mass offered in San Miguel Arcángel Church. (Photo: Johannes Mercado)

Waterbury – Thomaston Pilgrimage



During a tour of McGivney sites on August 14, Sister of Life Veronica Sullivan stands near the location of the original rectory of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, where Father McGivney was pastor at the time of his death on August 14, 1890. In the background are the original train tracks of the line that was active during Father McGivney's lifetime, which is now part of a railroad museum. (Photo: Aaron Joseph)

South Carolina



With an image of Blessed Michael McGivney in the background, Bishop Robert Guglielmo of Charleston elevates the chalice during a feast-day Mass at Our Lady of the Hills Church in Columbia, S.C. The votive Mass gathered Knights from councils throughout the state. (Photo: Spirit Juice Studios)



Standing outside the newly named Blessed Michael McGivney Center for Renewal in Waterbury, which offers social services for those seeking a new start in life, are Father James Sullivan, who blessed and dedicated the building; Msgr. John Bevins, rector emeritus of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, who holds a first-class relic; and the center's director Nicole Plaski. (Photo: Aaron Joseph)

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.

_____ #A/#B Note Cards (6-pack) — \$5

_____ #A/#B Note Cards (12-pack) — \$10

_____ Blessed McGivney Beatification Medallion — \$40

_____ 4-Foot Statue — \$2,400 (Plus Shipping & Handling)

_____ Reliquary (case w/third-class relic) — \$20 donation

_____ 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 (**NEW AND UPDATED!**)

_____ 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



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.



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**

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



During the mountaintop Mass August 14 in Waterbury, Conn., reliquaries containing bone relics of Father McGivney were displayed and afterward were made available for veneration by the hundreds of attendees. (Photo: Aaron Joseph)

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Catholic moral teaching. He guided young parishioners toward a deeper relationship with God and a mature vision of a faith-filled adulthood long before the term “youth minister” became popular.

The newly ordained priest gathered young men and women in his spiritual care for devotions in the church, often followed by a social event in the parish hall. Carefully laid plans for parish picnics and theatricals were aimed at bringing the young closer to the Church and to form a spirit of cooperation and charity among themselves. The youthful Father McGivney knew the importance of creating a safe environment in which the young might enjoy themselves and at the same time come to a stronger awareness of God and the meaning of life. His message was that of the dignity of the human person and the unconditional love of God for every person under his care.

Father McGivney was even open to young Protestant men and women who were intrigued by this zealous priest and sought his spiritual help. One Yale student not only converted to the Catholic faith but became a Jesuit priest and eventually the president of Georgetown University. The daughter of the most prominent Protestant clergyman in New Haven became a Catholic under Father McGivney's tutelage, and her parents called upon him to pray over her when the young lady sadly died young. He was courageous when it came to reaching across established boundaries to lend a hand to any who asked his help. His determination to gather the young into the embrace of his pastoral care sometimes led him to take on the material concerns of families when the young could be the victims of injustice or social problems typical of immigrant communities of his era. Father McGivney touched people deeply as a priest of God,

leading them to heaven, and as a man who understood the frailty of the human condition.

His concern for others continues today. In an age when young men and women are bombarded with conflicting information about the meaning of human life, sexuality and even the significance of a person's gender, it is fitting that we should implore the Apostle to the Young to intercede for our children, that they may be protected from the confusion and false ideologies in the media and entertainment industry. Our sons and daughters need a heavenly patron, and no one is better suited for this charge than Blessed Michael McGivney.

Our hope is that in the near future we will celebrate his canonization as a saint. This will require another miracle attributed to his intercession. As in the past, this will be accomplished by the faith and prayers of those who trust in the power of his intercession. This should be the special intention of all Guild members, and it will be remembered in my weekly Mass celebrated for the intentions of all Guild members.

Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us, protect our children and lead us to life eternal. Through Christ our Lord.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

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Guild Director

Vice-Postulator