

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:

Church historians sometimes describe the era in which Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney lived as “immigrant” and “purgative.” In view of the thousands of Irish, Italians, Germans and Poles who came to the United States in the second half of the 19th century, it is clear what is meant by “immigrant.” Less obvious is the term “purgative,” which describes the spirituality of most immigrant groups that stressed the sinfulness of each person and the need for conversion and purification. The striving for an upright moral life and the focus on penance and reparation for sin were standard themes of Sunday homilies, catechetical instruction and parish missions. The crucified Christ was the central image of a piety that instructed Catholics to offer up their sufferings.

From our viewpoint, this spirituality may seem limited in scope. Yet it is not difficult to understand an emphasis on penance, reparation for sin and the importance of human cooperation with God's grace when we consider the state of the world in Father McGivney's day. He knew



the aftermath of the U.S. Civil War, and not many decades after his death, horrific violence touched a large part of Europe in the First World War. The struggles of the immigrant communities to adjust to a new land, a new language and the cultural and religious pluralism in North America imposed heavy burdens on families. Poverty and suffering seemed inescapable to newcomers who were often fleeing from persecution and intolerance in their homelands. Life was for many a “valley of tears,” marked by hard work, low wages, crowded ghettos, crippling illnesses and early death.

Turning to the crucified Christ for strength, consolation and the grace of endurance became a major theme of Catholic piety and preaching. Devotion to Christ in his passion and death and seeking the aid of his mother, the Virgin Mary, sustained and strengthened the faith of individuals and families alike. The parish became the focus for community action, religious observance and social events of every kind. Annual parish missions and weekly evening devotions fed the spiritual hunger of Catholic families.

Father McGivney was no stranger to purgative practices, yet he always struck a balance by presenting a positive and hopeful note to his people. His confidence in the goodness of his parishioners is evidenced in his tireless efforts to encourage them to better their lot through a life of virtue, hard work, and dedication to family and nation. He was never ruled by the limits of the purgative spirit of his time. Rather, he boldly set out to provide the means for the upbuilding of the young and the

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MCGIVNEY IMAGE BLESSED IN IRAQ

McGivney House in Erbil, Iraq, recently received a finishing touch: An image of its namesake. Sprinkling holy water with an olive branch, Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil blessed an image of Venerable Michael McGivney and hung it in the facility's chapel during a visit from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.

The supreme knight then spoke to a group of displaced Christians gathered in the chapel. “St. Ignatius of Antioch said, ‘I wish not merely to be called Christian, but also to *be* Christian,’” he noted. “Those of us from other places in the world understand that you are teaching the world how to be a Christian. Your faith, your courage, your determination and even your suffering is a witness that many, many people of other countries see.”

Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq, received tens of thousands of Christians and other religious minorities fleeing persecution by Islamic State militants in 2014. To care for these displaced people, the Archdiocese of Erbil and its partners have provided food, housing, education and health care.

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Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda of Erbil blessed an image of Father Michael McGivney during Supreme Knight Carl Anderson's recent visit to Iraq.

Cancer Conquered

As an Irish immigrant and a general agent with the Order, I have developed a close relationship with Father McGivney over the years. He has helped me more times than I can remember. This past August, I developed testicular cancer. Before the diagnosis was even confirmed I told Father McGivney that I would offer up my illness to him. Thankfully, it is a very treatable cancer. I had some surgery and then required radiation treatment. The effects of the radiation were mostly manageable and controlled with medication. However, on Christmas day I was struck with an awful stomach flu. I was sick, uncomfortable and exhausted. After hours of discomfort, I prayed for Father McGivney to help alleviate the pain so I could sleep. I felt a warm glow in my abdomen instantly and the pain dissipated and I fell asleep at last. When I woke the pain and the worst of the flu had passed. In March, I learned that my treatments appear to be successful and while I still have some future checkups ahead, my doctor is optimistic that the worst has passed. *Vivat Jesus!*

Montana

I was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer in November 2018 with a metastasis to my shoulder. Over the next four months, I had 10 radiation treatments on my shoulder and four chemotherapy treatments. In March, I had a PET scan that showed there were no live areas of cancer cells in my entire body. My doctor was as surprised as I was and told me to go out and celebrate. When I received my diagnosis, I ordered and started wearing the Father McGivney medal around my neck and carried the Father McGivney pocket medallion as well as saying the prayer for intercession. While I received radiation and chemotherapy, the speed with which the cancer was terminated must have been the result of some intercession. I credit Father McGivney with taking my prayers and the prayers of my family and friends to our Lord.

