



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:

For centuries Catholics have found help and solace in religious devotions. Traditional devotions such as adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are directed to Christ. Others such as the rosary are directed to Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church. Still others are directed to the angels or a particular saint. Such devotions can strengthen one's faith, make the presence of God more real and reveal the depth of God's love.

The Catholic world in which Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney lived was decidedly devotional. The living rooms of many Irish

immigrants reserved a prominent place for an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a companion image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Jesus and Mary were the central focus of Catholic devotional life throughout the 19th century.

In the Bible, the human heart symbolizes the inner core of a person. The depth of one's spirit and identity is said to reside "in the heart." Even today, we "speak from the heart" to say something personal or compelling. In Jesus, God has a human heart that possesses a power beyond the simple pumping of blood. The Sacred Heart expresses the full humanity of Jesus, which tells us that he is one with us in love and suffering. It also points to his divinity, which tells us that the heart which loves and suffers is able also to save. The image of the Sacred Heart expresses Christ's love for us, springing from the depths of his being.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart has a long history in the Church, but its modern form took shape around the visions of St. Margaret Mary, a cloistered Visitation nun of the 17th century. Jesus revealed to her the burning love of his heart for the conversion of sinners and established the practice of nine First Fridays dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Those

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KNIGHTS' FOUNDER CELEBRATED AT D.C. SHRINE

The life, legacy and sainthood cause of Father Michael McGivney were topics of study and discussion during an event at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C. The 50 attendees heard from Dominican Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell, the original postulator of the cause for Father McGivney, and venerated a second-class relic, a piece of the cassock in which the founder of the Knights of Columbus was buried.

Originally scheduled for March 21, but postponed because of heavy snowfall in the nation's capital, the Knights of Columbus Founder's Day event was held April 18. It was the first gathering dedicated to the founding of the Order to be held at the shrine, which serves as a pastoral initiative of the Knights of Columbus dedicated to St. John Paul II, who was pope from his election in 1978 to his death in 2005.

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Dominican Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell delivers a talk on Father McGivney at an event honoring the founder that was held at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, which is administered by the Knights of Columbus in Washington, D.C.

Guidance in Life

I have asked Father McGivney to give my son guidelines in his personal life and job. I especially was concerned about his job, and like a miracle things changed in a matter of hours. I continue to pray for his life to give to others and in his relationships.

New Jersey

My oldest son has been suffering from schizophrenia for about eight years. I asked Father McGivney for healing for him (as I have asked many other saints and angels, including our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph). I asked that he would cut his very long hair so I would know that it was Father McGivney answering my prayer for my son. I walked into my house today and there is my son sitting in the living room with his hair cut! And we have noticed a marked improvement in his condition these last few months. Thank you, Father McGivney!

Georgia

No More Alzheimer's

My mom and dad, soon to be celebrating 65 years of marriage, have the strongest bond and greatest love of any couple I know. They live in Florida and are in great shape for their age. Yet during the Christmas season in 2016, while I was visiting them, dad thought that he had pulled a muscle and didn't feel up to walking. Shortly after I returned home to

Michigan, mom called to say that dad was having emergency surgery for a severely infected gall bladder. During that ordeal, he almost died.

Dad was recovering from surgery when in February 2017, mom had a health episode of her own. It took months for the medical experts to diagnose, and it was July 4, 2017, when the doctors said she exhibited the behavior of a person with Alzheimer's disease. She was medicated to control her previously uncontrollable behavior and eventually released to the care of my dad.

When we received my mom's diagnosis, I started an effort to circulate the Prayer for Canonization of Father Michael McGivney, with the request to heal both mom and dad. I asked that the prayer be circulated statewide by the Knights' Michigan State Council and Florida State Council, at my parish, and through my own prayer chain. It has now been over a year since the beginning of this whole ordeal for my parents. Since August 2017, the doctors have steadily reduced mom's medications, and this past January she called with the results of a test that found she does not have Alzheimer's disease. Mom has continued to make an almost complete recovery and is taking the test to get her driver's license back.

