

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



FATHER GABRIEL B. O'DONNELL, O.P.

Vice Postulator & Guild Director

Dear Guild Members:

The first apostolic visit of Pope Francis to the United States in late September was a time of inspiration and encouragement for many, regardless of their religious background. The Holy Father's focus on the needs of others, most especially the forgotten and marginalized in our society, caught the attention and praise of many commentators and observers.

One could only marvel at the pope's ability to connect with all whom he met as he visited Washington, D.C., New York City and Philadelphia. He engaged the elderly residents of the Little Sisters of the Poor convent in the nation's capital with the same grace and compassion as when posing for "selfies" with students at Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem. He was a universal sign of hope.

His visit also revealed the broadness of his vision and clearly portrayed him as supreme pastor of the Catholic Church. Many media commentators referred to Pope Francis as the most significant moral and religious leader in the world today. This time they got it right.

This "Francis effect" was not a simple case of the Holy Father's personal charm or charisma. He brought to each moment the intensity



of his faith in God, and spoke eloquently of the values that flow from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not content with ideas alone, Pope Francis consistently named those segments of society that are vulnerable and merit the special care and attention of our whole nation: the elderly, the handicapped who depend on others for their needs, the young who work to sustain the structures and values of our society, and young families.

His words on family life were especially poignant since he came to the United States primarily for the Eighth World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

"It is my wish that throughout my visit the family should be a recurrent theme," he said. "How essential the family has been to the building of this country! And how worthy it remains of our support and encouragement."

These words could have been spoken more than a century ago by Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney as he moved about Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, laying the groundwork for his fraternal benefit society, the Knights of Columbus. He was an apostle of Christian family life. His purpose in founding this fraternal Order was to strengthen the family through the formation of Catholic men who would become husbands and fathers prepared to shoulder the work of leadership in every area of their lives.

In fact, there is a remarkable correspondence between the teaching of Pope Francis and the ideals and vision of Venerable Father McGivney. Pope Francis expresses a high ideal of family life, yet he also speaks plainly and courageously of what threatens modern families. He knows that family life has never been easy, and that today there are particular

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STAINED-GLASS WINDOW DEDICATED

A new stained-glass window depicting Venerable Father Michael McGivney was blessed and dedicated Oct. 18 in St. Francis Xavier Church in Metairie, La., by Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans. Sponsored by Msgr. Henry Bezou Council 8546, which is based at the parish, the stained-glass depicts the Knights of Columbus founder in a cassock, holding a Bible in his left hand and the Knights of Columbus emblem in his right. The inscription reads:

**Rev. Michael McGivney
Founder of Knights of Columbus**

The archbishop blessed and dedicated the window after offering Mass in the church. He also led prayers through the intercession of Father McGivney for the

healing of the wife of a council member who is suffering a serious illness.

"What this means for our council is that the good works of the Knights of Columbus are going to be constantly represented in our church long after the current Knights move on," said Past Grand Knight Morgan Stewart, who was grand knight when the stained-glass window project began. "This will help shine a light on the Knights of Columbus and all the good that we do in terms of charity and bringing people together in the parish and community."

He added, "We really thank the archbishop for coming out to bless the window, and our pastor [Father Andrew Taormina] for being supportive of the Knights and this project."

CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

To celebrate the feast of the Nativity in the joyful and hopeful spirit of Father McGivney, the Guild offers each year a Novena of Masses in Rome for the intentions of Guild members and their families. Using the cut-out form on Page 3 of this newsletter, you may send in your intentions to be

placed on the altar during the celebration of the Masses to be offered from Dec. 25 of this year to Jan. 1, 2016. You may also submit intentions at the fathermcgivney.org website. Please submit intentions by Dec. 15, 2015.

FAVORS REPORTED

Dear Father

My wife was hospitalized with complications from Stage 4 Hodgkin's lymphoma. The cancer had spread to her lungs, kidneys, liver, spleen and spine. The prognosis was terminal within weeks. Pneumonia settled in both lungs. The medical team prayed with us constantly before and after each procedure.

When my wife was taken to ICU, her blood pressure had fallen to below 70. Her oxygen saturation was less than 10%. I was told to go home and prepare for the end. Instead I spent the remainder of the night and early morning praying for the intercession of Father McGivney, to Our Lady, and to the Trinity to make her journey home comfortable. At 4:33 my phone rang. My wife was on the line saying she was hungry, wanted out of ICU and to tell the priest who visited that she feels better. No priest was on the ICU that night.

Another three weeks of hospital stay, many procedures, heavy chemotherapy and she came home. A PET scan revealed the absence of any cancerous cells. My wife knows that she was touched by God, visited by Father McGivney, and has been blessed with prayers from all.

Virginia

Dear Father

Recently, I submitted a prayer intention to Venerable Father McGivney because I was being tested for bowel cancer. I also prayed hard to my other saint friends, but a lot to Father McGivney. The test results are back and they are negative for bowel cancer, so I am thanking God through the

intercession of Venerable Father McGivney. Also, I had a pain in my left side and that has almost completely subsided, so thank you so much Father McGivney. You have come through for me once again. I love you!

