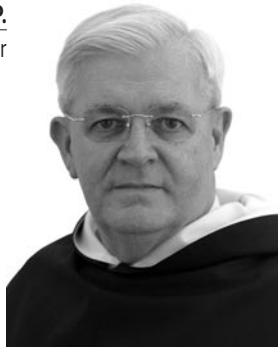


Founder of the Knights of Columbus.  
Blessed Michael McGivney,  
Apostle to the Young and  
Protector of Christian Family Life,  
Intercede for Us.



FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

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



## Dear Guild Members,

With the final months of 2023 upon us, we prepare for the observance of national holidays and the sacred seasons and feasts of the Church. It is a good time to pause and consider the current state of Blessed Michael McGivney's canonization process. The increase in the membership that we have seen in the Guild means an increase in the petitions offered to God that Blessed Michael will be declared a saint. That is good news.

Along with the prayerful intercession of Guild members, there is a growing awareness of Father McGivney's holiness of life and his exemplary service as a parish priest. As with many modern saints, history does not record remarkable mystical graces or extraordinary phenomena in Father McGivney's life; rather, his was the simple and ordinary life of a parish priest marked by a quiet yet profound heroic virtue and extraordinary fidelity and generosity. He always went above and beyond the norm in serving his people.

Pope Francis often urges priests to live close to the "sheep" under their pastoral care and share the "smell of the flock." In Blessed Michael, we meet a priest whose nearness to his

parishioners in their poverty and vulnerability captured the hearts of his flock, who were not shy in declaring their love for their spiritual leader. This was most dramatically manifest in his funeral, reported in the press for its unusual outpouring of affection and sense of loss at the death of the young pastor. This was just a few days after his 38th birthday. Whether he was speaking with local politicians, graveyard laborers, or guards at the city jail, Father McGivney was at ease, ready to listen and offer any assistance possible.

The most notable of Father McGivney's pastoral initiatives, one that gave rise to a kind of local fame, was his founding of the Knights of Columbus. We may take that founding for granted today, 141 years later, but it was a remarkable feat for a young assistant priest to gather the men of New Haven to start a society that has stood the test of time when so many similar groups have come and gone. The ongoing growth and expansion of the Knights Columbus in various parts of the world are strong reasons for the growing devotion to Father McGivney, as men and women across the globe seek the spiritual help of the saintly young priest. His heroic pastoral charity is the legacy of the Knights of Columbus and their contributions in providing hands-on service to those in need. Recent examples are the Order's continuing service to families displaced by the war in Ukraine and the immediate aid provided to victims of the Maui wildfires.

In the canonization process, the Church requires two miracles for canonization; one so that the candidate may be declared "Blessed," and a second for the bestowal of the title "Saint." It is here that the prayers of Guild members are most important. We know that God

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## McGivney Relic at World Youth Day

A group of eight U.S. college Knights traveled in early August to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, accompanied by administrators from the Order's College Council program. While taking part in the many WYD events, the college Knights made available for veneration a first-class bone relic of Blessed Michael McGivney to fellow pilgrims from many parts of the world. Among them were Knights from several councils in Mexico South, traveling with a delegation from the Archdiocese of Yucatán.

"So many people were stopping us to venerate the relic and wanted to know more about Father McGivney," said Matthew Salomons, a past grand knight at Providence College who serves as coordinator of College Councils.

In addition, Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, Conn., and Bishop Gary Janak of San Antonio, Texas, each placed the relic on the altar during separate Masses with WYD pilgrims.

World Youth Day culminated on August 6, feast of the Transfiguration, with an open-air Mass by Pope Francis, who said in his homily, "To all of you, dear young people, who are the present and the future, yes, to all of you, Jesus now says: 'Have no fear,' 'Do not be afraid!'"



Bishop Caggiano, with college Knights, staff and chaplains, holds a McGivney reliquary after the Mass he offered in the Church of São Cristóvão in Lisbon on Aug. 4. (Photo by Samuel Sorich)

# 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](mailto:guild@kofc.org)).

## Cancer

My daughter, age 28, had extensive surgery to remove her cancer in a New Haven hospital. The surgery was a success, but the next morning, nurses asked her to move from the hospital bed to a chair. She dislodged a large pulmonary embolism that caused cardiac arrest. CPR was performed for up to two minutes, and against great odds, she was revived. With a poor prognosis, she was admitted to the SICU. I went to St. Mary's Church in New Haven on Blessed Michael McGivney's feast day (August 13), prayed at his tomb for complete healing, and venerated his relic. Two weeks later, Laura was released from the hospital!

Florida

Through Blessed Father McGivney's intercession, my daughter's leukemia is in remission.

Connecticut

We prayed for our niece to be cancer-free and for her and her family to have strength as she went through surgeries and treatments. We recently learned there was no evidence of metastasis. Thank you, Father McGivney.

