

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:

When Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney was sent to his first assignment at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., he did not know how his time there would impact his life and the future of the Catholic Church in the United States and beyond for generations to come. He did not go to the parish to found the Knights of Columbus; rather, he discovered the need for the Knights in the lives and troubles of his parishioners.

Located in the midst of the Yale University community, St. Mary's Church and rectory brought Father Michael into daily contact with a social circle that was much different from the Irish-immigrant world of his youth and even the neighborhoods surrounding Yale. This new experience required of the young priest a certain broadness of mind and spirit as he was called to care for souls from different walks of life and social strata. In the course of a single day, he saw how the upper-class lived at the same time as he dealt with the poverty and hardships of his



parishioners. He had to become a man of mercy and compassion to move easily between these two worlds.

The magnetism of his personality and his deep spirituality drew rich and poor, Protestants and Catholics, educated and illiterate alike to seek his help and spiritual counsel. Receiving each person as an individual, regardless social position, he learned heroic patience and a keen understanding of human nature and its frailty. He was called upon to dispense the tender mercy of God to all who came to him for help, whether material or spiritual. It soon became clear to those who had contact with him that he was a man of remarkable wisdom and sanctity.

In recent times, popes have assigned various spiritual themes to certain years to focus the work of evangelization and the spiritual activities of parishes, dioceses and the Church universal. For example, we are currently in the Year for Consecrated Life. Pope Francis has asked religious communities to renew themselves from within and that laypeople develop a greater understanding and appreciation for the men and women who make a total commitment to God through their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The Holy Father expressed the hope that a fresh understanding of the vocation to the consecrated life will stimulate vocations and strengthen the evangelical outreach undertaken by religious communities and orders.

Attracting a great amount of attention even outside the Church has been Pope Francis' announcement of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, which

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NEW FATHER MCGIVNEY WINDOW

A building addition to the Pontifical North American College in Rome features a stained-glass window of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Venerable Michael McGivney — one of two U.S. priests portrayed at the new facility's chapel.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, dedicated the building Jan. 6, 2015, the feast of the Epiphany. The new facility also has more accessible offices, meeting spaces, classrooms, and soundproof rooms for homily and Mass practicums.

The building includes the new St. John Paul II Chapel, which features stained-glass windows of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. John Paul II, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen and Venerable Father McGivney.

The Knights of Columbus has provided support for the North American College since 1982, including millions of dollars in scholarships. Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson and his wife, Dorian, received the Rector's Award from the school in 2008.

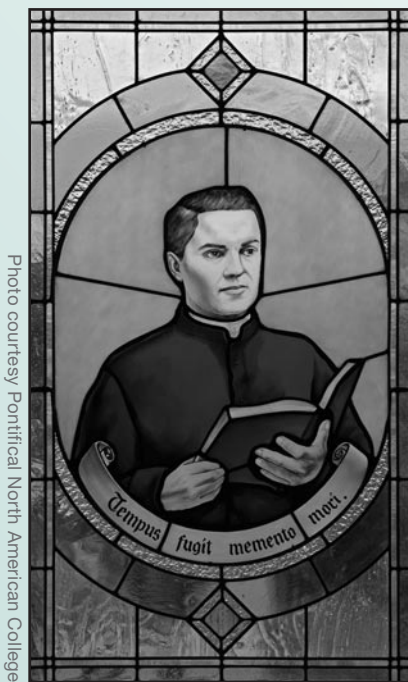


Photo courtesy: Pontifical North American College

PRAYER AND INTERCESSION

Prayer has been and always will be a key factor in the Cause for Canonization of Venerable Father McGivney. As Guild members, we must remember that our prayers must take two forms.

We should regularly — even daily — recite the Prayer for Canonization (printed at right) to advance the Cause of Father McGivney. If each of the 1.8 million Knights of Columbus would say this prayer every day, there is no telling what positive events would result. The second form of prayer should be to ask God's help through the intercession of Father McGivney in all of life's needs, especially in serious medical conditions.

The next important step is to report to the Guild any and all favors received through Father McGivney's intercession. This is vital. Every favor submitted is read by a Guild expert to see if there is any possible element of the miraculous involved. If the healing reported seems extraordinary, the Guild will follow up on the case and perhaps request a full account of the incident, including medical records and statements of eyewitnesses.

Of course, we are pleased to receive reports of any favors, not just major medical recoveries. After all, Father McGivney was a humble parish priest who engaged in quiet yet heroic work day to day. From the many favors reported to the Guild, it is evident that he is still busy doing the good he began on earth: work for the unemployed, reconciling spouses and family members, bringing grown children back to the Church, helping with drug addictions and alcoholism, and assisting with finances. He is intercessor for the ordinary and extraordinary circumstances of life.

Please recite the prayer at the right for whatever intention you hold in your heart.



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.

NOVENA FOR WORLD PEACE

Peace is the great Easter gift that Jesus gave his disciples and the Church. As he said at his post-Resurrection appearances, "Peace be with you!"

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 12, 2015. Mass will be celebrated daily at various basilicas in Rome for the cause of world peace. Intentions sent by Guild members are placed on the altar for each Mass.

Submit your intentions by regular mail, by email or through the Father McGivney website (fathemcgivney.org) for inclusion in the Novena for World Peace. The deadline for submissions is June 8, 2015.

