

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



FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

## Blessed Michael McGivney, Pray for Us

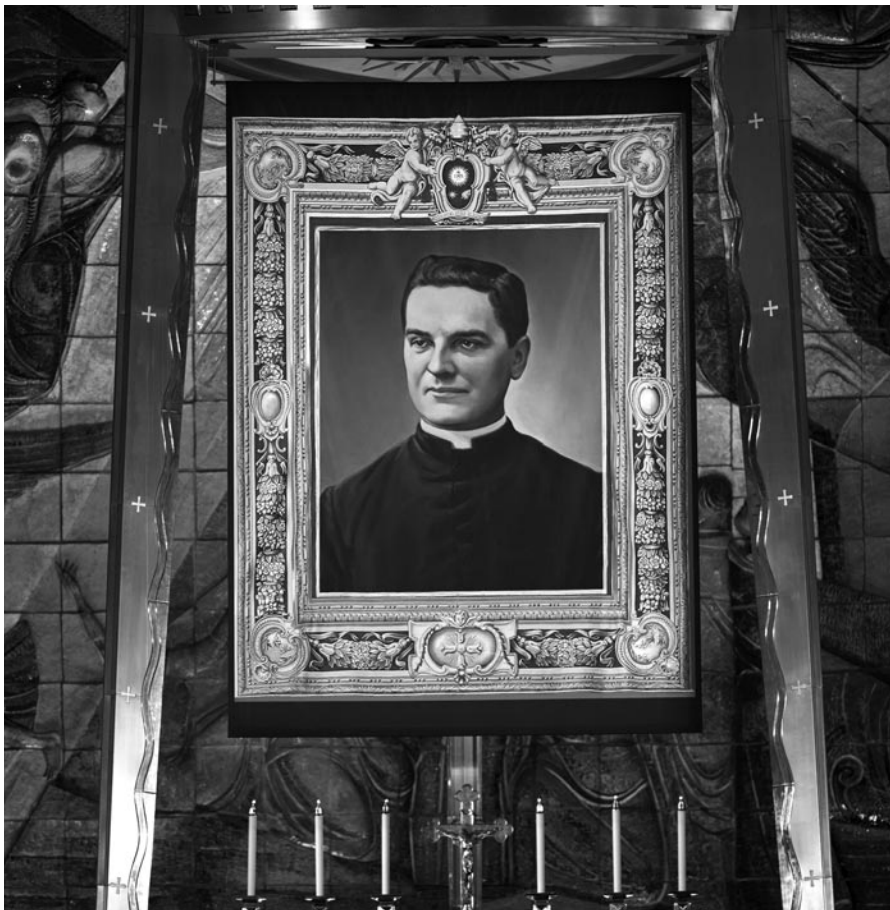


Photo: Dan Kwon, Spirit Juice Studios

Unveiled after the reading of the apostolic letter, a tapestry with the image of Blessed Michael McGivney hangs from the columns of the baldachin of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Conn., where the Mass of Beatification was celebrated Oct. 31. The feast day for the new Blessed is Aug. 13, the day between the date of his birth and death.

The long-awaited moment came on Oct. 31, after years of fervent prayers and a miraculous healing, when the founder of the Knights of Columbus was beatified in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Conn. Following the opening rites of the morning Mass of Beatification, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair read a formal statement requesting that Father McGivney, a priest of Archdiocese of Hartford, be enrolled as a Blessed of the Church. A brief biography of Father McGivney, highlighting his holiness, charitable initiatives and heroic virtues, was then read by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. In response, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., of Newark, N.J., representing Pope Francis,

read the apostolic letter of the Holy Father in Latin, and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, read the letter in English.

The pope's words, excerpted here, made the beatification official:

We, by our Apostolic Authority, decree that the Venerable Servant of God **MICHAEL MCGIVNEY**,  
Diocesan Priest,

Founder of the Knights of Columbus, whose zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and generous concern for the needs of his brothers and sisters, made him an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and fraternal assistance, henceforth be given the title of Blessed and that his liturgical memorial be kept each year on 13 August, in those places laid down by the norms of law.