Kansas

Fifteen people gathered to pray a novena asking Father McGivney for his intercession for a friend who was fighting terminal brain cancer. Our friend went through surgery and months of chemotherapy until he got to a point where the doctors told him that they had done all they could for him. He was originally diagnosed almost four years ago and given one to two years to live. He had an MRI last week, and when the doctor came in to give him the results a few days later, he was just beaming. No sign of the cancer! A faith-filled Catholic, our friend knows that it is the power of prayer that has done this for him.

Colorado

Illness Overcome

A member of our council was sent to the hospital with no chance of complete recovery. He was barely alive and on extreme life support. Our council held a prayer service to Father McGivney. Our brother is now making a complete miraculous recovery. We would like this story to be investigated as a miracle in the name of Father McGivney.

New Jersey

I had been in a lot of pain in my right flank area, I also had an allergic reaction to antibiotics. The doctors did not know the exact cause of the pain. I prayed to many saints asking them to ask God to relieve my pain so that I could get some sleep and relief, but I did not get any. But I continued to pray, saying not my will but thy will be done. I then prayed to Father McGivney and within three days my pain went away. I shared my news to my co-workers and shared the prayer with them and told them about his life.

Education Assistance

I want to thank Father Michael McGivney in helping me to secure admission and a seamless transition to Niagara University (his old school) for the master's in Business program. After praying to him, not only did I get quickly admitted as a transfer student, but I had a generous amount of transfer credits awarded to me. Thank you, Father McGivney!

Ontario

Many Favors

Father McGivney has been good to me in answering many of my prayers, such as my son getting a job after a year without work. I started to pray for other people and I am currently praying for a friend who has cancer. Thank you.

New York

Job Found

In January, I lost my job and began seeking a new one. After three months, during Lent I started to pray Father McGivney. Soon I was offered two jobs and picked one during Holy Week.

Canada

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healing and strengthening of families. His founding of the Knights of Columbus stands as witness to his well-rounded vision. He knew that Catholic men, united in faith and brotherhood, could accomplish great things. In the process, the fraternity would call forth greatness from the men themselves. His soul was filled with hope and confidence in God's grace within the common man. He was a saintly priest seeking to form saints among the ordinary Catholics of his parish, and especially among his Knights and their families.

Father McGivney's legacy is a beacon of hope for modern Catholic men and women. He knew the pain of suffering, including the untimely death of his father, yet he rose each day to proclaim the glory

of laying down his life for others in generous service. It is this ideal that we pray will be celebrated by the Church in the beatification of Father McGivney. Let us continue to storm heaven for the required miracle as we continue to depend on his heavenly intercession.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

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Guild Director

Vice-Postulator

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 (Temporarily out of stock)

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

_____ 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 and submit them by June 8 for the Novena for World Peace.



Father McGivney Medal

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

Sterling Silver Medal: \$25



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**



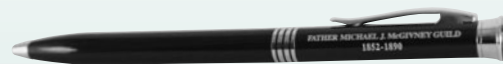
8" Figurine of Father McGivney

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**

(Temporarily out of stock)

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 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 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 28, 2019. 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 (fathermcgivney.org), for inclusion in the Novena for World Peace. The deadline for submissions is June 8, 2019.

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

McGIVNEY IMAGE, from Page 1

During his visit to Erbil in early March, Supreme Knight Anderson met with Church leaders as well as Kurdish and U.S. government officials to discuss the ongoing needs of Christians in Iraq and how the Order can continue its support. In these meetings, including one with the prime minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Nechirvan Barzani, the supreme knight emphasized the need to provide Christians and other religious minorities with protection and security. Towns throughout the Nineveh Plains region have been liberated from ISIS, allowing some people to return and rebuild, but militia groups now pose a grave threat.

Anderson met with bishops and priests from Mosul and elsewhere in Iraq, as well as with residents of Christian towns including Karamles, where hundreds of families have returned with support from the Order.

He also visited several schools and churches to greet and pray with students and families living in Erbil.

Introducing him and the Knights of Columbus to a group of high school students, Archbishop Warda explained in Arabic, "The person who established this brotherhood is Father McGivney, whose aim was to bring the men close to the Church so they can be good Christians, good husbands and good fathers. These people were very supportive of us, especially when our families were facing displacement." He added, "We want to express our thanks to them," and encouraged the students to "pray the rosary for this fraternity."

McGivney House will provide 120 high-quality, rent-free apartments for young families to help them stay in the region. On the first floor of the church-run facility is the Pope Francis Venerable Care Home, which will accommodate 40 elderly residents.

"We truly bless the Knights of Columbus for their remarkable strength and support," Archbishop Warda said. "We very much appreciate and bless their continued contributions, generosity in prayers and their fervent support for the Christians of Iraq."

(Reprinted from the April 2019 issue of Columbia, the monthly magazine of the Knights of Columbus.)



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda stand on a balcony of McGivney House in Erbil, Iraq.