The mailing address is: Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510. The email address is: guild@kofc.org.

FAVORS REPORTED

After taking a job in Washington, D.C., for a number of years and being away from my family and home in New Jersey during the week, I began applying for positions closer to home. After applying for 35-plus jobs over the last year, I was beginning to get discouraged. After I received my most recent Father McGivney Guild newsletter, I began to say daily the Prayer for the Canonization of Father McGivney. At the end of the prayer, I asked for help and guidance on finding the right career and path for me. After one week of prayers, I received an offer of a great job, closer to my home that will allow me to spend more time with my family and will let me make a greater contribution to society as a whole. I believe this break was through Father McGivney's intercession. Thank you, Father McGivney, for looking out for one of your Knights.

New Jersey

A couple of days ago, I received the monthly Guild newsletter, where I saw the Prayer for Canonization. I recited it, hoping that my problems will be solved, particularly the problems when it comes to my grades in

college life. Yes! Today I received the great news that I passed the exams and I believe that through the intercession of Father McGivney, Almighty God answered my fervent prayers. Thank you Father McGivney, and I hope that soon you will be raised to the altar as a saint.

Philippines

After my granddaughter got married she had difficulty conceiving. A doctor told her she had a tumor on her pituitary gland. I began praying, through the intercession of Father McGivney, for the removal of this tumor and the conception of a child. Last year, I welcomed my first great-grandchild. I credit the intercession of Father McGivney.

Missouri

Through my prayers and the intercession of Father McGivney and mama Mary, my wife had a very successful left eye cataract operation and she is healing fast. Hopefully, we will have the same result on her right eye.

Philippines

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
- _____ 8" Figurine (Wood) — \$150
- _____ Reliquary (Case with Second-Class Relic) — \$25 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, EXCEPT AS NOTED
- _____ Parish Priest (Paperback, 240 pp.) — \$12
- _____ Parish Priest Study Guide
- _____ A Model for Our Times booklet
- _____ Prayer for Canonization
- _____ Spirituality of Father McGivney flyer

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 for the Novena for World Peace (submit by June 8, 2015)



Father McGivney Medal

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

Chain sold separately.

Sterling Silver Medal: \$25

18" Women's Chain: \$14

24" Men's Chain: \$15



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**

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 Pen

Featuring Father McGivney's face on the dome. Blue ink. **\$8**



Guild Lapel Pin

An attractive cast-bronze lapel pin featuring a color portrait of Father McGivney and the emblem of the Order. Approximately 1¼" in diameter. **\$7.50**



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 both fiberglass with a golden-bronze finish (left) and hand-carved, painted wood (right).

Fiberglass Statue: \$50

Hand-Carved Wood Statue: \$150



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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will begin on Dec. 8th of this year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and close on Nov. 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

In the tradition of such celebrations, during the Jubilee the Holy Doors of the four major basilicas in Rome will be opened and pilgrims will be able to pass through the "door of mercy" to gain a plenary indulgence and express their faith in God's unending mercy. God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world that it might not perish but have everlasting life. The Jubilee Year of Mercy will celebrate that reality and encourage all Catholics to take their faith more seriously.

One of the novelties of this Jubilee will be the appointment of Missionaries of Mercy. These carefully chosen priests will be sent forth by the Holy Father to the dioceses of the world to preach the Gospel of Mercy and express it concretely in the sacrament of Confession.

In announcing the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis spoke of Christ as "the living face of the Father's mercy." We can know the tender compassion of God in turning to his Son in the sacraments and prayer, in the service that we provide to our neighbor and in fulfilling the duties of our state in life with generosity and enthusiasm. In this context, the Holy Father declared: "I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time."

It is easy to imagine how eagerly Father Michael J. McGivney would have wished to be included among these missionaries. After all, he served as a minister of mercy to the people of his day. Whether dealing with the problems of alcoholism, domestic violence or abandonment among his flock, his steady hand guided many to know God's love and forgiveness through his gentle but firm advice and leadership. His support for the suffering poor went beyond providing money, food and clothing, though this he did. As a priest he bore the "smell of the sheep," to borrow Pope Francis' vivid phrase, and was a familiar figure in the courts, the prisons

and the cramped apartments, where he found his flock in their need and offered his kind presence in their darkest hours.

In a similar fashion, when dealing with the difficulties of conversion or doctrinal disagreements among the ranks of the New Haven Protestant elite, Father McGivney's humble but intelligent demeanor mediated the mercy of God to those who came to him. Those from mainline prominent families cautiously made their way to St. Mary's rectory to seek his spiritual advice. Without a hint of religious superiority or condescension, he faithfully guided them to the moment of conversion and tried to heal the breach with their families that often took place. Mercy and peace were intertwined in the ministry of Father Michael McGivney.

The Jubilee of Mercy offers us an opportunity to imbibe the spirit of Venerable Father McGivney, and to hold him up as a model for priests and laypersons alike. In praying for Venerable Father McGivney's beatification, we should take up his spirit and enter with optimism and confidence into the Jubilee of Mercy. His pastoral work at St. Mary's led him to found the Knights of Columbus, a fraternity which became a dispenser of God's mercy in caring for widows, orphans and the marginalized. This work of mercy continues today well beyond the borders of the United States and even beyond the shores of the continent. Let us implore God to raise his Venerable Servant of God to the honors of the altar. Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, intercede for us!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

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