

*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:

Again this year we are on the journey from penance and prayer to resurrection as we move from Lent to Easter. During the season of Lent the Church leads us to a spiritual renewal, urging us to recall in dramatic detail the paschal mystery—the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sent by the Father to make reparation for our sins and prepare us to live with him in heaven for all eternity, Jesus calls us to identify sources of sin and discover the fount of grace that forgives, heals and saves. That fountain, flowing from the pierced side of Christ, offers his precious blood for our nourishment and healing. The blood of Christ will satisfy our thirst for deeper meaning in our lives as we fulfill the duties of our state in life, no matter how challenging or routine.

The holy season of Lent truly offers hope and confidence in God if we take it seriously. Sincere participation in Lent does not require perfection in keeping Lenten penances or resolutions. The true measure of a “successful” penitential season is how willing we are to grow in our relationship with Christ. It is a season of conversion that should be aided, not ruled, by penitential practices.



Such reflections were part and parcel of the life and spirituality of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. In the culture of his time there was little doubt about the presence and power of God. For Catholics of the late 19th century, Lent imposed a daily regime of fasting, prayer and sacrifice. Everyone “gave up” some pleasure or entertainment for the season, and the celebration of the Stations of the Cross was a standard part of parish life. In an immigrant community, poverty and the struggle to make ends meet were almost universal. The need for God was apparent.

In our high-tech, consumer society it may seem that God no longer has a place. Yet as Pope Francis has noted often, if we exclude God we also risk diminishing love. In describing the consequences of a “lack of love” he lists selfishness and spiritual laziness, sterile pessimism, the temptation to self-absorption, and a worldly mentality concerned only with appearances. He offers the three traditional Lenten practices as the antidote for our lack of love: prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

Devoting more time to prayer, he said, we “enable our hearts to root out secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers.”

Giving alms “sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. ... When we give alms we share in God’s providential care for each of his children.”

Fasting from food and drink or some enjoyment or pleasure “weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. ... Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor.”

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THE FOUNDER IN THE PHILIPPINES



Msgr. Pedro Quitarro and Philippine Supreme Court Justice Jose C. Reyes Jr. stand in front of a statue of Father McGivney outside the Manila offices of KCFAPI. (Photo: Ronalyn Ramos)

Father Michael McGivney almost certainly did not expect the fraternal Order he established in Connecticut in 1882 to be planted some two decades later in the faraway Philippines. Yet the fact that the first council was founded in Manila in 1905 is testament to the worldwide and timeless appeal of the Knights of Columbus.

The first Knights in the Philippines were Catholic U.S. soldiers and citizens stationed in Manila in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War. Local Filipinos, however, quickly took up the Columbian banner and the story has been one of constant growth for the Order. Father George Willmann, a New York Jesuit priest assigned to the Philippines, said that the principles of the Knights and the spirit of the Filipino man were perfectly matched. Known as “the Father McGivney of the Philippines,” he promoted the Order throughout the mostly Catholic nation until his death in 1977. Today, there are more than 424,000 Knights in the Philippines in four jurisdictions: Luzon North, Luzon South, Visayas and Mindanao. In addition, Justice Jose C. Reyes Jr., who sits on the Philippine Supreme Court, is a member of the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors.

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FAVORS REPORTED

Cancer Clear

I have been praying the Father McGivney prayer since I joined about three years ago. In April of 2018 my wife was found with breast cancer again. The day of her last chemo treatment, my 41-year-old daughter was found with ovarian cancer. I have prayed the canonization prayer for them every day since April. Today they are both in remission.

Alabama

Reconciled

This is thanks to Father McGivney for answering our prayer to reconcile our relationship with our brother. He is going off a ventilator in two days and seems to the nurses he will recover from severe leg infection, all thanks and honor to Divine Mercy, the intercession of Our Lady and Father McGivney. Praise you, Jesus, for this miracle.

Missouri

Sold!

I had a house which I was having a difficult time selling. I prayed the prayer to Father McGivney and got a contract to sell the house very quickly. Many thanks to Father McGivney!