It was a historic moment for the Church in the United States and the dioceses of Connecticut, as well as for the Knights of Columbus, which has served as Actor, or sponsor, in the cause for canonization since it was opened in December 1997. Father McGivney is only the third US-born priest to be raised to the honors of the altar, and the first one to spend his entire ministry in a US parish.

After the decree was read, the recently restored cathedral bells were rung, and tapestries with the image of the newly beatified were unveiled in the sanctuary, from the choir loft, and from the façade over the front entrance to the cathedral. The choir began to sing *Te Deum*, the ancient prayer to God of praise and thanksgiving, as a first-class relic of Blessed Michael McGivney was carried in procession by the Schachle family, whose youngest child received the miracle that opened the way for the beatification. In a heartwarming encounter, 5-year-old Michael McGivney Schachle carried the reliquary the final few steps to Cardinal Tobin, who knelt to venerate the relic and greeted the boy, who has Down syndrome. Accompanying "Mikey" were his parents, Daniel and Michelle, and eight of his 12 siblings, who had driven from their home in the Diocese of Nashville, Tenn.

See **BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY**, Page 4

# FAVORS REPORTED

## Finances

Laid off from my job, I was terrified at the possibility of not being able to provide for my family. I dusted off the Father McGivney prayer card that Knights handed out at Mass one day and prayed hard for his help as he had done for many families through his ministry and the legacy of the K of C. I prayed throughout the weekend and by Monday my client had reached out to my employer and they worked to create a new role for me. I didn't miss one day of work. God bless!

Connecticut

I asked for a good job for a granddaughter. She is having a second interview. She already has one job offer and is waiting on two interviews.

Texas

After reading about Father McGivney, I requested Father McGivney to ask God for his help in finding employment for my daughter, a single mother of two. Shortly thereafter, she found employment.

Florida

Recently unemployed, I'm looking for a job. I had applied to re-enter school, and was approved. I prayed the prayer for Father McGivney, went back to school and received 100% funding for a B.S. in Cloud Computing and Solutions.

North Carolina

After praying to the good Father McGivney for help in a difficult financial matter, I was able to avoid further damage at a time that is most tense. Also, after losing the controller to my insulin pump seemingly forever, I was able to find it without harm for my health. *Vivat Jesus!*

Connecticut

## Novena Prayers

I prayed the Father McGivney novena, asking for healing of the cancer for a dear friend, neighbor and fellow parishioner. On Oct. 29, she got news that her CLL count dropped from 600 to 6. She had not had chemotherapy for two months, which she had to stop for an emergency medical situation. Praise the Lord, thank you.

California

My wife's work situation was causing her added stress because she was being asked to take additional duties. She and a co-worker applied for the same position with a different employer. I prayed the Father McGivney novena for my wife's work situation to improve and for her to be hired for the position she applied for. October 29, on Day 8 of the novena, my wife was hired at the new employer with a small increase in pay!

Arizona

## Super Typhoon

Our home was in the path of Super Typhoon Rolly. I prayed and requested Blessed Michael McGivney to protect my family. An hour later, the news said that the storm was downgraded, with no explanation. We were safe. Blessed Michael McGivney answered my prayers.

Philippines

## Survival

In January 2018, I was diagnosed with a terminal illness. I've been praying to Father McGivney for a reversal. At this point, I can say I am alive and have more time to prolong the joys of life. Tomorrow will come again.

Ontario

Around 1 a.m. this morning, I was awakened by my wife's loud voice, saying that our second son's body temp reached 40 degrees C (104 F) and he vomited twice. She gave one dose of paracetamol and 30 minutes later, she fell asleep. I extended my right hand to our son and touched his forehead. I offered a prayer and asked Blessed Michael McGivney to intercede to heal our son. When my wife woke up around 8 a.m. to check his condition, she was surprised that his fever was gone entirely.

