

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



FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

The Founder in the Nation's Capital

A new statue of Blessed Michael McGivney was dedicated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 8, 2023, the patronal feast of the basilica and of the United States.

The Italian marble statue, located in the Hall of American Saints on the basilica's lower level, was unveiled by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and John Walshe, a great-grandnephew of Father McGivney. Resting on a pedestal and standing more than six feet tall, the white marble figure of the founder of the Knights of Columbus is shown in a simple cassock, holding a book of the Scriptures. Etched on its pages are the Order's founding principles — Unity and Charity — symbolizing their roots in the Gospel message.

Presiding at the dedication, which followed midday Mass in the Great Upper Church, were Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore.

"Father McGivney had a timeless vision, which is captured so well on the statue itself," the supreme knight said in remarks following the dedication. "Generations of pilgrims started visiting the basilica in the 1920s, long before any of us were born. And long after we're gone, pilgrims will still come to the basilica, and now they will see a statue of Blessed Michael McGivney and will pray for his intercession."

A gift from the Order, the statue joins those of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. Katharine Drexel and St. Kateri Tekakwitha in the Hall of American Saints near the entrance to the Crypt Church.



The new marble statue was unveiled by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and John Walshe, great grandnephew of Father McGivney, with assistance from Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori (left) and Msgr. Walter Rossi, rector of the basilica.



Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, blesses the statue during the dedication rite. (Photos by Matthew Barrick)

Its sculptor, Chas Fagan, also painted the image of Father McGivney for his beatification in 2020. In an interview in the March issue of *Columbia*, Fagan recalled visiting St. Mary's Church in New Haven for the first time in the 1980s, when he was a student at Yale University. Not knowing it was the church where the Knights of Columbus was founded, he sat in the empty church one day, he recalled, "and the voice welcomes me — by name. I look up, and there's a priest up there by the altar, and he walks by. And that's it. I'm left sitting there, kind of shocked and amazed, but also a little freaked out. I had never been there, yet he knew my name. ... In the end, all I do know is what I felt — a sense of absolute welcome. And that experience completely anchored me from then on. That church on Hillhouse [Avenue] became my home. For the rest of my time at college, I went to church there."

He found out about the church's connection to Father McGivney when the Knights first contacted him to paint an image of the founder. "That is why it means so much to me to work with the Knights of Columbus, to tell the story of Father McGivney, either in paint or clay or bronze or marble," he said.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

Vice Postulator and Guild Director



Dear Guild Members,

It is always heartening to hear about the growing awareness of the life and spirit of Father Michael J. McGivney. Having been the original postulator of his cause for canonization, it has been a personal joy for me to witness the spread of devotion since his beatification in October 2020. He represents the possibility of holiness to ordinary men and women who struggle to be faithful in the face of the many difficulties that confront Catholics and Catholic families in our time.

On Dec. 8 of last year, an especially joyous occasion took place that you can also read about elsewhere in this newsletter. On that day, a new statue of Blessed Michael McGivney was dedicated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, known as "America's Church," where the Knights of Columbus have a long charitable history. Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio, did the honors of dedicating the statue following midday Mass. Since it was the feast of the Immaculate Conception, we were all aware of the presence of Mary and her role as intercessor with her Son.

I was privileged to concelebrate the Mass and at the blessing ceremony to proclaim the appointed Gospel text. As the marble image was unveiled, I looked into the face of Father McGivney and entrusted to him all the members of the Guild, begging his spiritual aid and intercession. Just as he protected and defended his beleaguered parishioners while on earth, his prayers reach out to us today from his place in heaven.

See **DIRECTOR'S DESK**, Page 4

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 of and devotion to him in your parishes and Knights of Columbus councils. Please report any favors received to the Father McGivney Guild (guild@kofc.org).

Recoveries

My husband was an active, healthy man when he seemed to become dizzy and incoherent on Feb. 5, 2021. I called 911, and he was taken to Montfort Hospital at 10:30 am. That evening, I received a call from a doctor at Montfort that Dave was being transferred to the general hospital for a craniotomy to determine the nature of what was seen on a scan. The craniotomy determined that he had PCNS lymphoma. He was in the hospital until early May and received chemo. Now he has no symptoms.
Ontario

I am very grateful, and I praise God for the healing of my Brother Knight Michael and his wife, Barbara, who have both been struggling with cancer. In 2019, I started praying every morning during my devotions the Father Michael J. McGivney canonization prayer for them, and I am convinced of God's healing hand on Michael, his wife and their son Jonathan. *Vivat Jesus!*

New York

A year ago, I suffered a stroke that left me paralyzed on my left side. This came within a year of the death of my wife and brother and my brief battle with cancer. Lying paralyzed in the hospital, I prepared for my death, contacting my brokers and priest. I prayed to God and gave it up to him. I also prayed to Father McGivney for his intercession. My first week in inpatient rehab, a line of priests and deacons came to visit, anoint me and bring me the Eucharist. Soon after, friends, family and Knights followed. I prayed the rosary and continued to ask Father McGivney to save me for whatever God still wanted me for. After a month in rehab, followed by three more months of outpatient therapy and plenty of prayers, I am back and have assumed all my church obligations as lector, eucharistic minister, vice chairman of Parish Council, and fully engaged in my Knights of Columbus duty. I'm about 90% back and ready for all God has yet in store for me at 72 years of age.

