

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:

Family life was close to the heart of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. Thus it is not surprising that the recent post-synodal exhortation of Pope Francis, titled *Amoris Laetitia* ("The Joy of Love"), touches on many themes that we raise regularly in this column.

Our Holy Father speaks warmly at the very beginning of the document: "This Exhortation is especially timely in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. First, because it represents an invitation to Christian families to value the gifts of marriage and the family, and to persevere in a love strengthened by the virtues of generosity, commitment, fidelity and patience. Second, because it seeks to encourage everyone to be a sign of mercy and closeness wherever family life remains imperfect or lacks peace and joy."

No theme links the founder of our Order more closely to the world and the Church of our time than that of the family. Often called the



Protector of Christian Family Life, Venerable Father McGivney spent his entire life as a priest supporting strong family units and reaching out to those in crisis and distress.

If you think about the last 24 hours, you might be surprised how often the thought of or interaction with a family has occurred. Family is often on our minds, and it certainly forms the foundation of our society and our Church, which has been described as a family of families.

Coming from a large family himself, Father McGivney naturally understood the dynamics of family life, and how this life can support and uplift family members. Yet he also knew the hardships of family life, the loss of siblings to early death, the pain of poverty and the need for children in his day to help support the family. Indeed, the family, in all its beauty, cares and troubles, was central to the work of Father Michael McGivney. Family instability was fairly common in the immigrant world of his day. Alcoholism, domestic violence, abandonment and unemployment were social disorders that a parish priest of that era encountered regularly. Of course, there were often extended family members, or multiple generations living together for safety and finances, but everyone still recognized and strove toward the ideal of father, mother and children under one roof.

As a curate and then as a pastor, Father McGivney did not wait for problems to occur and then try to fix them. He envisioned a way to prevent family difficulties. The Knights of Columbus was to be an

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## ORDER MARKS FOUNDING AT ST. MARY'S



Praying at the tomb of Father McGivney after Mass are (from left): Father Joseph Marcello, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena parish, Trumbull; Dominican Father Jonathan Kalisch, director of chaplains and spiritual development for the Knights; Dominican Father John Paul Walker, pastor of St. Mary's; Supreme Knight Carl Anderson; John Walshe, great grandnephew of Father McGivney; Supreme Secretary Charles Maurer; Supreme Advocate John Marrella; Supreme Director Scott Flood of Connecticut; Assistant Supreme Secretary Ron Tracz, and Connecticut State Deputy Thomas Vita.

The annual Founder's Day Mass was celebrated March 29 in St. Mary's Church in New Haven, marking the 134<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the initiation of the Order by Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. Among those attending were relatives of Father McGivney, supreme officers and Knights from Connecticut.

Father John Paul Walker, O.P., pastor of St. Mary's, was the main celebrant. In his homily, he said that Father McGivney took a leadership role for Catholic men of his day, adding "he did so boldly, clearly and emphatically. He saw the untapped potential of the men and provided leadership."

Father McGivney guided members "to live for the Lord Jesus and the Church, and also led them to be outward looking, encouraging these men to live their lives for others, the most needy," Father Walker noted.

Concelebrating the Mass were Father Jonathan Kalisch, O.P., the Knights' director of chaplains and spiritual

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# FAVORS REPORTED

## Dear Father:

We had not had enough work for one of my employees for several months and were near the point where we would have to lay him off. I asked Father McGivney for assistance in this need. And within two days I happened to meet someone in our organization whom I would not normally work with. He was so busy and looking to hire someone to fill a position that my employee could fill.

Michigan

## Dear Father:

I endured more than one year of having to work on every Sunday, so I prayed through Father McGivney's intercession that I would be spared from working Sunday. On the ninth month of the novena, Ash Wednesday 2016, I was granted my request of not working Sundays! This came after at least three appeals, all of which were turned down previously because Sunday is our busiest day of the week.

Indiana

## Dear Father:

I prayed through the intercession of Father McGivney to restore my daughter's health. She recently has regained employment and is on the road to recovery from her disorder.

Ontario

## Dear Father:

I always wanted to land a job that is convenient to our home and where I can put into practice my education as an agriculturist. But that seemed so impossible with the employment situation in our area. That was until my husband joined the Knights of Columbus. He was able to know the organization and to know Christ deeper, and learned especially about Father Michael McGivney. We learned about raising our intentions through Father McGivney's intercession. After two weeks straight of praying to Father McGivney, he answered my prayers. I was able to land a job within our municipality. This is the job that I have long wanted and prayed for. Thank you, Father McGivney.