Philippines

## Successful Surgeries

My wife had a minor outpatient surgical procedure which developed into an abscess five days later. She went to the ER to remove the abscess in a five-hour surgery, and the next day went into surgery again and ended up with a colostomy. It didn't end there. One week later, she developed necrotizing fasciitis (flesh-eating bacteria) in the hospital. Our pastor and brother Knight came to visit and give her the Holy Eucharist. While he was there, her surgeon told us that she needed another surgery the next morning. Father John concluded the blessing and we ended with a prayer to Father McGivney, asking for his intercession. Not more than 10 minutes after he left, her surgeon came in and told us that they will do the surgery immediately. Afterward, the doctor said that if they had not operated when they did, she would not have made it through the night. I truly believe that the prayer to Father McGivney that evening and the continued prayers for his intercession saved her life.

Connecticut

My wife suffered a massive brain bleed. Before the neurosurgeon took her to the operating room, I asked him to give me her odds. He said to prepare for the worst. I sat completely alone in the waiting room sobbing my eyes out, when I realized I had a McGivney prayer card in my wallet. I prayed as hard as I could, asking Father McGivney to help. When the surgeon came to speak to me, he said that not only did my wife survive, but that her vitals had improved during surgery.

Kentucky

My brother-in-law was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and blocked heart arteries. He went to have his heart procedure, and I prayed to Father McGivney, who had answered a favor for me in February 2015. Within 20 minutes of that prayer, my sister called me, crying, and told me that he won't need heart surgery and they will be able to treat the blockages with medication alone! Thank you, Father McGivney!

Pennsylvania

## Many Favors

Favors received through prayer to Father McGivney: blood clot in my leg resolved. My eyesight is improving. My son's business in web and marketing is doing extremely well, and by praying to Father McGivney he is up and running and been promoted. My husband's cancer is cured.

Newfoundland

# A PRIEST FOREVER

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

Vice Postulator & Guild Director

*The following is a slightly condensed text of Father O'Donnell's reflection delivered Oct. 30 at the Vigil for Priests, which began beatification weekend activities at St. Mary's Church, New Haven.*

Beatification and canonization are acts of the Church that celebrate the goodness and holiness of God as reflected in the lives of those who followed Christ heroically during their earthly life. Beatification is possible because this person came to know and believe in the reality of God's love for him while still walking the streets of our towns and cities. This is the heart of the charism of Father Michael J. McGivney: love, divine charity. The fruits of that love are found in his personal life and in his pastoral work as a parish priest. In Father McGivney's case, this overflowing of charity took the form of caring for others with an unusual intensity and unstinting self-sacrifice.

The climactic expression of his priestly charity was the founding of the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal benevolent society based on the virtue of charity; charity among the members, brother to brother; charity within the Church in collaboration with the priest; finally, an unbounded charity towards all those in need, regardless of race or creed. No need was beyond the scope of his priestly charity, and so the charity of his Knights had to be universal in scope and intention.

The uniqueness of Father McGivney's spirituality is to be found not so much in its piety or forms of religious expression, but in the aspect of collaboration between the priest and the layman in addressing the serious issues which faced the Catholic faithful in the second half of the nineteenth century. This spirit of cooperation and a certain sense of equality between priest and layman must be considered a unique aspect of his spirituality. He spoke of his fellow Knights as "friends" and had an ability to treat them as such without diminishing the "apartness" of his priestly consecration and identity.

The bedrock of his spirituality was a reverence for the human person, the dignity of human work and the sacredness of marriage and the family. In this, the young priest anticipated a movement which would come to fruition almost a century later with a renewed awareness of the social dimension of the Christian life and a renewal of the perennial Christian theme: the Gospel of Life. The Second Vatican Council and the pontificate of St. John Paul II articulated many of the theological and pastoral concerns that occupied Father McGivney and inspired him to found an organization that would enshrine these values for generations of Catholic men and their families: the Knights of Columbus.

In January 1878, the newly ordained Father McGivney came to St. Mary's Church in New Haven with high ideals and big ideas, but he soon learned he would accomplish little on his own steam. Decidedly shy and retiring by temperament but intensely zealous in spirit, he was likely more surprised than anyone when his ability to communicate easily and effectively with a wide range of people emerged during his early months as a priest. More inclined to read and ponder, he possessed a certain magnetism that drew men and women of every class to him. His natural goodness and gentleness, with the hint of an inner spiritual strength, what has been described as his "indomitable will," allowed his parishioners to readily entrust to him their troubles and the care of their immortal souls. He would never give up, he would never betray, he was completely trustworthy. He was a credible priest.

