

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:

“The resurrection of Christ is the principle of new life for every man and every woman. . . . Easter is the beginning of the new world, set free from the slavery of sin and death: the world open at last to the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of love, peace and fraternity.”



In these words from his 2019 Easter message, Pope Francis spoke with joy and hope of the new world brought into our lives by the resurrection of Christ. God's triumph over sin and death, the heart of our Easter celebration, brings possibilities for reconciliation and peace to all believers. With unflinching confidence in the power of the risen Christ, our Holy Father went on to urge leaders of nations to take the message of the risen Lord seriously and choose a path marked by recognition of the rights and dignity of the human person and the blessings which flow from political action aimed at peace and the common good.

Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney was a man of hope and optimism. Anticipating the message of Pope Francis by more than a century, Father McGivney encouraged Catholic men and women to bring hope and confidence in God to every human situation. These qualities caused those who were in difficulty or suffering to turn to him in their need. However, Father McGivney was not simply a theorist. He was a practical man who knew how to get things done. His quiet and reserved personality never inhibited his determination to seek justice for the poor and oppressed or produce a creative way to lead his parishioners to a more vital Christian life. The founding of the Knights of Columbus is the most visible example of his ability to inspire others to put their faith into action.

The Venerable Servant of God intended the scope and influence of his Knights to go far beyond the confines of the local parish. The earliest members of the Order engaged the larger anti-Catholic culture, bringing to bear values and principles drawn from the Gospel to transform the world. Father McGivney never wavered in his confidence in the power of the Gospel to influence the direction of the society at large, no matter what the obstacles. He did not hesitate to engage in dialogue with local and state officials, he stood as an advocate in the courts for those in need, and he encouraged informed discussion on the important social and political issues of the time.

Father McGivney was a man not only for his own time; he was prophetic in many ways. We see in the preaching of Pope Francis the same confidence and spirit of hope that marked the ministry of Father McGivney and was embodied in the founding of the Knights of Columbus.

Guild members share a spiritual bond with Father McGivney that should move us to pray intently for his beatification. His vision of the Christian life, the dignity of the human person and the sanctity of marriage and family is needed even more urgently today than when the Servant of God walked the earth. As we celebrate the great triumph of the resurrection of Christ at Easter, we must implore God to use his servant Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney to call today's Catholics to a hope grounded in faith. Let us follow with joy and determination his spiritual vision and his practical plans for making the world a better place in which men and women of every persuasion and culture will thrive and attain happiness.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

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Guild Director

Vice-Postulator

FOUNDER'S BIOGRAPHY PRESENTED TO POPE



Archbishop Lori and Supreme Knight Anderson present to Pope Francis the Italian edition of Father McGivney's biography. (Photo by Tamino Petelinsek)

In a meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican, Archbishop William E. Lori, the Order's supreme chaplain, and Supreme Knight Carl Anderson presented the Holy Father with an Italian edition of the biography of Father Michael McGivney. Titled *Il Parroco*, and published in 2014 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana, the book is a translation of *Parish Priest* by Douglas Brinkley and Julie M. Fenster, which was released in 2006.

The meeting took place Feb. 12 in the Apostolic Palace, during a weeklong pilgrimage to Rome of the Knights of Columbus's supreme officers and board members and their wives. Pope Francis had previously received the supreme knight and the Order's leadership in a scheduled private audience two days earlier, Feb. 10, in the Clementine Hall. The second audience was arranged afterward by Vatican officials and was not on the official pilgrimage schedule.

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Same-Day Intercession

I picked up a prayer card for Father McGivney from my parish of St. Patrick in Houston, Texas. I had never read or said the prayer on the card. For over a month I had been praying to God for a new job. Hints had been dropped here and there that the job was mine but I never received an official call. At 9:25 a.m., I went to the breakroom and called the HR office of the job I had applied to. They told me they had not heard anything and would call me if they did. I went to my car and sat there for a while in distress. I looked down and saw the prayer cards from my home parish and picked up the card and prayed to Father McGivney that they would get back to me that day and the job would become mine. I had to be back at my desk by 10:06. As I returned to work, I was in my office kind of walking about and looking in on things. At 10:23 a.m., I received an email with the official offer granting me the job. I was so thrilled. I prayed a quick Divine Mercy Chaplet and I knew it was due to Father McGivney helping me in my time of need.

Texas

Healed

As a field agent with Knights of Columbus Insurance, I had an appointment with a member and his wife. At the end of my visit, the wife told me how praying to Father McGivney cured her hearing. The doctors had told her that they could not cure her and that her deafness was probably going to be permanent. One evening, she came across an article about Father McGivney in *Columbia* magazine. She said a prayer asking for his intercession and went to sleep. The next morning, she was startled to wake up to the sound of a barking dog. Her hearing had returned. She credits Father McGivney for the restoration of her hearing.

Texas

For one year I prayed to have the holes in my great-grand niece's heart healed. The doctors said the small one would heal, the middle-size one might heal, but the largest one would need surgery. This could be tragic because she also has cystic fibrosis and weak lungs. After one year they were amazed that all three holes were completely healed and she didn't need surgery!

