

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



FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P.
Vice Postulator & Guild Director



Dear Guild Members,

The recent beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney spurred an increase in reports of his powerful intercession and a large number of people to join the McGivney Guild. Awareness of his personal holiness and a growing determination to follow his example have spread beyond the Knights of Columbus or even the Church in North America. Devotion to America's newest blessed has become international. Men and women of every walk of life and vocation are seeking his favor and taking up his spirit in facing the ordinary challenges of daily life with an extraordinary spirit of hope and prayer. Father McGivney's life shows how to embrace one's vocation with such faith and confidence in God that the sufferings and sorrows that mark every life are met with the faith and hope that come from Jesus Christ.

In searching out the reasons for Father McGivney's unstoppable confidence in God and his positive attitude toward life, we look to his spiritual formation at home and through his years of

seminary training. At this time of the year, we are reminded that the months of May and June were special for Blessed Michael because Catholics of his era consciously dedicated May to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Mary's Immaculate Heart and Christ's Sacred Heart were the focus of many prayers and novenas. At home, Catholics set up altars and prayer corners to Our Lady and to Our Lord. Framed images of the two hearts graced many living rooms, and the McGivney home was no exception. The family rosary and parish evening devotions fostered a tender, loving relationship with Jesus and Mary. In fact, although few artifacts of Father McGivney are left, we know that an image of the Sacred Heart was found among his effects and that he was buried with a cloth image of the heart of Jesus.

In the Bible, the heart expresses the essence of the person and is the image of the mysterious uniqueness of each human being. To speak of a heart of suffering or a heart of love is to express the depths of human experience. The heart of Christ, pierced by a lance for love of sinners, is the eloquent expression of God's unconditional love and the assurance of his presence even in the midst of misery, suffering and sorrow. From the cross, Jesus gave Mary to us as a mother, just as she had been his mother. Her heart, pierced by love and grief, is a mirror image of the Sacred Heart. Their two hearts became one in their mutual surrender to the will

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Growing Devotion

First-class relics of Blessed Michael McGivney have been spreading devotion to the founder of the Knights of Columbus throughout his home state of Connecticut and even overseas in Poland, where a pilgrimage with relics is taking place.

Since a first-class bone relic was presented at the beatification Mass last Oct. 31 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Conn., a limited number of similar relics have been offered for public veneration. St. Mary's Church in New Haven, where the remains of Father McGivney have been interred in a granite sarcophagus since 1982, received a first-class relic for the McGivney Festival on the weekend of the beatification. Earlier this year, on Feb. 28, Archbishop Leonard Blair of Hartford offered Mass in St. Thomas Church in Thomaston and presented a relic to the pastor, Father Joseph Crowley. Father McGivney was pastor of the church from 1884 to his death in the rectory there in 1890. On March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, a first-class relic was presented to Father Joseph Marcello, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, Conn., by Past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and other K of C officers. Father Marcello also blessed the church's new stained-glass window of ten modern-day saints and blessed, including Father McGivney. The following weekend, a



A new stained-glass window of modern saints and blessed, with an image of Blessed Michael McGivney, was unveiled at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Trumbull, Conn., on March 19. Attending Mass and presenting a first-class relic to the pastor, Father Joseph Marcello, were Past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, Supreme Advocate John Marrella and Supreme Secretary Patrick Mason. (Photo by Kate Gombos)

first-class relic was brought to Father McGivney's home parish at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, Conn., when Vice-Postulator Brian Caulfield presented the holy object

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COVID

My nephew developed a very serious case of COVID-19. He was in the hospital for over eight weeks and was very close to death. I said the Blessed McGivney nine-day novena twice, and as I started the third time, my nephew left the hospital and went into rehab. He is now home and doing well. I truly believe that God, with the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney, saved his life.

New Jersey

Our grand knight went to the ICU with COVID. Our council held a rosary prayer vigil asking for intercessions by Our Blessed Mother and Father McGivney. His nurse said she did not expect him to survive. He is now COVID-free, and we believe the intercession of Father McGivney was instrumental in the recovery.

North Carolina

A member of our K of C council became severely ill with COVID-19 and was on the verge of requiring intubation to be placed on a ventilator. We organized Knights across the state of Oklahoma to begin praying the Rosary together for him on Zoom, followed by the Blessed Michael McGivney prayer with the intention being his recovery. After we started these prayers, his oxygen levels improved, and he is now out of ICU. His doctor told him it is nothing short of a miracle that he survived an illness of this severity.