Saskatchewan

## Employment

I prayed to Blessed Michael McGivney for an appropriate part-time job for my husband in retirement. He was a history teacher with a doctorate yet experienced much rejection even after having over 30 years of exceptional experience. The job he got is at a private religious institution, and the timing, amount of days, and vacations are perfectly coordinated so that he can help with child care for our first grandson. We feel it is a miracle, and so do the people who hired him!

New York

Being a Knight of Columbus, I was reading that you could ask Blessed Michael McGivney for help in finding a new job. I was caring for my ailing mother and needed better work-life balance. I started a novena to Father McGivney. On the fourth day, my phone started ringing. Three people called to say there was the perfect job for me. I got the job, and my boss is a huge Catholic in a company that has a great pro-Christian culture. I couldn't have asked for a better opportunity.

Illinois

## Recovery

A member of our extended family has consented to mental health help after persistently refusing for the past year. I have been praying every day for this intention to Blessed Michael McGivney. Thank you, Father McGivney, again.

Connecticut

After my brother Knights started praying to Blessed Michael McGivney, our Erica started getting better in the ICU. As she fought for her life, the hospital's eucharistic minister was able to meet her. We prayed together, asking Father McGivney for help. On August 12, Erica was released from the hospital. It was Father McGivney's birthday when our Erica came home.

New Jersey

## Confession

Thank you so much for praying that my husband would go to Confession. Thanks be to God, he went this afternoon to LaSalette Shrine in Massachusetts. Please continue to pray for his spiritual healing and for the gift of faith and the gift of prayer. Please continue to pray that we all get to heaven.

Rhode Island



Arizona State Deputy Thomas Kato holds a reliquary with a bone fragment of Blessed Michael McGivney at SS. Simon and Jude Cathedral in Phoenix. During August the relic visited a number of parishes across the state. (Photo: Brett Meister, Diocese of Phoenix)



A national procession to the Shrine of the Martyrs of Christ the King in Guadalajara, Mexico, concluded with the installation of a portrait and relic of Blessed Michael McGivney.

# 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](http://www.fathermcgivney.org)

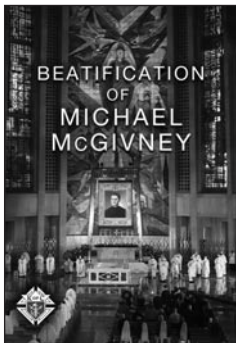
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### Beatification DVD

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**





Accompanied by officers of the Connecticut State Council, Father Ryan Lerner, pastor of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish in New Haven, venerates a relic while praying at the founder's tomb after Mass in St. Mary's Church on the date of his feast day, August 13. Father Jeffrey Romans, Connecticut state chaplain, served as homilist at the Mass. (Photo: Spirit Juice Studios)

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hears all of our prayers, yet we never know how and when he will respond to our petitions. Our faith tells us that God welcomes our cries for his divine help, support and deliverance. The good that can come from invoking Blessed Michael is enormous. We ask God, in his mercy, to grant this favor for the good of the Church and the good of the world at large through the intercession of Blessed Michael. Guild members can let their family and friends know about him and encourage them to seek his heavenly help. His pastoral charity has not come to an end in his passing from this world into eternal life. He continues to hear the cries of all who are in need. The more our difficulties, the more suitable to be counted among the "clients" of the saintly priest who spent himself for others without counting the cost.

It is especially appropriate in November, when we begin the month with honor to the saints in heaven and prayers for the souls in Purgatory, to invoke the assistance of our friend, Blessed Michael McGivney.

**Devotedly in Christ,**

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

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

**Guild Director**

**Vice-Postulator**

## Founder Honored in Brooklyn

Catholics in the Diocese of Brooklyn gathered August 13 in the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph for Mass and to venerate a first-class bone relic of Blessed Michael McGivney. The main celebrant and homilist was Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Octavio Cisneros, who defined the Knights of Columbus as "an expression of the love of God through neighbor." In Father McGivney, he added, the virtues of heroism, charity, and compassion make up "the fruits of the spirit."

Father Michael Gelfant, New York associate state chaplain said, "This is home, and we surround our bishop with our work, with our prayer, and with our duty as Knights of Columbus."

The McGivney relic was offered for veneration after Mass. Father Christopher Heanue, rector of the co-cathedral, said it was an honor "to be reminded of this one priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, who saw and stepped up to create this fraternal organization, the Knights of Columbus. May we be inspired by his example." (Excerpted from the *Brooklyn Tablet*)



Holding the McGivney relic, Bishop Cisneros is joined by Father Heanue, Father Gelfant and parishioners in the co-cathedral. (Photo: Alicia Venter)