Pennsylvania

My parishioner, the district deputy, was in a coma on life support. I thought for sure he was going to die. I anointed him and prayed to Father McGivney, "Okay, Father Michael McGivney, now is the

time. I pray for your intercession that Manny will be restored back to life and good health." All the Knights also prayed to Father McGivney. The next morning, our grand knight called to say he was at that hospital and Manny was sitting up talking and that everything was okay.

California

Back in 2017, when I was in the hospital awaiting possible surgery, I wrote a prayer to Venerable Michael McGivney. I was healed, and I did not need the surgery. Jesus, I trust in you.

New Jersey

For most of 2022, my mom suffered from severe constipation. Her diet was healthy, with lots of fiber and water, and yet she still suffered. We feared she might have colon cancer. I got to know Blessed Michael McGivney after the multiplication of hosts at St. Thomas Church. I went there last April 2023 and made a petition to Blessed McGivney for my mom's healing. In May, my mom had her colonoscopy, and in June her doctor confirmed that her results are all clear. By July she was fully well. Thank you, Blessed Michael McGivney! God bless!

Connecticut

My father in Arizona was diagnosed with a cancerous mass in his colon just before Christmas 2023. I asked for Blessed Michael McGivney to intercede by asking the Lord to grant him healing. My father had surgery to remove the mass at the beginning of January. The surgery was successful, and he now appears to be totally cancer free. I thank Father McGivney for his intercession for my father.

Michigan

My friend and neighbor was diagnosed with stage 3 uterine cancer. I prayed faithfully to Blessed Michael McGivney and gave her and some of my neighbors a prayer card. I asked them to pray for this favor. I am grateful to report that after undergoing a few months of chemo and an operation, she texted me from her doctor's and told me that there was no sign of cancer. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Connecticut

See **FAVORS REPORTED**, Page 4

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
- _____ 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

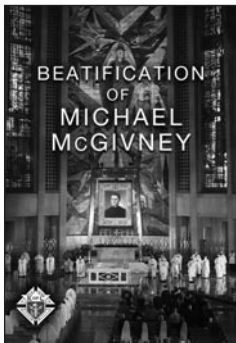
PRINTED ITEMS — FREE OF CHARGE UP TO 25 COPIES

- _____ *A Model for Our Times* booklet
- _____ 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**



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly presents a framed portrait of Blessed Michael McGivney to Jesuit Father James Conn, superior, and residents of Casa Santa Maria, a house of continuing formation for English-speaking priests pursuing graduate-level studies in Rome. Supreme Knight Kelly joined the community for Sunday Mass and a visit on Jan. 14. (Photo by Tamino Petelinsek)

IN THIS ISSUE —

Founder in Nation’s Capital 1
 From the Director 2
 Favors Reported 2
 Guild Items 3
 McGivney in Rome College 4

DIRECTOR’S DESK, from Page 2

Father McGivney possessed the rare gift of being at ease with everyone he met, whatever a person’s social or economic status. This is remarkable because he was a shy man who preferred being in the background; but his vocation as a parish priest and as founder of the Knights of Columbus often thrust him to center stage. In his ability to rub shoulders with the working man and the convicted killer, as well as with politicians and societal leaders, he was known as an approachable friend in his day, and he remains a most approachable advocate in heaven for every need and intention. The placing of the new statue in the Hall of American Saints on the lower level of the shrine is most appropriate, for he is an attractive figure for the ordinary Christian.

Pilgrims visiting the basilica to express devotion to him and ask his intercession will find in his example the ideal of a holy life that is possible for all the baptized. At first glance his life seems to lack greatness; he appears to be a typical priest of his era. However, as one discovers the quality of his faith and his untiring love heroically manifest in his pastoral care for others, one sees an extraordinary man of God. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the spiritual vision that led to the founding of the Knights of Columbus. An ordinary life sometimes hides an extraordinary human spirit and a holiness of life that is the work of grace.

At a recent preaching assignment, a man greeted me after Mass to ask if I am the priest who knows about Father McGivney. He recognized my photo from the Guild newsletter. He shared with me the impact on his life the biography *Parish Priest* has had on his life. He was away from the Church for 30 years after a terrible disagreement with his pastor. Father McGivney impressed him as humble parish priest who lived up to his principles, and after reading the book this man returned to the faith and joined the Knights of Columbus.

During the long process of canonization, Father McGivney has become a true spiritual friend. I turn to him often for strength and intercession, and he never fails to inspire. I ask for the wisdom to undertake all the daily duties of my vocation with the same extraordinary love so obvious in his ministry to anyone in need.

Blessed Michael McGivney, *pray for us!*

Devotedly yours,

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

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

FAVORS REPORTED, from Page 2

Good Results

After treatment and prayer, the doctor said my PSA test is the lowest possible level. No evidence of prostate cancer. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Father Michael J. McGivney.

New Jersey

Employment

My daughter started a new job in January. Her place of employment requires everyone to pass a certain three-hour test that is extremely difficult. Thank you that she passed this test.

Maine