

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



GUILD

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2018

FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

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

Vice Postulator & Guild Director

Dear Guild Members:

History makes clear that Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney was a man ahead of his time. The role of the laity in the Church — protecting the integrity of the family, advocacy for the poor and marginalized — were all issues close to his heart. His vision of Christian life and the relationship between the Church and the modern world anticipated the Second Vatican Council by some 80 years.



It is not surprising that the Catholic society he founded in Connecticut in 1882 is still thriving today in a worldwide organization dedicated to charity, unity and fraternity.

Venerable McGivney was an optimist in his dealings with others. He wanted the best for them and expected the best from them. Indeed, it was this optimism that prompted him to establish and promote his Order of Knights. He was convinced that in channeling the energy and good will of Catholic men, they would grow in faith and learn to become apostles of charity. Deeply ingrained in his fraternal society was a spirit of gratitude. His sense of thanksgiving was first of all to God for the gift of his Catholic faith, which sustained the McGivney family through the difficult periods. He was grateful as well for the freedoms found in America, where men of any rank or class could prosper and move ahead.

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FATHER MCGIVNEY ON STAGE

The dramatic story of Father Michael McGivney was brought to life in the theater where the holy priest had once staged his own parish plays. Thanks to the efforts of Connecticut Knights and the script by Dominican Father Peter John Cameron, a wonderful event took place at the Thomaston Opera House, where a dramatic reading of "He Was Our Father" was staged Aug. 19.

Father McGivney was pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, Conn., from late 1884 to his death on Aug. 14, 1890, two days past his 38th birthday. In that time, he continued the practice he had begun at

his first priestly assignment at St. Mary's in New Haven, staging amateur plays to promote parish cohesiveness and morale.

He founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Church in 1882.

The event was hosted by Atlantic Council 18 in Thomaston, which was founded by Father McGivney, and Leo XIII Council 1090 in Terryville, with assistance from the Connecticut State Council. The agenda included a full afternoon and evening of activities, beginning with 1 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception in Terryville, a sister parish of St. Thomas, for which Father McGivney also served as pastor,

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David Verdosci, in cassock, plays Father McGivney in a dramatic reading at the Thomaston Opera House.

No Cancer

About a year ago, my sister was diagnosed with a growth on her lung. At first the doctors couldn't decide what it was, but began treatment for cancer. After several treatments she was told there was no change in the size. I asked the local Knights of Columbus councils and assembly to pray for her. Then on 8/18/18 her doctors told her the growth was gone.

California

Academic Assistance

Before exams to enter the university, I prayed for Father McGivney's intercession. I would like to thank Father McGivney for his intercessions reaching me and helping me. I carry the relic with me.

Mexico

Employment Help

My daughter, who has some learning disabilities, was in need of a part-time job. I started prayers to Father McGivney perhaps three months ago. Three weeks ago, she interviewed and received a job at a local grocery store. I believe that prayerful persistence for Father McGivney's intercession was very helpful.

Colorado

I am an international student who recently graduated from a master's program. I prayed fervently for a full-time job in New Haven, so that I may stay in the U.S. for another year and remain close to friends studying in the area. I was recently offered a faculty assistant position, and want to thank Father Michael J. McGivney for praying and interceding for me!

Connecticut

Quick Recovery

On Aug. 8, 2018, a young girl fell from a horse and hit her head, putting her in a coma. Doctors reported no brain activity. On Aug. 9, we prayed the Divine Mercy for her, and I asked Father McGivney to intercede for her healing. On Aug. 11, she was up and walking. Thank you Father McGivney for interceding on this young girl's behalf.

Nebraska

Kidney Donor

In June of last year, my doctor told me I needed a new kidney. I started daily prayers to Father McGivney and asked my friends and church group to pray that I would get a donor. After I was turned down by a hospital, I did not give up and continued to pray daily. St. Thomas Hospital accepted me for consideration for the transplant list. September last year, I posted that I needed a kidney and to contact St. Thomas. A friend shared my post. In November, St. Thomas put me on the transplant list. In December, a friend of my friend was in Chicago at a family event. She called my friend and asked about my post. My friend told her about it and she said, "I can do that." After several tests, she was accepted as a donor. In late May, she called me, introduced herself, and said, "You're getting my kidney." I consider it a miracle that someone in Chicago who didn't know me was willing to do this. I feel blessed and grateful. My doctor said it was a miracle – only occasionally does anyone get a living donor, and to get one from a stranger donating specifically for a person is a miracle. The normal wait for a kidney is 5-10 years. I got mine in less than a year. I attribute this all to Father McGivney and God's intervention.