Ontario

Dear Father

My pregnant sister-in-law had a routine ultrasound which revealed a cystic hygroma on the back of the baby's head/neck. She had a more in depth ultrasound which showed delayed growth and a possible club foot, indicating the baby had a syndrome or chromosomal abnormality. She requested prayers from family and friends. I began asking for intercession from Father McGivney for a miracle for this precious baby. At the same time, a friend's aunt also was praying for intercession from Father McGivney. The results of the amniocentesis and genetic testing came back, and all results were normal. There is no medical explanation for the earlier findings on the ultrasound. It is a miracle we believe contributed to by intercession from Father McGivney.

Missouri

Dear Father

My grandson had been looking for work with no success. I prayed to Father McGivney with his prayer for canonization and a week later my grandson had a positive interview and is starting his new job. I will continue to pray with gratitude for his help and that Christ our Lord will glorify his venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney. God bless.

Arizona

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

The power of prayer is shown throughout sacred Scripture. From the words of Jesus to the letters of St. Paul, the centrality of prayer to the Christian life is demonstrated over and over.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray the Our Father, the perfect prayer which offers praise to God and meets all our needs. Jesus also told a parable "about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary" (Luke 18:1).

St. Paul exhorts the disciples often to pray with persistence and faith, telling the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing" (1 Th 5:16-17). To the Ephesians, he wrote, "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit" (Eph 6:18).

As members of the Father McGivney Guild, we are called to pray in a special way. We receive many benefits from the Guild, including a weekly Mass offered for our intentions and regular novenas, yet we also have a commitment to fulfill. That commitment is to pray for the canonization of Venerable Michael McGivney and to report any favors received through his intercession. With Father McGivney's cause open and active at the Vatican, it is a perfect time for you to storm heaven for the beatification of this holy priest and founder.

For your convenience, the Prayer for Canonization is printed on this page. You may also contact the Guild to obtain one or more copies of the prayer card.



PRAYER FOR CANONIZATION

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. 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 your venerable servant Father Michael J. 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.

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 _____

- _____ Mousepad — \$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
- _____ 8" Figurine (Wood) — \$150
- _____ Reliquary (Case with Second-Class Relic) — \$25 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, EXCEPT AS NOTED
- _____ Parish Priest (Paperback, 240 pp.) — \$12
- _____ Parish Priest Study Guide
- _____ A Model for Our Times booklet
- _____ Prayer for Canonization
- _____ Spirituality of Father McGivney flyer

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 intentions for the Christmas Novena Masses (submit by Dec. 15, 2015)



Father McGivney Medal

This medal can be worn with a chain (not shown). 1" in diameter.

Chain sold separately.

Sterling Silver Medal: \$25

18" Women's Chain: \$14

24" Men's Chain: \$15



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**

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**



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**



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 both fiberglass with a golden-bronze finish (left) and hand-carved, painted wood (right).

Fiberglass Statue: \$50

Hand-Carved Wood Statue: \$150



Full-Color Mousepad

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



FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY GUILD

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS • 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA • NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326

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challenges from the culture at large. For our Holy Father, naming the contradictions which abound in our society is critical: "At the risk of oversimplifying, we might say that we live in a culture which pressures young people not to start a family, because they lack possibilities for the future. Yet this same culture presents others with so many options that they too are dissuaded from starting a family."

Practical in his approach, he has instructed newly married, and long-married, couples to be ready always to use little words that carry a big meaning, such as "please," and "thank you," and for the importance of asking for and granting forgiveness. These are more than polite words when they come from the heart.

Father McGivney possessed a similar ability to preach high ideals and also face squarely the social ills destroying the families of his time. He, too, developed practical aids and solutions for families.

Father McGivney was concerned with the ordinary working-man, the ordinary family. His labors were ordered to strengthening the fundamental relationships that sustain a culture and make it great. Pope Francis desires to "dialogue with the many thousands of men and women who strive each day to do an honest day's work, to bring home their daily bread, to save money and – one step at a time – to build a better life for their families." This is the very ideal which drove Father McGivney to help the most vulnerable families of society in his day. He was not only concerned with the poorest of the poor. He looked also to support and sustain the institution that was the foundation of civilization: the family.

This conviction regarding the family led Father McGivney to recognize, with his Knights and other Catholic men, the family as the radiating center of fruitful apostolic action. He insisted that each Knight give his time and talents to those in need, but he further encouraged them to become heroic men in everyday family life. From the core values of the family would come the strength for men to reach out to the wider world. Although

membership in the Knights of Columbus was restricted to Catholic men, Father McGivney's vision of what they should accomplish was to go far beyond the boundaries of the Catholic community, to influence the culture with Christian principles and values.

As he went from city to city, attracting the attention and affection of millions, our Holy Father engendered an optimism based not on worldly values, but on the gifts of faith, hope and charity. His visit should prompt us to look again at the spiritual legacy of Venerable Father McGivney. In the Knights of Columbus' principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, we have summary of his vision. Unity in the faith brings shared values among brothers, families and even nations. Fraternity means a willingness to belong to and be responsible for a family of neighbors and nations. Charity puts unity and fraternity into practical action. Patriotism calls for a loyalty of heart to one's national family and heritage.

Father McGivney still leads us to a Christian vision that does not shrink from the demands and challenges of the world as it stands now.

There is nothing outdated about Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney's message. His vision is timeless. His spirituality is needed today perhaps more than ever before. He bids all his spiritual followers to embark on a great mission: to bring Christ to all.

Venerable Father Michael McGivney, pray for us.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

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