Oklahoma

A close friend who is a Knight of Columbus was hospitalized with COVID. His condition was critical and required intensive treatment. I prayed for Father McGivney's intercession for complete healing. My friend was released from the hospital before Christmas. This morning I received a message saying that his doctor had reported that his lung function is now normal.

Wisconsin

A fellow Knight was on a ventilator with COVID and it did not look very good for him. I started praying to Blessed Michael McGivney for his intercession. I am pleased to say that since that time, our Brother Knight has fully recovered. Thank you, Blessed Michael.

Illinois

Off Medication

My mother was in the ICU for over a month with heart failure. She was hooked up to an IV for that period of time, and doctors were saying that without the medicine she would not make it. I prayed to Father McGivney every day and asked him to help her get off the medicine, and miraculously she is off it now. Some doctors said she wouldn't make it through the night, and some doctors thought she had a short time to live. I kept on praying to Father McGivney, and now she is living at home with no IV medicine.

Colorado

Cancer

Diagnosed with colon cancer, I underwent a bowel resection to remove the tumor. All lymph nodes that were removed and margins above and below the colon were negative. It was stage 1 cancer. I don't need any treatment, and I will be monitored every three months for the next five years. Thank you.

New York

After I was diagnosed with a stage 3 cancer, a cancerous tumor was removed. I also lost my right kidney, ureter and part of my bladder. This was followed by seven rounds of aggressive chemotherapy. Currently, I have gone through four bladder scopes and three CT scans, and I have been told I am cancer free. Throughout my ordeal, I prayed to Father McGivney to be by my side.

Alabama

My husband was diagnosed with a rare cancer of the sweat glands. I was listening to a podcast of "The Catholic Talk Show," and they were talking about Father McGivney and his miracles. I also usually change my purse every week, and after hearing the podcast, I found the prayer of Father McGivney in my new purse and couldn't remember who gave it to me. I prayed a novena twice, and now we just got news that my husband is cancer free.

Alberta

After a friend's young grandson was diagnosed with cancer, I added the boy to my Father McGivney prayer list. He went in for surgery and then had follow-up chemotherapy scheduled. Yet when he was brought to begin his chemo, he was sent home. The doctors found that my friend's grandson was clear of any cancer.

Colorado

Infant Recovers

My 7-month-old granddaughter was running a fever. I prayed to Blessed Michael McGivney. My daughter sent a picture of my granddaughter in which she was wearing a K of C onesie I had bought for her. I told her that Blessed Michael will protect her. Later that night, her fever broke, and she had to be COVID tested. The test was negative. She had been born five weeks premature at home on my wife's birthday.

Massachusetts

Seizures

My son was admitted to the hospital with seizures and the effects of alcoholism. I prayed to Blessed Michael McGivney for healing. He spent three weeks in the ICU and two months in total at the hospital. He then spent one month at an inpatient rehab center. He has slowly improved and has continued to heal. I believe that my son's miraculous recovery is due to the prayers and petitions to Father Michael.

Florida

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to Father James Sullivan, rector of the basilica; Msgr. John Bevins, pastor emeritus; and Father Lee Hellwig, assistant priest.

First-class relics of Blessed Michael McGivney have also been welcomed in Poland, where Knights of Columbus and other laypeople have embraced devotion to the Order's founder. A national pilgrimage with three relics began Feb. 21 in Częstochowa, Radom and Rzeszów, with Mass offered by the bishops of these locations. Over the next year, the relics will be brought to parishes where the Knights of Columbus have a presence and offered to the faithful during Mass, prayer services and private devotion. A letter by Archbishop Wacław Tomasz

Depo of Częstochowa, providing details about Father McGivney's life and virtues and the purpose of the pilgrimage, will be read at each stop. The tour has received extensive media coverage, including segments on Poland's largest TV station. Inspired by the pro-life miracle that led to the beatification of Father McGivney – the healing of Michael McGivney Schachle in the womb – the national tour will be combined with a charitable outreach program to support diocesan and parish pro-life programs. The pilgrimage is being coordinated by Szymon Czeszek, director of Knights of Columbus operations in Europe.