The kind of service he had in mind required a certain seasoning. He was not a man of the world. As it turned out, among those who found him so trustworthy were men who became the agents of McGivney's worldly-wise education. These included a number of New Haven Catholic men, themselves movers and shakers in the small arena of local politics, business and the labor force. As McGivney shared with them his vision of a long-term program for guiding and protecting Catholic men and their families from the temptations and social ills of the time, they, in turn, shared their

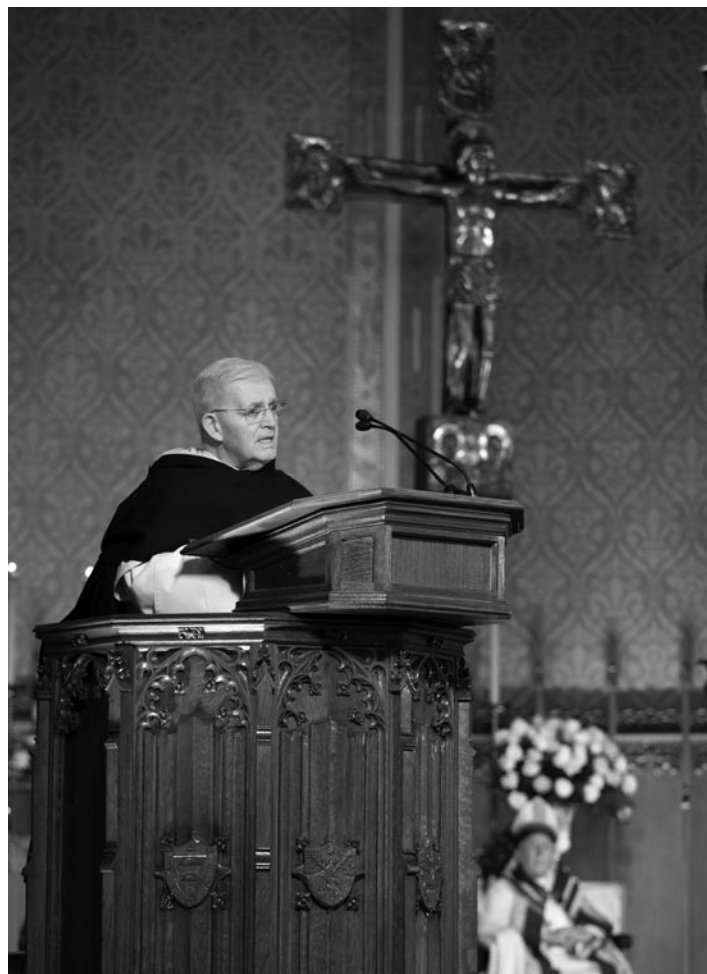


Photo: Aaron Joseph

Dominican Father Gabriel O'Donnell offers a reflection from the pulpit of St. Mary's Church, where Father McGivney served. Father O'Donnell was the first postulator for the sainthood cause.

experience of life outside parish and diocesan boundaries. A good bit of humility was needed for a priest to be catechized by the "go-ahead" Catholic men of New Haven. McGivney, however, was a good listener and was docile enough to learn important lessons that experienced and successful men could impart. Gradually, they came to recognize the wisdom and insight far beyond his years that this young curate possessed. In time they became docile and came to follow the spiritual leadership of "their priest."