Thank you, God, and thank you for your prayers and intercession, Father Michael J. McGivney.

Michigan

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Among those attending were two local state deputies, Amado Alvares Jr. of the District of Columbia and Stephen Kehoe of Virginia, as well as other officers from those jurisdictions.

Father O'Donnell, now vice-postulator for the cause, delivered a talk on the life, times and heroic virtue of Father McGivney, who was named venerable by the Vatican in 2008. The Dominican priest was postulator of the cause when it was opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997 and oversaw the production of the *positio*, a long document outlining the

life and virtues of Father McGivney that led to the declaration of venerable. Father O'Donnell now works as an administrator at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington.

He also offered Mass and delivered a homily in the shrine's Redemptor Hominis Church. The Archdiocese of Washington Fourth Degree Choir provided music at the Mass, with eight Fourth Degree Knights joining in a color corps.

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
- _____ 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.
 (You may write your prayer requests below.)



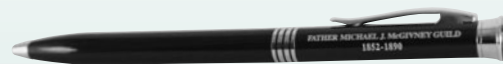
Father McGivney Medal
 This medal can be worn with a chain (not shown). 1" in diameter.
Sterling Silver Medal: \$25



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**
(Back in stock)



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



Father McGivney was honored at an event held at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

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who adore the Blessed Sacrament for one hour and receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of nine consecutive months are promised special graces for final perseverance at the hour of death. The feast of the Sacred Heart was later established for the universal Church.

The image that usually accompanies this devotion is the heart of Jesus surrounded by a crown of thorns and topped by flames and a small cross. The suffering of Christ on the cross is transformed in this image into a burning love that is as familiar as the human heart.

In more theological terms, we can say that the heart of Christ is filled with the love he receives from the Father and he in turn opens his heart to all those who believe in him. He gives to us what he receives from the Father, a love that proves itself by laying down his life for each of us. His suffering and death, represented by the crown of thorns and the cross, manifest the intensity of his love, expressed in the burst of fire atop his wounded heart.

Father McGivney would have been familiar with this image and it would surely have formed his piety from an early age. In fact, devotion to the Sacred Heart became increasingly popular and was at the heart of Catholic piety during the lifetime of Father Michael McGivney. The devotion continues into our own time and each year the Father McGivney Guild offers a novena of Masses for world peace on the nine days leading up to the feast of the Sacred Heart (June 8, this year). The feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is always the day after that of the Sacred Heart, a sign that Jesus' human nature came from Mary, and she is still united in heart and mind with her Son.

The image of the heart of Christ influenced Father McGivney's understanding of his vocation as a parish priest. For him, the sacrificial laying down of one's life in service of Christ's flock inspired his great generosity in serving those most in need. Unsatisfied with simply relieving the sufferings of widows, orphans and the marginalized, Venerable

McGivney devised a plan for the ongoing formation of Catholic men who would continue the tradition of sacrificial giving of time and talents to those in need of material and spiritual support. This was the fraternal society of the Knights of Columbus. The young Father McGivney established a legacy of faith and charity that would last long after his death and cross the geographical and social boundaries within which he lived.

Suffering, a universal human experience, was for Venerable Father McGivney an invitation from Christ himself to learn the full meaning of love, of divine charity. The sufferings of his parishioners and those who sought his help were burdens he willingly shouldered. They were the instruments God used to make him a holy priest of God.

As we pray that the beatification of Father McGivney may come soon, we should be well aware that from his place in eternity Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney continues to intercede for us so that we may bear our own burdens and generously take on those of our neighbors for the glory of God and the good of our souls. The feast of the Sacred Heart must be a reminder for all members of the Father McGivney Guild that only in the mystery of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will true happiness and fulfillment be found.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Venerable Father McGivney, intercede for us!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

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