

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



# GUILD NEWSLETTER

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FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

ISSUE 2

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

Vice Postulator & Guild Director

Dear Guild Members:

Easter is the central feast of our Christian faith, when we not only remember the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, but also relive it through the liturgies of the Easter season. Our culture thinks of eggs, bunnies and bonnets, which all have their place in a joyous celebration, but the heart of Easter is the deep and abiding mystery of our faith. Through his suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus has conquered sin, broken the bonds of death and opened the gates of heaven to all who believe.

Some Guild members may not be aware that the current Easter season is the traditional time for adult Baptisms and Confirmations. In many parishes, it is at the Easter Vigil, Mass on Easter morning or one of the Sundays of the Easter season when those who have completed the RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) are baptized or



confirmed. For several months prior to this, catechumens and those to be received into full communion with the Church gather on a regular basis for instruction and prayer. The 50 days of the Easter season have been connected to the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation for many centuries. Pastors and various parishioners take on the important task of preparing those drawn in faith to Jesus Christ and his Church.

We hear much about the “nones” in our society, those who claim no religious affiliation, and the many who say today that they are spiritual but not religious. Don't be fooled. The human heart longs for the transcendent truths that our faith proclaims through the Catholic Church. The power and the glory of the Easter Alleluia attracts even those who do not attend church regularly. This season is our opportunity to be carriers of the Good News to those who have may never have heard it, or those who have been brought up in the faith but fallen away.

The heart of the Easter feast is the triumphant victory of the risen Lord over sin and death. This victory is the source of our faith and the virtue of hope that Pope Francis speaks of so often in his homilies. Further, the celebration of Christ's passion, death and resurrection – the Paschal Mystery – calls each of the baptized to share in the work of the Apostles. How? First, by encouraging our loved ones, neighbors and friends to live the faith in an intentional way. We are challenged to

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A new prayer card is available from the Guild featuring a painting of Father McGivney (above) by American artist Chas Fagan.

## REFLECTING ON 10 YEARS – VENERABLE DOES NOT MEAN 'OLD'

When Father Michael McGivney was declared “Venerable” ten years ago, in March 2008, many asked what exactly that term means. We know the title “Blessed” or “Saint,” but “Venerable” sounds like a waystation for old souls, sort of a limbo for those hoping for canonization. Nothing could be further from the truth, so let's look at the title a little more closely.

We don't use the word “venerable” too often in daily speech, and when we do it is usually in reference to a practice that is kept more for its age than its relevance, as in “venerable tradition,” or a “venerable old man” who is respected more for longevity than activity.

Yet these dusty concepts are not what the Church means when it uses the title “Venerable” for Servants of God. In the Catholic context, Venerable means not something antiquated or past its prime, but something bold and dynamic that is worthy of respect or *reueration*. Far from the notions of “old and dated,” Venerable denotes “heroic and virtuous.”

When a Servant of God, whose cause for sainthood is being studied by the Vatican, is given the title “Venerable” it means that the candidate's “heroic virtue” has been recognized by the Holy Father, based on the best information on the person's life and reputation. The Venerable person has

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## Employment Assistance

I read an article in the Knights of Columbus monthly magazine (*Columbia*) and was touched by a prayer for the intercession of Father McGivney, specifically asking for his intercession in three areas. First, financial relief; second, healing from substance abuse, and third, for loved ones who have left the Church and sacraments. I have been under serious financial trouble for two years. Last December it looked as if my wife and I would have to sell our home of 18 years. I started praying for Father McGivney to assist St. Joseph that I may be graced with the opportunities to provide for my family both spiritually and temporally. Within 30 days, I took a job offer which came out of the blue and am now making more money than I have ever made in my career. I will continue to pray for Father McGivney's intercession for loved ones who are struggling with addictions and for those who have left the Church. As St. Padre Pio confirms: Pray, hope and don't worry.

Tennessee

My daughter had been out of work for over two years. Within two months of including Father McGivney's intercession in my prayers for her, she landed a job. Thank you, Father McGivney!

Massachusetts

My prayers for Father McGivney's intercession were answered over a period of one year. I asked for Father McGivney to intercede for me on my application for an overseas job and my prayer was answered. I am currently deploying to Afghanistan for a job. I also asked Father McGivney to intercede for me on the settlement and release from the lease on my rental home and for the relocation of my household furniture. My landlord was very courteous to release me from my lease and returned my deposit without delay. I was able to find a moving company that charged me a very reasonable fee, moved all my household furnishings in one day, and the movers were very professional in protecting all my furniture. I attribute my success on being selected for the overseas position, my successful settlement on my lease

agreement and the successful relocation of my household furnishings to Father McGivney interceding and answering my prayers over a period of a year. I also want to add that I had a problem with getting an approval for my deployment overseas due to medical issues. However, I once again prayed to Father McGivney for his intercession to clear up all my medical issues and I was cleared and received a medical waiver for deployment. Thank you, Father McGivney, for answering my prayers.