Illinois

Better Job

I am an Indian, studying in Canada, Nanaimo. I was having difficulties with my job. I prayed to Father McGivney and I got a better job. I wanted to say it others. I wish to go with the present job nicely without trouble, and I also pray to get children. Thanks a lot for such services.

British Columbia

Thanksgiving to our Almighty God because I was transferred from my previous assignment far away from my family to my hometown in Santiago City. Because of this, I am now with my family anytime of the day. The worries are lessened. I can now join them anytime we want to go to Mass, and to join to any activities of our council K of C council.

Philippines

Eye Treatment

Thank you for successful first injection for my macular degeneration. Please pray for complete healing with continued treatment in my one good eye. Thank you, Father McGivney.

Missouri

DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 1

Our Holy Father's program for Lent has but one purpose—to lead us to the glory of Easter with hearts made more ready to receive the triumph of Christ's victory over sin and death. During Lent, we face our need for God and his desire to respond to our need with his power, strength and tender mercy.

Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney was a man who took the seasons of the Church year seriously, for he knew that grace would come in abundance for him and his people through the generosity of his response. We can show him no greater honor than to follow his example.

As members of the Father McGivney Guild, we continue to storm heaven that the needed miracle will soon occur which will make possible

his beatification and that the people of God will benefit from his apostolic spirit.

Venerable Father McGivney, pray for us.

Devotedly yours,

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

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Guild Director

Vice-Postulator

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 (Temporarily out of stock)

_____ 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

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 April 15 for the Easter Masses.



Father McGivney Medal

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

Sterling Silver Medal: \$25



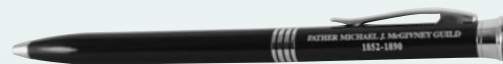
Collector's Spoon

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 (Temporarily out of stock)**



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 1 1/4" 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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Easter Masses

Guild members and their intentions will be remembered in the holy sacrifice of the Mass each day for eight days, beginning Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019. Guild members are encouraged to send in their intentions for placement on the altar during each Mass. You may submit your intentions by regular mail, by email or through the Father McGivney website (fathermcgivney.org) for inclusion in the Easter Masses. The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2019. Mail: Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510, or email: guild@kofc.org.

FOUNDER, from Page 1

Devotion to Father McGivney is strong among the Knights and their families, thanks to the efforts of an office in Manila run by Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, director of Communications for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. With the help of staffer Ronalyn Ramos and numerous volunteers in locations throughout the archipelago nation, the life, mission and vision of Father McGivney are spread among priests, parishes, schools, youth groups, religious societies and hospitals. Visits to cancer wards have become a focus of the office's



Young people hold up Father McGivney prayer cards during a youth gathering in Zamboanga City in the southern Philippines.

activities. When they are told about the need for a medical miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney, patients are comforted by the fact that they can pray both for their healing and for the beatification of the founder of the Knights of Columbus.

"In a country with much poverty, the example of Father McGivney is very appropriate, since he worked closely with the poor and those on the margins," Msgr. Quitorio said. "The priests of our country identify with him very easily since much of their work involves social ministry and working with the poorest of the poor. Personally, I have a great devotion to Father McGivney. I pray for his canonization every day and whenever I have a serious need or intention, I end the prayer very slowly when I say: 'Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present.' I find it very reassuring."

Of course, spreading devotion to Father McGivney is far from the only work of the Knights in the Philippines. With severe tropical storms regularly raging across the islands, there is a constant need for relief services in the affected areas, and the Knights are always there to assist in rebuilding homes and lives, even if they themselves have suffered loss. They also partake in food and nutrition programs for children, free medical and dental clinics, tree planting to slow soil erosion, as well as numerous spiritual initiatives designed to build the faith and fraternal spirit of the Order and the Church.

One of the main engines of charity is the Knights of Columbus Fraternal Association of the Philippine Islands (KCFAPI), which offers life insurance and other financial benefits to members. The association funds numerous charitable programs and promotes the sainthood causes of Father Willmann and Father McGivney. The ground floor chapel in the KCFAPI headquarters in Manila is dedicated to Father McGivney, and a statue of the venerable founder is enshrined beneath a cupola on the grounds outside the building.