Thus was born a mutual trust and collaboration that made possible the realization of Father McGivney's dream: the establishment of a Catholic fraternal society with charity as its ultimate definition and its ideal in every undertaking. It was an important alternative to the many secret societies of the day. The clarity of his vision and his confidence in the men who tutored him at one moment and became his spiritual heirs in the next, became

See **A PRIEST FOREVER**, Page 8

Crafted in Mexico especially for this occasion to match the cross atop the cathedral's spire, the silver reliquary was placed in the sanctuary and incensed by Cardinal Tobin, and then Archbishop Blair offered words of gratitude to the Holy Father and Cardinal Tobin. He added that Father McGivney "is truly Pope Francis's kind of priest, a model in his time of closeness to Christ Jesus on the peripheries of life and society." During the exchange of peace, the cardinal presented copies of the apostolic letter to Archbishop Blair; vice postulators Dominican Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell and Brian V. Caulfield; third-generation McGivney relatives and their spouses, John and Kay Walshe and Robert and Margaret Ransom; and Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson.

With the Rite of Beatification completed, the Mass continued with a joyful *Gloria*, which was followed by the first liturgical use of the Collect prayer composed for the new Blessed, which will be used for the Mass on his feast day, August 13, and at other votive Masses offered in his name throughout the year when permitted.

Cardinal Tobin prayed:

God of eternal mercy,  
Who set your priest Blessed Michael McGivney in the Church  
to comfort the suffering and the weary,  
the lonely and the oppressed  
with works of charity and a gentle heart,  
grant that, through his intercession,  
we too may become vessels of mercy in our day  
and so enter into our heavenly inheritance.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

The lectors were Patrick E. Kelly, deputy supreme knight, and Sister Veronica Sullivan, a member of the Sisters of Life, who grew up in Father McGivney's hometown of Waterbury, and whose family has held a fervent devotion to him. Her brother, Father James Sullivan, is rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, which was the McGivney home parish in Waterbury.

In his homily, Cardinal Tobin outlined the unique charism of Father McGivney as a parish priest and founder of the Knights:

"Father McGivney's life is an illustration of that intimate contact of a priest with the homes and lives of his people. His formation in pastoral practice began in his faith-filled family, which nurtured his growth in grace, providing an ambience in which he and two of his brothers could hear the call to serve the Lord as priests.

"Although he excelled in his studies, before he ever opened a book of theology he worked in a factory, where he learned firsthand the struggles of his fellow workers. As a parish priest, he would 'smell like the sheep.' He knew the simple, indispensable requirement for a pastor: He loved his people. ... Even his signature accomplishment, the founding of the Knights of Columbus, grew out of his ministry as a parish priest. ... This great brotherhood of 2 million men now spanning the globe was born from the ingenious solution of a parish priest to the challenges faced by the people he served."

Underscoring the international identity of the Knights of Columbus, petitions were read in English, Ukrainian, Spanish, French, Tagalog and Polish. In addition to English, Latin and Greek, the choir sang in the Irish language and the Church Slavonic of the Eastern tradition.

Among the concelebrants of the Mass were Cardinals Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap., of Boston, and Timothy M. Dolan of New York; Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States; Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore; retired Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin of Hartford, who approved the opening of the cause for canonization in 1997; bishops from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Also concelebrating were Bishop J. Mark Spalding of Nashville, where the tribunal investigating the miracle attributed to Father McGivney was convened, and Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki of Lviv, Ukraine, who traveled the farthest to be present for the beatification..

Due to the state's coronavirus restrictions for indoor religious gatherings, attendance was limited to 200 persons, with the mandatory wearing of masks. The Mass was broadcast live worldwide by EWTN and other national and international Catholic networks and livestreamed on the Knights of Columbus website (kofc.org), where it is archived for on-demand viewing.



Photo: Dan Kwon, Spirit Juice Studios

Five-year-old Michael McGivney Schachle, accompanied by his parents, Daniel and Michelle, presents a reliquary containing a first-class relic of Blessed Michael McGivney to Cardinal Tobin during the Rite of Beatification. "Mikey" was healed of a fatal condition in the womb through the intercession of Father McGivney.

# Priest of the Beatitudes

*The following is an excerpt of the homily given by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori during the Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Church, New Haven, on Nov. 1, the day after Father McGivney's beatification.*

I wish to present Father McGivney's life through this lens of the Beatitudes, and thus, to present him to you as the priest of the Beatitudes. *This* is the priest we long for! *This* is the priest whom the Church needs today! ...