Minnesota

I was visiting a church three years ago and there was a table by the Knights with Father McGivney prayer cards. I decided to ask for Father McGivney's intercession to reverse my brother's hepatitis B surface antigen from reactive to non-reactive, which would be better in terms of liver disease. We had been monitoring this test for over 10 years. After three years of praying to Father McGivney for his intercession, my request was granted. Just last week, the hepatitis B surface antigen was non-reactive! I will continue to pray for Father McGivney's intercession for my brother's health. Thank you, Lord, for granting me this favor through the intercession of Father McGivney.

California

Coma Recovery

My cousin in Ireland had been in critical condition and in a medically induced coma for a week while undergoing treatment for sepsis. While attending the new exemplification ceremony at my council, we closed the ceremony by praying the Prayer for the Canonization of Father McGivney, and I felt compelled to pray for his intercession and favor on behalf of my sick cousin. I just heard that my cousin is now awake and responsive, but still requires breathing support, which is not unexpected. They hope she will continue to improve over the coming days. I pray again for the intercession and favor of Father McGivney for my cousin's continued improvement, her ability to breathe without assistance and her eventual full recovery.

Florida

Faith and Family

I have been praying the canonization prayer daily for at least three years. One of the favors I ask is to return my children and theirs to the Catholic faith. Now my grandson will receive the first acceptance from the Archbishop to enter the Church. My daughter will come to the ceremony.

Alabama

Education

As a Fourth Degree Knight, I would like to thank Father Michael McGivney for his help in getting me transferred to my preferred MBA program. Not only was I transferred seamlessly, but I also got extra credit for all the previous courses I took. I thought it was going to be impossible, but I will be graduating quicker and saving a lot more money on tuition as compared to my previous school. I would also like to thank him for the countless favors he has granted to me in the past, such as keeping my wife and I together, for helping me get my job, for my baby daughter's safe birth and good health, and for many other answered prayers. I would like to thank him for founding the Knights of Columbus, an organization that has helped me nurture my Catholic faith tremendously. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, Father Michael McGivney. Praise God! *Vivat Jesus!*

Toronto

Safe Landing and Delivery

A Fourth Degree Knight, I was on a private plane trip in January for business. When we were returning to our home airport in the evening, we received weather updates that fog was setting in and we may have to divert. As we approached, the fog was very heavy and low and the pilots were flying instruments-only to attempt an approach. The majority of people on the flight were Catholic. To complicate the matter, my wife at home was 39 weeks pregnant and I didn't want to stress her with me being diverted for a day. I prayed very hard and specifically asked Father McGivney to guide our plane and give the pilots skill and confidence. We did safely reach the runway and I believe that Father McGivney's intervention helped the pilots and guided us safely exactly on target with a very smooth touch down. I am grateful for his intervention on the flight as well as a healthy baby girl born the next week.

Missouri



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
- _____ 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 prayer intention below and send to the above address, by April 6, for inclusion in the Easter Masses.



Father McGivney Medal

This medal may be worn with a chain (sold separately). 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



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



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Easter Octave Masses

Guild members and their intentions will be remembered in the holy sacrifice of the Mass over eight days, beginning Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020. 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 6. Mail: Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510, or email: guild@kofc.org.

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The second meeting took place after Archbishop Lori had offered holy Mass for the K of C pilgrims. After entering the chapel, the Holy Father prayed an Our Father and Hail Mary with the delegation. He promised to pray for the Knights, and asked the Knights to pray for him as well.

The meetings with the pope left a profound impression on those in attendance.

“It was a great honor for our delegation to meet with the pope not just once, but twice,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “We are touched by the fact that Pope Francis took so much time with us, and we remain inspired by his words and grateful for his prayers. I ask all

brother Knights and their families to take seriously the Holy Father’s request and commit to praying for him each day.”

The Knights of Columbus Board of Directors was on pilgrimage in Rome to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Order’s permanent establishment in the Eternal City at the request of Pope Benedict XV in 1920. Since that time, the Knights of Columbus has engaged in charitable, cultural and evangelization projects, including sponsoring recreation fields for young people of Rome, numerous conferences, and restoration and communication programs for the Vatican.

VIRGIL C. DECHANT – IN MEMORIAM



Virgil C. Dechant, who initiated the canonization cause of Father McGivney while serving as supreme knight, passed away Feb. 16 at the age of 89. He was the Order’s longest-serving supreme knight, holding the office from 1977 to 2000. In 2012, he received the Order’s highest honor, the Gaudium et Spes Award, which he initiated in 1992 by presenting it to Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

“God has called home a good man and one of the Knights’ great leaders,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “Virgil Dechant used to say that his goal was to leave the Knights better than he found it, and in myriad ways, he accomplished that.”

As supreme knight, Mr. Dechant oversaw tremendous growth in the Order’s membership as well as in its assets and insurance business while also opening the Order to greater involvement by the wives and families of its members. In addition, he forged a close relationship with the Vatican during the pontificate of St. John Paul II, leading the Order to sponsor numerous renovation projects, including the façade of St. Peter’s Basilica, and working with the pope to promote the faith in Eastern Europe, which was then behind the iron curtain.

In 1996, Mr. Dechant took the first steps in the cause for Father McGivney, working with then Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin of the Archdiocese of Hartford. He then oversaw the official opening of the cause on Dec. 18, 1997.

A Funeral Mass and burial rites took place in his home state of Kansas. He is survived by his wife, Ann, their four children, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.