

Founder of the Knights of Columbus.
Venerable 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:

This year, two important celebrations fall on the same day: Father's Day and the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, known as Corpus Christi. The convergence of these two "feasts" is a providential meeting of the divine and the human. God our Father feeds us with the bread of the Eucharist which comes down from heaven, and our earthly fathers, as spiritual leaders of the family, should bring us to the Eucharist. In so doing, they provide a nourishment more sublime than any other they might provide to the family.



Divine paternity informs the human paternal care of earthly fathers, whose love should lead us to the embrace of our heavenly Father. Father's Day and Corpus Christi fit together well.

Yet in recent decades, there has been an observable cultural decline in appreciation for things masculine and paternal. The generative nature of human fatherhood, so important to men in both the biological and spiritual sense, has been too often maligned or marginalized. Commercial advertising and popular entertainment too often portray men, fathers in particular, as incompetent and silly. Men appear as blundering oafs who need constant direction and supervision from their wives and children.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus reminds us that he and the Father are one and that what the Father does, the Son does in concert with him (Jn 5:19-23). Here Christ reveals his own mission as paternal. He is, in a sense, a spiritual father to those given to him by his heavenly Father. In feeding us with his body and blood, he is the Son of the Father acting, in turn, as a loving father who offers his very substance as food and drink

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OUR FOUNDER IN POPE FRANCIS' WORDS

The following is an excerpt from the homily of Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori during the Founder's Day Mass at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, March 29. Calling Father McGivney a timeless example of holiness, Archbishop Lori explained how the ministry of the Order's founder can be seen through what he called a "Pope Francis lexicon."

Pope Francis uses the word encounter or *encuentro* a good deal. In his native Spanish, *encuentro* means more than just meeting another person; rather, it signals a true and deep meeting of minds and hearts. This is what Pope Francis means when he encourages us to encounter Jesus — not merely to know about Jesus but to allow the heart of Christ to speak to our heart and draw us into real intimacy with him and his heavenly Father. In this very church, Father McGivney truly encountered the Lord Jesus and his Father. Here he offered Mass, heard confessions, and spent many hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. As a result, those who encountered Father McGivney felt they had encountered Christ.

Father McGivney also implanted a culture of encounter in the Knights of Columbus with the Gospel principles of unity and fraternity. I think these two principles of our Order come very close to what the pope means by a "culture of encounter" — "in service to one, in service to all."

Pope Francis often uses the phrase "missionary disciple" — someone who loves the Lord so deeply and feels compelled to bear witness to the Gospel. Father McGivney was a missionary disciple. He was no stuffy cleric sitting in his overstuffed rectory waiting for people to call. No, he was a disciple, a follower of the Lord, who preached the Gospel with

conviction. His voice filled this church! And his prayer and preaching drove him into the community where he ministered as a good shepherd, built bridges everywhere he could, and brought Christ to people and people to Christ.

Two other words used by Pope Francis are charity and mercy. He urges us to reach out to the poor and needy in both word and action,

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At the presentation of the gifts during the Founder's Day Mass at St. Mary's Church, Archbishop Lori of Baltimore, the supreme chaplain, greets John Walshe and his wife, Kay. Walshe is the great grandnephew of Father McGivney.

FAVORS REPORTED

Cancer Diagnosis

I was diagnosed by ultrasound as having a growth on my left kidney. A CT scan diagnosed it as renal cell carcinoma (kidney cancer). I prayed to Father McGivney to intercede on my behalf to heal me of this cancer. I prayed several times and even placed my Third Degree medallion over the area of the left kidney. I had surgery to remove 33 percent of my kidney. Nearly two weeks after that, the pathology report confirmed the original diagnosis. One week later, I had my post-surgical appointment. I asked the doctor if I would be considered cancer-free after a period of five years. The doctor then said, "You are cancer-free now." Therefore, I attribute this healing miracle to the intercession of Father Michael J. McGivney by the grace of God.

Illinois

I had prayed for the intercession of Father McGivney to protect my sister through these difficult times. It has been over a year since she was diagnosed with a rare cancer that is usually fatal within a five-year period. After two chemotherapy treatments and specialized diet, her last visit to the oncologist indicated no cancer. I believe through the prayers and acts of Father McGivney she will survive and go on being a mother and wife to her family. Thank you, God, and Father McGivney.

Kentucky

For the past year I have prayed and asked Father McGivney's intercession for an acquaintance's child with cancer. The family is unaware of my prayers and are not to my knowledge Catholic. The child has been improving and both he and his family have been blessed with a multitude of help and support from friends, families, and celebrities!

Kentucky

Surgery

My Knights of Columbus brothers asked for God and Father McGivney to be present during my surgery. I looked up and saw a priest figure standing at my head. I looked into his eyes and he slightly smiled. I was not under full anesthesia, so I was conscious and awake. I did not know whose face this was till I looked up Father McGivney, and recognized him as the face I saw during surgery. I am very grateful to all involved.

British Columbia

Peaceful Death

My mother died of kidney failure without pain. I prayed to Father McGivney to intercede on her behalf, that she would die in peace. It was a miracle that Mom lasted as long as she did and that she passed without event. I am very grateful for the intercession of Father McGivney.

Returned to Church

I prayed to Father McGivney daily for 14 days that a family member would return to our Catholic faith. After 30 years away, this person has returned and now sits beside me every Sunday during Mass.