Blessed Michael Joseph McGivney — a priest of the Beatitudes: If ever a proposition were easy to demonstrate, it is that one. Having lived the Beatitudes so thoroughly and consistently, Father McGivney led his parishioners to holiness. He continues to provide for parish priests a pattern, a model for the renewal of priestly life, a renewal so urgently necessary and so deeply desired by God's holy people. And he provides the Knights of Columbus with a roadmap into the future as the Order seeks to help men become better husbands, better fathers and convincing witnesses to the Gospel in these challenging times.

Let us rejoice and be glad, for among the holy ones who shine like stars for all eternity is a beloved parish priest and

the visionary founder of our Order, on whose shoulders we continue to stand. Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us!



Photo: Jeffrey Bruno

With a relic and portrait of Blessed Michael McGivney positioned near the sanctuary of St. Mary's Church, Archbishop Lori imparts the final blessing during the Mass of Thanksgiving.

## The Gift of Himself

*The following is an excerpt of the remarks delivered by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at the Mass of Thanksgiving.*

Blessed Michael McGivney called his brother Knights to live a life of charity according to the admonitions of St. Paul: "Love one another with a brotherly affection" and "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom 12:10, 21). In this way

Blessed Michael McGivney anticipated by nearly a century the Second Vatican Council's call for the laity to transform society by the light of the Gospel.

The evils of prejudice, poverty and violence are with us still.

Thankfully, so is Father McGivney's vision. Father McGivney clearly understood the dilemma confronting each generation of immigrants: how to successfully integrate into and move up in American society while preserving the best of their heritage and identity. This has been a particular challenge for religious minorities coming to America. Father McGivney saw the Knights of Columbus as the way for the men of his parish to remain faithful Catholics while being good citizens.

Today, we see that Blessed Michael McGivney was a man of charity, and his greatest charity was the gift of himself — a gift which continues to touch countless lives with greater effect each passing year.

Today is truly a day of thanksgiving, and we acknowledge with gratitude that the inspiration of the life and heroic virtue of our brother prompts us to greater confidence in the love of Christ — whose faithful priest he remains for all eternity.



Photo: Matthew Barrick

Supreme Knight Anderson delivers remarks at the conclusion of the Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Mary's Church.



Photo: Matthew Barrick

A first-class relic of Blessed Michael McGivney, contained in a wood reliquary that was painted silver and modeled after the cross atop the cathedral's spire, was presented during the Rite of Beatification.



Photo: Aaron Joseph

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson offers words of gratitude at the conclusion of the Mass of Beatification. Attendance in the cathedral was limited due to the state's coronavirus restrictions for indoor worship gatherings.



Photo: Jeffrey Bruno

On the morning after the beatification, the sign for the new Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center was unveiled at the site of the former Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven. From left are Deputy Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori, Supreme Secretary Michael O'Connor, Supreme Treasurer Ronald Schwarz, and Supreme Advocate John Marrella.



Photo: Jeffrey Bruno

A father and child walk among the large number of faithful who took part in the candlelight procession through the streets of New Haven Oct. 31. Relics of Blessed Michael McGivney and St. John Paul II were carried reverently in the procession.



Photo: Matthew Barrick

Wearing masks due to coronavirus regulations, a Fourth Degree honor guard leads the procession at the beginning of the Mass of Thanksgiving.



Photo: Jake Belcher

After the Mass of Thanksgiving, Archbishop Lori leads prayers at the tomb of Blessed Michael McGivney, strewn with celebratory flowers. Also shown are, from left, Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki of Lviv, Ukraine; Archbishop Leonard Blair of Hartford; Supreme Knight Carl Anderson; and John Walshe, great grandnephew of Father McGivney.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mouse Pad — \$8
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pen — \$8
- \_\_\_\_\_ Coffee Mug — \$12
- \_\_\_\_\_ #A/#B Note Cards (6-pack) — \$5
- \_\_\_\_\_ #A/#B Note Cards (12-pack) — \$10
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blessed McGivney Beatification Medallion — \$40
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beatification Mass Booklet — \$10 one copy / \$6 each additional
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4-Foot Statue — \$2,400 (Plus Shipping & Handling)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8" Figurine (Fiberglass) — \$50
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reliquary (case w/third-class relic) — \$20 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.**

