

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

Miracle Approved!

By now you have heard the joyous news. On May 27, the Vatican announced Pope Francis had approved the decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. This means that Father McGivney will be declared Blessed, the step just prior to sainthood, at a Mass to be held soon in the Archdiocese of Hartford. For members of the Guild, this is the culmination of a long pilgrimage of faith and prayer. We have every reason to rejoice and give thanks to God.



This announcement is also a great boost to the priesthood in general and to parish priests in particular. Father McGivney will be the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified who served his entire priestly ministry in a parish. After ordination on Dec. 22, 1877, he served as an assistant at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., where he founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882. He then was pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, from November 1884 until his death in the rectory on Aug. 14, 1890, two days past his 38th birthday. He also had pastoral care of Immaculate Conception Church, causing him to travel by carriage a few miles each way between Thomaston and Terryville.

While an additional miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession will be required for his canonization as a saint, the recent decree is a confirmation that Father McGivney's Cause enjoys God's blessing and the full support of the Church. A miracle is the "finger of God" (*digitus Dei*), meaning that only with God's intervention and approval can a candidate be declared blessed or saint. Heaven has responded to our prayers and petitions that Father McGivney's holiness

 See **DIRECTOR'S DESK**, Page 4

FATHER MCGIVNEY TO BE BEATIFIED



Blessed-to-Be The Guild received the great news that Pope Francis has approved a miracle through the intercession of Father McGivney, who will be beatified soon. (Painting by Chas Fagan)

Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, a Connecticut priest who served his flock during the pandemic of 1890, before himself becoming ill and dying of pneumonia, with the underlying condition of tuberculosis.

The pope's action on May 26, which was announced the next day by the Vatican, means that Father McGivney can be declared Blessed, the step just prior to sainthood. An additional miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession will be required for his canonization as a saint.

Father McGivney is best known for founding the Knights of Columbus in 1882. Nearly a century before the Second Vatican Council, his prescient vision empowered the laity to serve Church and neighbor in a new way. Today, the Knights of Columbus is one of the largest Catholic organizations in the world with 2 million members in North and Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Europe.

The approved miracle involved an unborn child in the United States who was healed *in utero* of a life-threatening condition in 2015 after prayers by his family to Father McGivney.

A date will soon be set for the beatification Mass, which will take place in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn. The ceremony will include the reading of an apostolic letter from the Holy Father and the bestowing of the title Blessed on Father McGivney.

Earlier this year, in an address to the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors, Pope Francis said the organization has been faithful "to the vision of your founder, Venerable Michael McGivney, who was inspired by the principles of Christian charity and fraternity to assist those most in need."

"Father McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action," Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said. "He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church. Today, his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of society as he served widows and orphans in the 1880s. Father McGivney also remains an important role model for parish priests around the world and left us a transformative legacy of effective cooperation between the laity and clergy."

 See **MCGIVNEY TO BE BEATIFIED**, Page 2

COVID-19 Recovery

In April 2020, I was transported to a hospital and diagnosed with coronavirus. I was placed on a ventilator and in a medically induced coma. Three days later, my wife was informed by a nurse that my condition had worsened and that I might not survive the night. My wife had been praying and continued to pray to Father McGivney for my recovery. I was told by a doctor that the chances for my recovery was less than one-percent. I was overweight, had a triple heart by-pass and diabetes. I am now back home, recovering. I firmly believe it was through Father McGivney's intercession that I am alive.

Connecticut

Remissions

I came down with multiple myeloma and prayed to Father McGivney and went into remission. Ten years later, it again came back, but I again prayed to Father, and it is back into remission. I had kidney cancer and it was removed and cancer around it was cured. Then with cancer of the pancreas, I went through treatment, and it was cured.

Kansas

My wife's friend's 1-year-old grandson was diagnosed with leukemia. Our large circle of family and friends prayed daily to Father McGivney asking for his intercession. My wife and her friend held a prayer service and touched the child's forehead with a third-class relic of Father McGivney. After completing the prescribed rounds of chemotherapy, he is now cancer free. Thank you, Father McGivney!