Connecticut

Pain Relief

At the end of our council meetings, we pray for the canonization of Father McGivney. When we get to the words, "grant the favor I now present," I have always asked for favors for others. However, this month I asked for relief from my chronic neck issue that is progressively getting worse. No sooner did I ask silently for this request than the pain in my neck was gone completely. I could move my head from side to side without pain. I had not felt that relief in a very long time. I was startled, I have never had a response to a prayer that was so immediate and clear. Now I am still having issues with pain and discomfort, but for that night, my favor was granted.

Minnesota

Finding Home

I am a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus and read your bulletin every month! I am also a disabled World War II veteran (not many of us left). Our house was up for foreclosure, and it finally went through. My daughter was looking for an apartment and finally found one we could afford! We have been praying to Father McGivney and he answered our prayers.

Florida

Our prayers to Father McGivney were answered by God. Our house sold this week. Please continue your good work of promoting Father McGivney for sainthood. In the eyes of many, Father is already a saint for all the hard work, but needs the sanction of the Church. Father McGivney, along with St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother, are to be thanked.

Iowa

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and sets an example for us. Father McGivney was a priest of charity and mercy. Pastoral charity permeated his priestly ministry. He was filled with love for his parishioners, served their needs, was involved in their moments of joy as well as times of loss and sorrow. How many confessions he heard within the walls of this church and how many hearts he opened to the mercies of God! When the Knights were founded in this very church, their abiding principle would be charity, a true love and concern for the orphan, widow and outcast.

Another prominent word for the pope is peripheries. He tells us to bring the Gospel to the margins of society. Father McGivney may never have used the word peripheries to describe his ministry, but as he visited a condemned man in prison or reached out to poor families, he was bringing the Gospel to the peripheries.

Still another Pope Francis word that Father McGivney didn't use is accompaniment. By it, the Holy Father signals that we are to walk with

those who are searching, perplexed, vulnerable and wounded. Pope Francis challenges us to accompany others in their faith journey, sharing the joy of the Gospel and helping many to return to the practice of the faith. Father McGivney accompanied his people masterfully by founding the Knights of Columbus. He probably never used the words domestic church, but we can well imagine how many marriages and families he strengthened by his willingness to accompany his parishioners and his brother Knights, to walk with them in faith through thick and thin.

Father McGivney, founder of our beloved Order, remains a good and holy priest, not merely of his times, but ours. His holiness and the fruits of his holiness are all around us. May it come to pass soon that our venerable founder will be raised to the dignity of the altar.

Vivat Jesus!

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
- _____ 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 petitions and submit them by June 10 for inclusion in the Novena for World Peace.



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**



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**



Guild Pen

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



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 Lapel Pin

An attractive cast-bronze lapel pin featuring a color portrait of Father McGivney and the emblem of the Order. Approximately 1 1/4" in diameter. **\$7.50**



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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Novena for World Peace

The Guild offers its annual Novena for World Peace on the nine days leading up to the feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 23, 2017. Mass will be celebrated daily, with intentions sent by Guild members placed on the altar. Submit your intentions by regular mail, by email or through the Father McGivney website (fathermcgivney.org), for inclusion in the Novena for World Peace. The deadline for submissions is June 10, 2017. The mailing address is: Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510. The email address is: guild@kofc.org.

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for eternal life. The Eucharist is the fullest expression of Our Lord's paternal love and care for his disciples.

This aspect of the mystery of Christ helps us to appreciate in a fuller way how the Eucharist is a gift of God's limitless love for us. So much does he desire our holiness and our happiness that he provides food and drink that bring eternal blessings, eternal life, to each person who receives the body and blood of Christ. In choosing to communicate his beloved Son to us, the Father has chosen the most basic of human activities, eating and drinking, to convince us of his desire to be with us in the most personal and intimate moments of our ordinary lives.

This aspect of the mystery of Christ also helps us to understand the meaning of divine paternity and the way in which human fatherhood is patterned after divine fatherhood. Fathers are intended not simply to provide food for the body but to feed the souls of their children as well.

It is not surprising, then, that early Christians began to call their priests and bishops "Father." The central role of the bishop and priest in the holy sacrifice of the Mass made clear their spiritual paternity. They feed the souls of their children with the best of possible nourishment, the body and blood of Christ himself.

For members of the Guild, the connection between the fatherly care of Christ and the life and mission of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney is easily seen. His vocation to the priesthood, the call to become a spiritual father, began early in his life. His call never wavered. He desired only to bring Christ to others and to help them in all their difficulties using all his creative and organizational talents. He accomplished this in the daily celebration of the Mass and in the many ways he poured out himself for others, not least in the establishment of the Knights of Columbus, destined to become a sort of training ground for Catholic men who were or would become fathers in their own right.

Undoubtedly inspired by his own father, Patrick, Michael McGivney had a high regard for the role of the Catholic man in family life and in society at large. He saw the Catholic faith as offering the grace and strength necessary to guide a man in his duties of providing for and protecting his family, and also in boldly insisting on his moral principles in the world of employment and politics beyond the arenas of family and parish. For Father McGivney, paternity meant care for all those in need with the solicitude and tenderness of God himself. His perseverance in the face of opposition and criticism is a matter of record. Such strength of character was possible because he believed in God's loving providence and fed daily on the bread of God's body and blood in the daily Mass and his life of prayer. Spiritual fatherhood rested easily on his shoulders and his paternal care for his flock seemed effortless much of the time. His example and zeal inspired two of his brothers to follow him into the priesthood.

As we observe Father's Day and receive the body and blood of Christ on the feast of Corpus Christi, let us open our hearts to the power of the Eucharist and God's supernatural and fatherly love and care for us. As those who pray for Father McGivney's beatification and canonization, we are called to imitate his confidence in God's love and to trust his paternal care.

Devotedly in Christ,

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

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Guild Director

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