*(Write your prayer intentions in the space below for the Christmas Novena of Masses, and mail to the address above.)*



### Father McGivney Medal

This medal may be worn with a chain (sold separately). 1" in diameter.  
**Sterling Silver Medal: \$25**



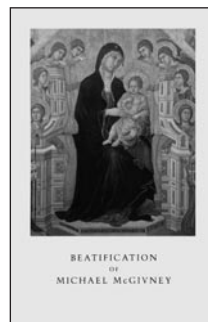
### Beatification Medallion

A beautiful bronze medallion featuring a bas-relief by Chas Fagan, based on the official image unveiled at the beatification by the same artist. The reverse depicts the coat of arms of the Archbishop of Hartford, host of the beatification, and inscriptions memorializing the occasion. Comes in a blue gift box. While supplies last. 2.75" x 0.25" **\$40**



### 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**



### Beatification Program Booklet

A 52-page perfect-bound booklet from the Beatification Mass with a short biography of Father McGivney; texts for the Rite of Beatification, including the Apostolic Letter in Latin and English; the Collect for Blessed Michael McGivney's liturgical memorial and a description of Hartford's Cathedral of Saint Joseph. While supplies last.

**Single copy: \$10**  
**Additional copies: \$6 each**



### 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**



### Guild Pen

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



### Full-Color Mouse Pad

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



Photo: Jeffrey Bruno

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**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** To celebrate the feast of the Nativity in the joyful and hopeful spirit of Blessed Michael McGivney, the Guild offers each year a novena (nine days) of Masses for the intentions of Guild members and their families. Use the form on Page 7 to submit intentions or enter intentions at the [fathermcgivney.org](http://fathermcgivney.org) website. Please submit by Dec. 22, 2020.

### A PRIEST FOREVER from Page 3

apparent in 1884. Father McGivney announced that due to the stability of the growing Order and his pressing pastoral duties, he would step back and hand the project over to them. He would no longer serve as secretary, but would take up his role as chaplain, the spiritual animator of the new society. He trusted his lay colleagues; he would be at all times their priest.

In addition to the difficult task of founding the Knights of Columbus, the young McGivney knew other struggles. His workload was heavy because he had to fill in for his sickly pastor. So many people sought him out that he had little or no respite, and this call upon his inner resources climaxed in his intense pastoral care for “Chip” Smith, the young man convicted of murder whom he accompanied to the gallows.

No saint achieves holiness without struggle. The gradual conformity of the human person to the Crucified One requires the purification of all hopes and desires. This purification often takes the form of enduring the pain and suffering in ordinary life in imitation of Christ. Misunderstandings, injustice, the hostilities of others, sometimes physical or emotional sufferings, are all typical of the struggles of saints. McGivney was no exception. His struggles on many fronts cost him interior suffering and challenged his confidence in God’s providential love. He clung in faith to his confidence in the goodness of human nature and the wonderful workings of grace.

Father McGivney was a true friend to all who called upon him in need. His clarity of vision made him a successful collaborator with the lay men and women he served and urged him to the end to rejoice in his vocation as a priest. His dying wish was that his brothers would follow him into the service of Christ and his Church as priests. His prayer was answered in their ordination to the priesthood. From heaven he hears our prayers and intercedes for us.

## Feast Day: August 13

The feast day for Blessed Michael McGivney has been set for August 13 annually in the Archdiocese of Hartford, the day between the day of his birth in 1852 and the day of his death in 1890. The official prayer for canonization (below) has been updated to reflect his new status as Blessed. New prayer cards can be ordered from the Guild for individuals, families and councils. A prayer card with a third-class relic attached (a piece of cloth touched to a first-class relic of Father McGivney) is also available for individual requests.

Please continue your prayers for the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney, especially in serious medical conditions. One more miracle is needed for him to be declared a saint.

## 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.