Texas

## Home Again

I requested the intercession of Father McGivney for my family's living situation. We met with a landlord and signed a lease on a house without credit or background checks, and the landlord was willing to work with us on paying the security deposit so that my family and I could afford to move in. I believe this would not have been possible without the intercession of Father McGivney. To my family, this was a miracle.

Tennessee

## Newborn

Our daughter had two miscarriages and almost had given up having a second child. I prayed daily to Father McGivney for almost two years that she would have another child. On January 6, 2018, her daughter was born. Thank you, Father McGivney.

## Vocation

I have prayed for over a year to Father McGivney to lend me support as I walk down the path to priesthood. Through his intercessions, I have fully come to witness the call being made by God into this vocation. Through Father McGivney, I have clearly heard the call to walk with Christ and help others, just as he looked, and continues to look, after so many.

Washington, D.C.

## VENERABLE IS NOT OLD from Page 1

lived a life of virtue above and beyond the normal Christian calling, and is a model for others today, with a way of life that should be studied and emulated by all.

Thus, we know that Venerable Michael McGivney is a man for our times, a priest worthy of imitation, and a visionary ahead of his time in terms of empowering the laity to take leadership positions in the Church. By founding an organization for laymen, and encouraging them to run it, Father McGivney anticipated by nearly a century the Second Vatican Council, which focused on "the universal call to holiness."

It was natural that Father McGivney would seek to inspire holiness in others, since his own holiness was so evident. He was known for "that voice," as one contemporary called it, a firm yet affirming tone that spoke the truth. A fellow priest remarked that Father McGivney had "a priest's face ... of wonderful repose. There was nothing harsh in that countenance although there was everything that was strong."

One might even say, in hindsight, that it was "venerable."

Here is what the Congregation for the Causes of Saints declared about Father McGivney:

*"Concerning the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love both toward God and neighbor, as well as the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude, and those others joined to them, they existed to a heroic degree in the Servant of God Michael McGivney, Diocesan Priest and founder of the Fraternal Order the Knights of Columbus."*

*"Decree Concerning His Virtues" upon the declaration of Father Michael McGivney as Venerable Servant of God by Pope Benedict XVI*

*March 15, 2008*

# 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 (temporarily out of stock)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1" Sterling Silver Medal — \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

(You may write your prayer requests below.)



### 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**



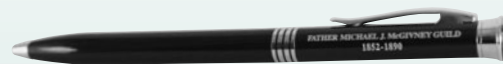
### 8" Figurine of Father McGivney

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**

(TEMPORARILY OUT OF 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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openly express our faith and provide the example of a faithful Catholic who places one's time and talents at the disposal of others. This is Christian generosity. All Catholics share the call to evangelize our society and the culture at large. To openly express our faith can be especially difficult when religion is sometimes a bone of contention rather than a bond of peace and mutual understanding.

As members of the Father McGivney Guild, we are committed to praying for his beatification and canonization. The reports of favors received in each new issue of this newsletter prove that he is still at work in our lives. Devotion to the saints, and the witness of their holy lives, encourage us to deepen our personal relationship with Jesus. In this Easter season especially, we should acknowledge the apostolic spirit of Venerable Father Michael McGivney, who was unabashed in proclaiming his Catholic faith in every situation. There were religious skeptics in his day as in ours, and also those who had given up on God due to discouragement amid the grinding hardships of their lives. Father McGivney did not write them off. Rather, he won them over through his faithful witness and wise and kind words. He knew what he believed and why, and who he was as a Catholic priest, and this steady certainty drew others to listen and learn.

In late 19<sup>th</sup> century New England, the attitude of the general public was anti-Catholic and potential converts were sometimes harassed or ridiculed in newspapers, pamphlets and magazines. Father McGivney was known as one of the "go to" men for those interested in entering the Catholic Church, even among the elite of Yale University or the families of Protestant clergy.

Yet Father McGivney's most dramatic response to the call for pastoral help was the founding of the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal benefit society that provided a haven for men who were looking for financial protection for their families and support in their faith. From the beginning, Father McGivney encouraged his Knights to take a united stand in the public square that would not compromise their faith and help to support

the common good. Led by the young parish priest, their concern was to carry out works of charity and to strengthen the fabric of family and community.

The first Knights, much as those of the 21st century, did not band together to retreat from a disapproving society. United in their Catholic faith, they sought ways to impact the culture in a positive way. Father McGivney's Knights have never retreated from public service or public influence. The first generation of Knights included a true diversity of laborers, professionals and those involved in local politics. Many were Civil War veterans who had fought for a better day in the country they loved. This fraternity has extended through several generations to our own time and included men and families of all economic and cultural conditions.

For Guild members, this example of Father McGivney offers a challenge to deepen our personal spiritual lives with greater fidelity to prayer and a sincere willingness to inconvenience ourselves in the service of our friends and neighbors in need. When the example of Father Michael McGivney's holiness moves us to a greater concern for others, that may well be our most powerful intercession for his beatification. Our sacrifices can become prayer in action.

We pray with confidence that the beatification of Venerable Michael J. McGivney will come soon. Lord, hear our prayer.

*Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, pray for us.*

**Devotedly yours in Christ,**

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

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

**Guild Director**

**Vice-Postulator**