GUILD ITEMS

Please Send Items Below To:

Name _____

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.

Address _____

City/State/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

- _____ #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)
- _____ Reliquary (case w/third-class relic) — \$20 donation
- _____ 8" Figurine (Fiberglass) — \$50

- _____ Red Rosary (PG-614) — \$10
- _____ White Rosary (PG-615) — \$10
- _____ Pewter Spoon — \$11
- PRINTED ITEMS — FREE OF CHARGE UP TO 25 COPIES**
- _____ *A Model for Our Times* booklet
- _____ Prayer for Canonization card
- _____ Prayer for Canonization card (with third-class relic)

Many of the Father McGivney Guild promotional and devotional items previously listed on this page may now be purchased online with a credit card or check at the KnightsGear website (knightsgear.com).

**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 Sacred Heart Novena and mail to the address above.)



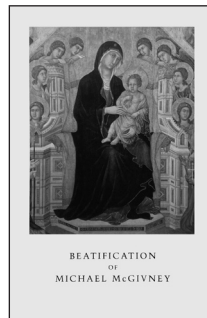
Prayer for Canonization card
Now that Father McGivney is "Blessed" this prayer card for his canonization is more necessary than ever. Order up to 25 prayer cards.



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**



Third-Class Relic
A small piece of cloth touched to the bodily remains of Father McGivney is contained in an ornate reliquary and placed in a solid plastic case. Use for personal prayer and devotion. **Donation: \$20**



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

Sacred Heart Novena

The Guild will offer its annual Novena for World Peace on the nine days leading up to the feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 11, 2021. Submit your intentions by regular mail, by email or through the Father McGivney website (fathermcgivney.org)

for inclusion in the novena. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2021. The mailing address is: Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510. The email address is: guild@kofc.org.



Father Michael J. McGivney Guild

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS • 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA • NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326



Photo: Aaron Joseph

Father James Sullivan (center), rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, Conn., together with Father Lee Hellwig and Msgr. John Bevins, holds a reliquary containing a first-class relic of Blessed Michael McGivney that was presented on March 27.

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of the Father. Through their heroic obedience, they also became one in the triumph and glory of the resurrection.

The religious traditions and observances of May and June were formative for Blessed Michael. We know that he preached eloquently on the subject of the maternal love of Mary and insisted that Marian prayers were important in shaping the religious spirit of youngsters. As in the lives of all saints, his deep life of prayer and devotion became the inner spring from which flowed his positive disposition toward life even when facing serious setbacks or crises.

Tender attachment to the Mother of God always leads to Jesus Christ. Mary takes us to her Son for forgiveness of our sins and for strength in our faith. Taking the hand of our heavenly Mother, we can approach the throne of God in prayer, confident that the Lord looks kindly on poor sinners and offers eternal happiness for us in heaven.

Blessed Michael's devotion to Jesus and Mary should not be confused with mere sentiment. Living the months of May and June with an awareness of their presence and a heightened life of prayer and virtue involved more than emotion. Rather, Blessed

Michael possessed a robust confidence in God's unconditional love such that he, shy and retiring in temperament, courageously faced obstacles in his work of caring for his parishioners and in his founding of the Knights of Columbus. His was a piety marked by confidence in God's providential care and a hopeful approach to all that daily life brought to him.

The example of Blessed Michael McGivney draws us into a more consistent and fervent life of prayer. In May and June, we turn in a special way to Our Lady and to Our Lord, beseeching their help and intercession. In this spirit, I warmly welcome you to submit prayer intentions for the Sacred Heart Novena of Masses to be offered for all Guild members in June (see page 3).

Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

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Father McGivney Videos Online

Inspiring and informative videos on Father McGivney and his powerful intercession have been produced in recent months. Among the short, high-quality productions are: "Father Michael McGivney: An American Blessed," a documentary on his life, works and virtue; "A Witness for the World," a survey of how devotion to him is spreading in many countries; "Dear Father McGivney," an

inspiring video of the heartfelt petitions that are offered to the new blessed; "Miracle Mikey," a moving 7-minute film about the miracle that brought Father McGivney to beatification; and three short videos on individuals who have received significant favors through prayers to Father McGivney. To view these and other videos, visit: <https://www.fathermcgivney.org/en/media/index.html>.