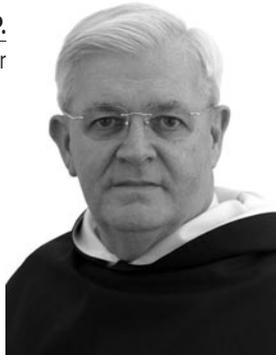


Founder of the Knights of Columbus.
Blessed Michael McGivney,
Apostle to the Young and
Protector of Christian Family Life,
Intercede for Us.



FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

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



Dear Guild Members,

Father McGivney was a priest ahead of his time who also was deeply immersed in the ecclesial and societal issues of his day. While dealing with the problems of his mostly poor immigrant parishioners, he came up with solutions that were farsighted and far-reaching in their application and effect. The founding of the Knights of Columbus, of course, was his most important and enduring act that today reaches around the world, with two-million members in many countries. The Order's life-saving relief efforts during the tragic war in Ukraine are simply the most recent example of how Father McGivney's vision of charity, unity and fraternity has current impact on the world's stage. Knights in Poland, with backing from the Supreme Council, have opened their arms and their homes to Ukrainian refugees, most of them women and children who left their

husbands and fathers behind to defend their homeland against Russian forces. The K of C Ukraine Solidarity Fund has raised more than \$14 million for direct relief of those displaced by the war, paying for food, clothing, shelter, medicine and convoys of trucks bringing these and other vital necessities. (Visit www.kofc.org to find out more and donate to the fund.)

We can be sure that Blessed Michael McGivney is looking down from heaven with approval of the work of his Knights, who have stepped into the breach in this time of dire need.

Of course, Father McGivney faced many challenges closer to home in his own day. The late 19th century was a time of great growth for the Catholic Church in America, and there were plenty of growing pains. As Pope Benedict XVI stated in 2008 soon after Father McGivney was proclaimed "Venerable" for his heroic virtue, the Knights' founder was a key figure in "the impressive growth" of the Church. "We need but think of the remarkable accomplishment of that exemplary American priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus," Benedict said. In his decree of beatification in October 2020, Pope Francis noted that Father McGivney's "zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and generous concern for the

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Founder's Day Celebration

A votive Mass in honor of Blessed Michael McGivney was offered on the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Columbus, March 29, in St. Mary's Church in New Haven. The date commemorates when the Connecticut state legislature, on March 29, 1882, approved the charter of the fraternal organization founded by Father McGivney and a handful of men from New Haven in the basement of St. Mary's.

The main celebrant of the Mass was Archbishop Leonard Blair of Hartford, and the homilist was the K of C's supreme chaplain, Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore. Among the other concelebrants were Archbishop Emeritus Daniel Cronin of Hartford, who opened the canonization process in 1997, and Hartford Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt. The Mass began with more than forty Fourth Degree Knights in regalia leading the procession in a show of fraternal unity.

In his homily, Archbishop Lori invoked Father McGivney's intercession "that the Knights may experience continued growth in its mission to form men after the mind and heart of Christ, and that it may continue to practice with ever-increasing effectiveness a charity that evangelizes, a charity that strengthens the Church at every level."

Speaking of the founder's pastoral charity, the archbishop noted, "As the Holy Spirit coursed through his priestly mind and heart, Father McGivney became a vessel of mercy, brought help and healing to those to whom he ministered, and created the living,

breathing, growing, organism we call the Knights of Columbus, which, to this very day, is bearing abundant fruit for Church and world. In this temple, this Church of St. Mary, we feel especially close to Blessed Michael McGivney, and we know that his ministry continues, not only to influence us, but also to help us."

After Mass, Archbishop Blair joined the Order's supreme officers at the tomb of Father McGivney near the entrance to the church to recite the Prayer for Canonization. Father McGivney needs a second miracle attributed to his intercession for the way to be opened for sainthood.



Archbishop Leonard Blair leads prayers at the tomb of Blessed Michael McGivney on March 29, Founder's Day. To his left is Archbishop William Lori, supreme chaplain, and Knights of Columbus officers and staff members.

FAVORS REPORTED

Mindful of the fact a second miracle is needed for Father McGivney to advance to sainthood, the Guild continues to ask all members to pray to this Blessed servant of God and to spread knowledge and devotion of him in your parishes and Knights of Columbus councils. Please report any favors received to the Father McGivney Guild (guild@kofc.org).