Philippines

## ORDER MARKS FOUNDING, from Page 1

development, and Father Joseph Marcello, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Trumbull, Conn.

Two relatives of Father McGivney participated. John Walshe, great grandnephew of Father McGivney, served as lector, while the responsorial psalm was led by Robert Ransom, an employee at the Supreme Council, whose wife, Margaret, is great grandniece of Father McGivney.

After Mass, Father Walker led supreme officers to the tomb of Father McGivney located in the rear of the church, where they recited the Prayer for Canonization along with the congregation.

Founder's Day is celebrated annually on March 29, the day when the Connecticut legislature approved the charter of the Knights of Columbus in 1882.



Connecticut State Deputy Thomas Vita and his wife, Rosemary, bring forth gifts at the Offertory of Founder's Day Mass.

## PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

The power of prayer is shown throughout sacred Scripture. From the words of Jesus to the letters of St. Paul, the centrality of prayer to the Christian life is demonstrated over and over.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray the Our Father, the perfect prayer which offers praise to God and meets all our needs. Jesus also told a parable "about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary" (Luke 18:1).

St. Paul exhorts the disciples often to pray with persistence and faith, telling the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing" (1 Th 5:16-17). To the Ephesians, he wrote, "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit" (Eph 6:18).

As members of the Father McGivney Guild, we are called to pray in a special way. We receive many benefits from the Guild, including a weekly Mass offered for our intentions and regular novenas, yet we also have a commitment to fulfill. That commitment is to pray for the canonization of Venerable Michael McGivney and report any favors received through his intercession. With Father McGivney's cause open and active at the Vatican, it is a perfect time for you to storm heaven for the beatification of this holy priest and founder.

For your convenience, the Prayer for Canonization is printed on this page. You may also contact the Guild to obtain one or more copies of the official prayer card.



### 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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

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 inclusion in the weekly Guild Mass.



### 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**

**(BACK IN STOCK)**



### 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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instrument for shaping and influencing Catholic men to become faithful husbands and devoted fathers. The late-19th century was filled with clubs and fraternal societies intended to address the needs of men and to strengthen their commitment to certain values and traditions. Father McGivney's Knights set out to do these things under the guidance of the Catholic faith. They were not just another association of like-minded men. They knew that only God could bring the results they sought. Thus, the Knights were to be united in the brotherhood of the Catholic faith, taking up their responsibility for family and society at large. They were to be especially sensitive to the needs of the less fortunate, the widow, and the orphan, and to seek ways to remedy the family dysfunctions of the day.

The recent post-synodal exhortation of Pope Francis addresses many similar issues from a modern perspective. The title of the document, "The Joy of Love," tells the whole story. Our Holy Father outlines the true meaning of family and states again the Church's teaching that it is only within the committed relationship of marriage that the true meaning of family sacrificial love can come to its fulfillment and completion. It is in "family relationships that are permanent and marked by mutual respect" that both human flourishing and spiritual growth and perfection are possible. The pope is concerned that Christians find again the true source of happiness in married and family life, our union with one another in and through the person of Jesus Christ. For Pope Francis, the family and the home are where the Gospel can be lived most authentically.

Pope Francis expresses his sensitivity to the predicament of many modern families: "Here I would also like to mention the situation of families living in dire poverty and great limitations. The problems faced by poor households are often all the more trying." For this reason, some families

must reach out to help other families. The family cannot become a small island turned in upon itself. It must radiate love and that love must be expressed in concern for others and a willingness to help those in need.

In his exhortation, Francis reaffirms the sacredness of marriage, the inviolable holiness of Christian family life, and the challenges put forth by our culture. It is in compassion and mercy that we triumph over the enemies of true religion and meaningful family life. Value your family, which is your vocation, says the Holy Father, and let God lead you to true happiness through a life of compassion and service.

A similar ideal of Christian holiness drove Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney to spend himself promoting solid Catholic family life and protecting families who were at risk.

As we continue to pray that an authentic miracle will make possible his beatification, we ask that Father McGivney intercede for us so that we may make our homes a haven of love and holiness.

*Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, hear our prayer and pray for us.*

**Devotedly yours in Christ,**

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

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

**Guild Director**

**Vice Postulator**