Tennessee

DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 1

The fall of every year was a season of gratitude for Father McGivney because of the national holiday of Thanksgiving that was proclaimed some 20 years earlier by President Abraham Lincoln, during the Civil War. Thousands of immigrant families took up this observance with enthusiasm for it acknowledged the abundance of God's generosity in the annual harvest, religious freedom and the spirit of democratic equality at the heart of the American dream.

For Catholics, giving thanks is always most perfectly expressed in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The word Eucharist means thanksgiving. As a deeply religious household, the McGivney family put gratitude for their faith above all other blessings. The rest of the good things of this world were understood to flow from God's limitless love and care for his people.

As a young priest, Father McGivney's daily celebration of the Eucharist fed a spirit of gratitude and generous service towards his parishioners, especially those who were down on their luck or facing anti-Catholic prejudice. There were often marriages in crisis or families in financial, legal or social trouble. The young curate and later, the seasoned pastor, was always ready to help. All of Venerable McGivney's charity and compassion found its source in Christ's own offering of himself to the Father. The abundant blessings of his life, even in the midst of suffering and struggle, moved him to gratitude for his vocation and gratitude for the people entrusted to his pastoral care.

The secular observance of Thanksgiving will always have religious or spiritual significance for Catholics. The celebration of the Paschal

mystery in the Mass and the presence of Christ in the Eucharist can become for us what it was for Venerable Michael J. McGivney — the focus of our gratitude and praise for all that God has given us.

We continue to pray that one day Father McGivney will be raised to the honors of the altar.

Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, pray for us.

Devotedly in Christ,

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

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

Guild Director

Vice-Postulator

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. 15, 2018.

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
- _____ Reliquary (case w/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

- _____ 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 intentions and submit them by December 15 for the Christmas Novena of Masses.



Father McGivney Medal

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

Sterling Silver Medal: \$25



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**



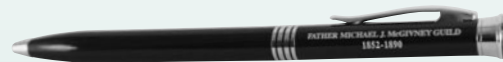
8" Figurine of Father McGivney

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**

(Back in stock)

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 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



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FR. MCGIVNEY ON STAGE, from Page 1

traveling by horse and carriage over rough roads between the churches. The Mass was offered by Father Joseph Crowley, administrator of the newly formed St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, which includes St. Thomas, Immaculate Conception and St. Casimir churches.



Before the play, Father Joseph Crowley offered Mass. Behind him is an image of Father McGivney holding a monstrance that adorns the sanctuary of Immaculate Conception Church in Terryville.

The curtain at the opera house opened at 3 p.m. Prior to the play, Daniel Matthews, director of Campus Ministry for the Archdiocese of Hartford, delivered a moving talk on the plight of Catholic families in Father McGivney's day and the events that inspired the priest to found a new fraternal benefit society. He was followed by Emile Drillon, the play's producer, who spoke about Father McGivney's years in Thomaston and the role of the historic opera house in his ministry.

Directed by David Verdosci, who also played the part of Father McGivney, the dramatic reading ran about an hour.

In eight scenes, "He Was Our Father" sets the story in the late-19th century, with a special focus on the plight of widows and orphans who were left destitute after the early death of the family's breadwinner. One scene is devoted to the founding of the Order, with Father McGivney meeting with the "go-ahead" Catholic men of New Haven and proposing that the new society be named after Christopher Columbus, the Catholic explorer who was, at the time, universally recognized as a heroic figure. Other scenes portray the final days of Chip Smith, who was executed for killing a police officer but came back to the faith through the jailhouse ministrations of Father McGivney; the conversion to Catholicism of Alida Harwood, the daughter of a prominent Protestant pastor; the transfer of Father McGivney from New Haven to Thomaston; a rehearsal for a parish play for St. Patrick's Day, and the death of the pastor.

The title of the play comes from a resolution adopted by the Order, which is read at the end: "For he who breathed unto our Order life; cherished its infancy; guided its childhood; counseled its youth and rejoiced in its strength and prosperity, has responded to the summons of his heavenly Father. He was our father ..."