COVID-19

My dad contracted COVID-19 and ended up in the hospital. On his fifth day, my family was called by the doctors to his room for his dire health update. Prior to leaving my dad's room, I knelt beside him, held his hand, wrapped my K of C rosary around our hands and prayed for Blessed Michael McGivney's intercession. After a 21-day stay in the hospital, my dad is now recovering at home. Thank you, Blessed Michael McGivney, for answering our prayers.

Illinois

A friend in his late 40s contracted a serious case of COVID. He got progressively worse in the hospital and went into a coma. A first-class relic of Father McGivney was brought to the hospital and placed upon him. Soon after, he began to recover and now is back to work. We thank God for this great favor.

Connecticut

My wife had a severe case of COVID-19 and was admitted to the hospital. They kept hooking her up to more and more machines, and the doctors were giving her little hope for recovery. Then she made an amazing, sudden turnaround, enough to where she was taken off the respirator! She is very weak but gaining strength daily at an amazing rate. She'll be discharged as soon as she's able to walk again. I want to thank the Guild for your prayers. I am without a doubt that my wife's fantastic recovery was due in no small part to those prayers, as well as the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney, champion of families. *Vivat Jesus!*

Connecticut

Cancer

I asked Father McGivney for help with all my faith. Thanks to him, I came out of a hysterectomy very well, a year ago, and all the check-ups after as well. No more cancer. I will always be very grateful to Father McGivney. He keeps taking care of me.

Spain

We prayed for the intercession of Father McGivney for Cheryl, who was diagnosed with serious cancer. We prayed the Father McGivney prayer on and off for months. Yesterday her doctor called to say there is no sign of cancer. We are waiting for further clarification from doctors, but it appears to be potentially miraculous. Amen!

Washington

Dear Father McGivney, thank you so much for allowing Jesus to work through you to cure my second round of skin cancer that popped up without warning. I was so happy to find the cancer gone after visiting your tomb.

Connecticut

My neighbor told us that her sister was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer. She visited her sister daily and was beside herself with anxiety. She asked if I could pray, and I began daily prayers that included a request for Father McGivney's help. I checked in with her every few weeks. In mid-January, Holly texted that Susan was cancer free!

Connecticut

Family Life

A couple's doctor offered abortion because their baby would be born crippled, with Down syndrome and other problems. The

Catholic mother said no and asked for prayers. Knights and parish members prayed to Father McGivney for three months. Their baby was born with an open spine, one kidney not formed, and legs unable to move. The baby then was placed in the Neonatal ICU. Prayers to Blessed McGivney continued in earnest. Now a few months old, the baby's legs are moving, his spine is fully closed, kidneys are both formed and working. He is named Michael after Father Michael McGivney.

Virginia

My daughter and her husband had been trying to start a family but with no luck. They were referred to a specialist. The doctor discovered fertility problems on both sides and gave them a three percent chance of conceiving naturally. I started to pray nightly to Father Michael McGivney to bless them with a child that they so dearly desired. On the morning that they were scheduled to meet with an in vitro specialist, my daughter took a pregnancy test. It was positive! Come late July, they will welcome their son!

California

My daughter and her husband struggled for four-and-a-half years to start a family. They suffered three miscarriages and endured numerous failed fertility treatments before welcoming a healthy baby girl into the world. I prayed the Father McGivney novena and then continued prayers throughout the pregnancy. Prayers answered. Thank you, Father McGivney. Prayers to Father McGivney continue.

Michigan

My two grandkids had severe allergies with fish and nuts when they were younger. We applied several lotions for them each time their skin turned red and itchy. I prayed for Father Michael McGivney's intercession, and they gradually outgrew those allergies. They are now normal, athletic young guys. I would like to give thanks to Father McGivney's intercession for my fervent prayers and will continue to pray and give thanks to the Lord.

Ontario

From the Heart

While visiting my sister in Connecticut last August, I suddenly felt my heart racing and went to the local emergency facility for evaluation. I was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation and advised that I needed to be hospitalized for further treatment. I prayed to Father McGivney for my heart rhythm to return to normal so I could get back to Ohio and my regular doctors. A nurse came in shortly thereafter with the news that my heart was back in regular rhythm. Thank you, Lord, for a favor granted through Father McGivney.

Ohio

I am originally from New Haven, Conn. In 2018, after a routine exam, a problem was found in my blood work. After reviewing a CT scan, I was diagnosed with NASH (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis), which is damage to your liver from being overweight. I was told that in three to five years I would need a liver transplant. In November 2021, I became ill, and my lab results indicated it was time for me to be listed. I continued to pray to Blessed McGivney. After three months, my liver blood work is better than it was three years ago when I was diagnosed. My doctor has no idea why!

