

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

Dear Guild Members:

As the Jubilee Year of Mercy comes to an end, let us review how the spirit and pastoral practice of Venerable Father Michael McGivney coincide with the theme set by Pope Francis.

In choosing "Merciful Like the Father" as the theme for the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis set a course for the spiritual journey of the Catholic faithful that has been both a challenge and a source of great blessings. From the opening of the jubilee on Dec. 8, 2015, to its close this Nov. 20, we have been invited to ponder the mystery of God's mercy for us, and to extend that mercy to others, especially those who are closest to us. Some may think of mercy as a soft sentiment that is opposed to justice. But as Pope Francis has said, mercy



and justice are two sides of the same coin. Mercy is not easy, forgiveness is not easy. Indeed, the Christian life is a challenge when we consider that we are called to forgive our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (cf. Mt 5:44). Think of the last time you fulfilled either of those Christian duties. We cannot do them without God's grace.

A focus on mercy shines a light on the central concerns of Father McGivney's personal life and his ministry as a parish priest and pastor of souls. He was known and sought out because of his compassionate and understanding heart. He was always ready to serve those in need, whether the need was material or spiritual. His was the heart of a father, and in founding the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, Conn., in 1882, his spiritual paternity was shared with Catholic men far beyond the boundaries of his parish or even the state of Connecticut. With 1.9 million members in councils around the globe, the Knights of Columbus has become a worldwide witness to Father McGivney's merciful compassion.

Father McGivney's deep sensitivity to the sufferings of others developed early. As the eldest son of Irish immigrants, he knew firsthand the struggles of those settling in a new land. He lost siblings to

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

YOUNG KNIGHTS SEE FATHER MCGIVNEY AS EXAMPLE

When college Knights gathered in New Haven, Conn., for their annual conference, devotion to Venerable Father Michael McGivney was part of the proceedings. Recognizing that Father McGivney set an example of achievement at a young age by founding the Order when he was 29 years old, the college Knights invoked his intercession for the success of the conference and prayed for his canonization.

Held Sept. 30-Oct. 2, at a hotel a few blocks from St. Mary's Church, the birthplace of the Order, the 2016 College Conference brought together about 200 Knights from 80 campuses. A highlight of the three-

day meeting was Mass offered in St. Mary's, where the young Knights gathered about the tomb of Father McGivney, located near the entrance of the church, and prayed for his canonization. The principal celebrant and homilist of the Mass was Dominican Father Jonathan Kalisch, director of chaplains and spiritual development for the Supreme Council.

College Knights also toured the Knights of Columbus Museum, where they learned about the history of the Order and viewed the cassock of Father McGivney and other relics related to the holy founder.

Christiaan van Nispen, of Council 13242 at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., who was

 See **YOUNG KNIGHTS**, Page 2


College Conference Advisory Board members stand with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in front of a statue of Father McGivney in the New Haven headquarters. At the far left is Robert Rauch, manager of College Councils and Young Adult Outreach.

FAVORS REPORTED

Dear Father:

Our officemate suffered from a very serious illness. She was in a hospital and unconscious for almost a week, almost dead. The doctors did not know what kind of illness it was and they called it a viral infection. I read your website from a K of C magazine and sent a prayer intention for her. After a week, she woke up and now she reports back to the office. Thanks to Almighty God that he granted my wishes through the help of Father McGivney. Thanks for the prayer and God bless all the members of the McGivney Guild.

Philippines

Dear Father:

A good friend burned himself terribly on the lower half of his body. The doctors told him that they doubted that he would make it. But with prayers from me and another friend to Father McGivney he is now home and getting around almost normal. Thank you, Jesus, and Father McGivney for prayers answered.

Florida

Dear Father:

My son has been out of a job for 11 months and was expecting a baby this month. After much praying to Father McGivney, he once again came through for my family. Not only did my son get a job last week, but their baby girl decided to surprise everyone and come a little early on Grandparents Day! My son had to delay starting his job a couple of days but all is well and we are once again forever grateful to Father McGivney for taking care of our family. We keep praying for his sainthood.

Illinois

Dear Father:

A friend recently told me about his abdominal cancer, a cancer that has caused the death of two of his friends in recent years. When he was diagnosed in December 2012, he, his wife and his son used three Father McGivney medals in praying for healing. Tom had surgery in February of 2013 and is doing well but continues to pray to Father Michael for continued good health. We thank Father Michael for his intervention.

Saskatoon

YOUNG KNIGHTS, from Page 1

chairman of the College Conference Advisory Board, said that the Order's founder had a palpable influence on the proceedings.