Pennsylvania

Mutism and Autism

My grandson has Selective Mutism which is a psychological disorder whereby he does not speak with anyone except his mom, dad and brother. Even when my wife and I went to stay with my daughter and her family, he would not say one word to us. He acted normally and gave us hugs and played but never said one word. He also does that in school with his teachers and friends in school. This has been going on for four years.

I started praying for the intercession of Father Michael McGivney specifically for my grandson to speak. Two weeks after starting my prayer, my wife and I received a text from my grandson's mom with a video. It was our grandson speaking to us, asking us how we were doing, and asking us for a video reply. He wanted us to ask him a question as well. And we did. That was the first time we heard our grandson's voice in over four years. We are now doing live Zoom with him and he is

speaking with us like there is no tomorrow. I continue to pray to Father Michael asking him to continue the progress with our grandson. I truly believe this is a miracle and wanted to let the Guild know about this wonderful event.

New Jersey

I have a 21-year-old grandson who is autistic and non-verbal. He needed to be placed in a group home and has behavior problems. I prayed for a good group home and reduced behaviors. My favor was granted as his first group home was a bad fit and his behaviors were not reduced. To me this is a miracle. Thank you, from his grandmother.

New Jersey

Faith and Family

I have been praying the canonization prayer daily for at least three years. One of the favors I ask is to return my children and theirs to the Catholic faith. Now my grandson will receive the first acceptance from the Archbishop to enter the Church. My daughter will come to the ceremony.

Pennsylvania

House Sold

I had my house for sale for about three months, with no offers. After praying the Father McGivney prayer for canonization, the house sold in two weeks.

Louisiana

Weight Loss

Four years ago, I was told I needed a double knee surgery to walk without a cane. I also had to lose 139 lbs. before they would attempt the surgery. For three years I tried to lose the weight and grow stronger for the surgery with no results. A year ago, I began saying the Prayer for Canonization and asking for intervention. Today I have reached the 3,500-step mark and have lost 49 lbs., and am keeping it off. I am a 73-year-old disabled veteran with PTSD and my life is changing daily. Had I not begun this prayer I believe I would have been in a wheelchair.

Tennessee

Good Results

My wife has a history of blood clots and takes blood thinners. For two days, she had pain in her leg; she went to the doctor who sent her for an ultrasound. I had told her of Father McGivney's beatification earlier in the day. She prayed to him and her test was negative.

Illinois

McGIVNEY TO BE BEATIFIED, from Page 1

Born of Irish immigrant parents in 1852 in Waterbury, Father McGivney was a central figure in the dramatic growth of the Church in the United States in the late 19th century. Ordained in Baltimore in 1877, he ministered to a heavily Irish-American and immigrant community in the then-Diocese of Hartford. At a time of anti-Catholic sentiment, he worked tirelessly to keep his flock close to the faith, in part by finding practical solutions to their many problems – spiritual and temporal alike. With a group of the leading Catholic men of New Haven, he founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 at St. Mary's Church to provide spiritual support for Catholic men and financial resources for families that had suffered the loss of their breadwinner.

The fledgling group soon became a major force in the areas of evangelization, charity, racial integration and the defense of religious freedom.

Father McGivney spent his entire priesthood in parish ministry and died on August 14, 1890 — two days past his 38th birthday — after falling ill amid a pandemic. Recent scientific evidence indicates that that pandemic — like the current one — may have been caused by a coronavirus.

Known by his contemporaries for his devotion to the faith and his embodiment of the characteristics of the “Good Samaritan,” his cause for sainthood was opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997. St. John Paul II – who was pope at that time – lauded Father McGivney's principles, stating in 2003, “In fidelity to the vision of Father McGivney, may you continue to seek new ways of being a leaven of the Gospel in the world and a spiritual force for the renewal of the Church in holiness, unity and truth.”

In March 2008, he was declared a Venerable Servant of God by Pope Benedict XVI, who during his visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral cited the “remarkable accomplishment of that exemplary American priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus.”

Two recent books also tell the story of Father McGivney and his legacy: *Parish Priest* (2006), his biography; and the *The Knights of Columbus: An Illustrated History* (2020).