Maryland

GUILD ITEMS

Please Send Items Below To:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

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. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

_____ Beatification DVD — \$45

_____ Blessed McGivney Beatification Medallion — \$40

_____ 4-Foot Statue — \$2,400 (Plus Shipping & Handling)

_____ Reliquary (case w/third-class relic) — \$20 donation

_____ Father McGivney Plaque — \$190

_____ 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 (**NEW AND UPDATED!**)

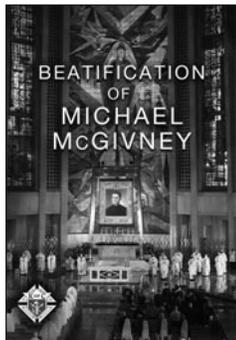
_____ Prayer for Canonization card

_____ 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.

Many more Father McGivney promotional and devotional items may be purchased online with a credit card or check at the KnightsGear website (knightsgear.com).

Write out your prayer intention below and mail to the Guild, or submit an intention online at www.fathermcgivney.org



Beatification DVD

The historic Mass of Beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney is captured on this DVD of the ceremony of Oct. 31, 2020. Relive the moment when Father McGivney was proclaimed "Blessed."
\$45.00 (includes shipping)



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**



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**



Father McGivney Plaque

This semi-relief plaque is perfect for hanging in a council meeting place. Solid yet portable, it measures 12 in. high, 10 in. wide, a half-inch deep, and weighs 4 lbs. Made of compressed marble powder and plated with a composite of copper and nickel, each piece is hand-designed by a U.S. Catholic art house. **\$190**



Father Michael J. McGivney Guild

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



Fourth Degree Knights hold a portrait of Blessed Michael McGivney after Mass in New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral, where the framed image was placed by a side altar for public viewing. The Knights of Columbus Board of Directors were special guests April 3 at the Mass offered by Cardinal Timothy Dolan (center). Also shown are Archbishop William Lori, supreme chaplain, and Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly. (Photo: Jeffrey Bruno)

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needs of his brothers and sisters made him an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and fraternal assistance."

It is interesting to note that the growth of the Church in America was addressed by the bishops in three plenary councils held during Father McGivney's time. Held in Baltimore, the nation's premier diocese, the first council was convened in May 1852, a few months before McGivney's birth; the second was in October 1866, after young Michael had completed his primary school studies and while he was working in a Waterbury factory; and the third council was held from November into December 1884, two years after Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, and at the exact time he was transferred from St. Mary's Church in New Haven to serve as pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston. Certainly, as he advanced in the seminary and after his ordination, the attentive and studious McGivney would have learned about these councils that were shaping the rapidly growing Church. Indeed, it may be said that his priesthood itself took shape within the context of these councils and was informed by both their doctrinal and pastoral character.

One of the notable characteristics of Father McGivney's life and priestly ministry was his ability to listen and respond. His perceptive attention to others as they poured out their hearts expressing joys and sorrow, hopes and dreams gave them confidence in the strength of his wisdom. Whether in the depths of sorrow and despair or enthralled with high ideals, people of every station in life – even those outside the Catholic faith – were drawn to him. As a priest, he listened closely to God in prayer and in the daily celebration of the holy sacrifice of the Mass. There was an openness and docility evident in his face and demeanor. With feet

firmly planted in the reality of life in this world, Father McGivney was careful to listen to the voices of the society in which he lived and breathed. He was interested in the issues of the day and brought the truths of the Catholic Church to bear on all aspects of life in his parish, his city and his country. Public meetings on current social and moral issues were common in the church hall of St. Mary's Church in New Haven and, when he became pastor, in the basement of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston. He organized plays to give his people a healthy outlet and an abstinence society to keep them away from alcohol abuse. Most notably, he founded the Knights of Columbus as a lay organization and insisted that it remain under lay leadership even after the first members asked him to serve as supreme knight.

Though long gone from this world, he remains an example of the positive response to the call of the Church to gather people together to listen to one another, to express our own views and to look to the unfailing magisterium for leadership and guidance as we move forward in the Church's history. Father McGivney's was a life formed by the Word of God not only for the good of his own soul but also for the salvation of others and the advancement of the Kingdom of God. From his place in heaven, he leads us to Christ, the way, the truth and the life.

Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

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

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Guild Director

Vice-Postulator