"The spirit of Father McGivney was vibrant at the College Conference. In many ways, the conference itself was a microcosm of his vision," said van Nispen. "The conference led 200 college men, united in their faith, to be energized through training sessions, as well as each other, to return to their campuses driven to recruit more men to our cause. This was particularly true as we stood together after Mass in St. Mary's, praying his Prayer for Canonization. We hope that he might intercede for us to form us and our brother Knights in our faith and bring more men into our ranks so that we will be the fathers of tomorrow – either as a religious father or father of a family."

At the awards banquet, Council 1477 at the University of Notre Dame was named the year's Outstanding College Council for excellence in

membership recruitment and retention, and for charitable outreach on campus and in the community.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson encouraged college Knights to hold fast to their faith amid challenges. "On most campuses, you're swimming against the stream," he said, adding, "show people why it's important to be Catholic."

An inspiring keynote address was delivered by retired Maj. Gen. Michael Regner of the United States Marine Corps, a member of St. Rita of Cascia Council 15244 in Alexandria, Va. He urged the college Knights to remember three things as they go forward in life: faith, family and friends.

"Own your faith," he said. "When you leave college, you will have to learn to balance your faith, your employment and the other aspects of your life."

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 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 official 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

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 petitions and send them by Dec. 10, 2016, for inclusion in the Christmas Novena of Masses.



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

(BACK IN STOCK)



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**



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**



Guild Pen

Featuring Father McGivney's face on the dome. Blue ink. **\$8**



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 Lapel Pin

An attractive cast-bronze lapel pin featuring a color portrait of Father McGivney and the emblem of the Order. Approximately 1¼" in diameter. **\$7.50**



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



IN THIS ISSUE —

Director's Desk 1
 College Conference
 Favors Reported 2
 Persevere in Prayer
 Guild Items 3
 Submit Your Intentions

Christmas Novena of Masses

To celebrate the feast of the Nativity in the joyful and hopeful spirit of Father McGivney, the Guild offers each year a Novena (nine days) of Masses for the intentions of Guild members and their families. Using the cut-out form on Page 3 of this newsletter, you may submit your intentions to be placed on the altar for the Masses offered during the Christmas season. You may also enter intentions at the fathermcgivney.org website. Please submit intentions by Dec. 10, 2016.

DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 1

early death, and was nearly pulled from seminary studies when his father died young. Yet from these losses and the hardworking example of his father, young Michael learned lessons of faith, perseverance and manly virtue. His parish priest, whom he also called "father," inspired him with an example of self-sacrifice and spiritual leadership. Michael realized that in the priesthood he could be a spiritual father in the footsteps of those "fathers" he so admired and emulated. From this strong formation as a loving and compassionate man came Father McGivney's priestly heart of mercy. For him, mercy was not a feeling or a sentiment; it was the foundation for practical action. His mercy made a difference.

Ordained less than five years when he founded the Knights of Columbus, he was impelled by the hard lives of his parishioners, who were often left destitute at the death of the family's breadwinner. The death of his own father surely formed a well of mercy in his heart for widows and orphans, yet he went beyond mere sympathy to develop a fraternal benefit society that provided for their financial needs while keeping them close to the heart of the Church. His merciful action is carried on by his Knights to this day.

When we allow ourselves to be moved with compassion by the suffering of another, we begin to develop the virtue of mercy. This virtue is made perfect when our compassion compels us to do what we can to serve our neighbor. The sentiment of the heart begets action. Such mercy, so evident in the life of Father McGivney, requires that we first accept in our own lives that tender compassion from God. Until we have received God's mercy, it is impossible to extend that mercy to others. In this way, we enter the lives of the needy not from a superior position, but as a fellow human being. This model is seen in the way Christ entered our world.

True Christian mercy requires us to acknowledge our need for God and his forgiveness, and then to accept it. One might say that we must first

become "vulnerable" to God if we are to reach out to others. Whether through illness, family problems, financial difficulties, the death of loved ones, or deep personal pain, all suffering can make us vulnerable and threaten our confidence in God. Mercy can transform that vulnerability into a willingness to accept God's love and support even in the midst of suffering, so that we become sensitive to the distress of others and are moved to reach out in understanding and compassion.

God's love is greater than any sin or suffering in our lives. He loves us now with the intention of loving us forever in eternity. That is the urgent message we all need to hear as this Year of Mercy closes and we carry on the work of mercy in our lives.

Venerable Michael McGivney's untiring efforts to relieve the sufferings of his people are a remarkable example of Christian mercy. To give of oneself, even at great cost, as a response to what God has given us, is mercy in action. Such giving leads not only to a year made holy, but a whole life made holy. With his cause for sainthood open at the Vatican, we have the opportunity to share in Venerable Michael McGivney's merciful heart through ardent prayer for his intercession and for his eventual beatification.

From a holy year to a holy life – that is Father McGivney's way for us.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

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

Guild Director

Vice Postulator