More information is also available at fathermcgivney.org

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 _____

- _____ Mouse Pad — \$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 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.



Father McGivney Medal

This medal may be worn with a chain (sold separately). 1" in diameter.
Sterling Silver Medal: \$25



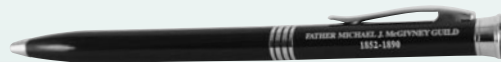
Collector's Spoon

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**



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



IN THIS ISSUE —

Director's Desk 1
 Father McGivney to Be Beatified
 Favours Reported 2
 Guild Items 3

This issue brings the great news that Pope Francis has approved a miracle through the intercession of Father McGivney, opening the way for his beatification. The miracle involved an unborn baby who was healed *in utero* after his family prayed to Father McGivney. The beatification ceremony will take place in the Archdiocese of Hartford, at a date and place to be determined. Another miracle for canonization must occur after the May 26 approval of the first miracle, so remember to report all healings and favours through the intercession of Father McGivney. See the newly designed website: fathermcgivney.org.

DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 1

and heroic virtue be recognized and proclaimed with confidence and Church approval.

Father McGivney is best known as the founder of the Knights of Columbus, but the greatness of his life and spirit is found not only in what he accomplished, remarkable as it was. It is also shown in his holiness of life, his relationship with Jesus Christ, and his fidelity to his vocation as a priest and a selfless servant of the flock entrusted to him. He laid down his life in tireless care for others and took on the burdens of his parishioners to draw them into a deeper relationship with God and the Church.

His spiritual depth and vision prompted Father McGivney to found the Knights of Columbus and sustained him even when his dream of a Catholic brotherhood seemed destined to failure. The witness of a parish priest who lived an unblemished life of prayer, service and charity is an inspiring example for all priests today and to the people whom they serve.

The Church looks for "heroic" virtue in one to be beatified. This means that there must be proof that the candidate went above and beyond what is expected of the ordinary Christian. In this sense, his heroic virtue was confirmed by the Vatican in March 2008, when he was declared a Venerable Servant of God. One might say he was heroic in fulfilling the vocation of a parish priest with a spirit that soared above the ordinary. He was a man of God who drew all those whom he served to a deeper life of faith and a commitment to the works of mercy and charity. Clearly, the Knights of Columbus is destined to remain the greatest proof of the positive impact that one holy, humble, "ordinary" priest can have through the extraordinary exercise of the virtues of faith, hope and charity. His example spurs us on, as members of the McGivney Guild, to greater faith and a renewed sense of responsibility for the good of our neighbor. Though naturally shy and reserved, Father McGivney was on fire for the faith and became a man of practical action, always seeking ways to better the lot of his people, finding solutions to their many problems and persevering through hardships, setbacks and poor health to become a key figure in the growth of the Church in America. The grace of his beatification is the

inspiration for all Christians to engage in the great works of charity being carried out by his Knights, as we help those around us who are in need and unable to help themselves. In the spirit of Venerable Father McGivney, we are responsible for the needs of our brothers and sisters.

The grace of the coming beatification of Venerable Father McGivney signals a special moment for Guild members. We have access to his particular intercession and we can depend on his heavenly friendship with a new spirit of devotion and enthusiasm. You and your intentions are remembered each week in a Mass I celebrate for all Guild members. Let us rejoice in the good news and prepare ourselves spiritually so that we may respond to this great gift and grow in fidelity to God and his great commission to go forth and proclaim the Gospel to the whole world.

I have been privileged to serve as director of the Father McGivney Guild since the beginning, and as the first postulator of the Cause for Canonization. I take this opportunity to personally thank the members of the Guild — more than 177,000 strong today — who have walked with us along the path toward this happy occasion. Your prayers for his canonization, and your prayers for one another's intentions, have played an important part in the Cause moving to this next step. I ask you to continue your prayers and to report any favours received through the intercession of soon-to-be Blessed Michael McGivney, so we can continue, with God's grace, to the high honor of sainthood for our heavenly friend.

For updates and news about the forthcoming beatification ceremony, visit fathermcgivney.org.

Devotedly in Christ,

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

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

Guild Director

Vice-Postulator