

Founder of the Knights of Columbus.
Blessed Michael McGivney,
Apostle to the Young and
Protector of Christian Family Life,
Intercede for Us.



Father Michael J. McGivney

Guild Newsletter

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FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

ISSUE 3

First Feast Day – August 13

When the Church declares someone “Blessed,” she also determines the annual feast day for that person. Traditionally, the date chosen is the day of the person’s death. The feast day, in the liturgy called a “memorial,” marks the birthday into heaven of the blessed, the beginning of a new life in eternity. This year, on August 13, we celebrate for the first time the feast day, or memorial, of Blessed Michael McGivney. This is a day of great rejoicing for all Catholics but in a special way for the Church in Connecticut, for the 2 million Knights of Columbus throughout the United States and around the world, and for members of the Father McGivney Guild. On August 13, I will celebrate Mass for the intentions of all Guild members and their families with the special prayers for Father McGivney designated by the Church. Many other priests, especially those in the Archdiocese of Hartford, in which Father McGivney was born and died, also will offer Mass on the memorial of Blessed Michael McGivney.

While a feast day is usually assigned by the Church for the day on which a saint or blessed died, sometimes that day is already taken by a major liturgical celebration or another canonized person. Blessed Michael McGivney died on August 14, the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption. Since Vigil Masses fulfill the obligation to attend Mass in many places, the previous day, August 13, was chosen for the memorial of Blessed Michael McGivney since it falls between his August 12 birthday (1852) and the day of his death in 1890.

Guild members will be happy to hear that as news of his recent beatification spreads, awareness of and devotion to Blessed

McGivney grows. He has become a spiritual friend and advocate to many who previously had known little about him. Just within the last month, several people have told me about their recent confidence in turning to Blessed McGivney for his intercession in their family difficulties. One young father approached me in an airport to tell me of “the inspiration to turn to Father McGivney” and to have his prayers speedily answered.

Having served as postulator for Father McGivney’s Cause for Canonization in both the diocesan and Roman phases, my familiarity with our new blessed is longstanding. Admittedly, when I was first assigned to this task by my Dominican superior in 1996, I had little knowledge of the founder of the Knights of Columbus. Over time, as I began to experience the power of his presence and intercession, I came to rely on him as a spiritual friend who has a special place in his heart and his prayers for families in distress and for parish priests.

My personal confidence in Father McGivney’s holiness and the power of his intercession came about gradually. While researching his life and the world in which he lived, his strength of character became clear. He was shy and retiring by nature and did not possess a strong physical constitution. He had, in the jargon of his time, “a weak chest.” His daily round of activities as a parish priest, which doubled when the pastors were themselves ill, witness to a heroic courage in responding his duties. It is not surprising that his health failed when he was only 38 years old. Above and beyond this remarkable willingness to serve the needs

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‘Even Unto Tears’

The following is an excerpt of an address given by Dominican Father Peter John Cameron during a vespers service in St. Mary’s Church, New Haven, on Oct. 31, 2020, the evening of the beatification of Father McGivney. Father Cameron is author of a play about Father McGivney, He Was Our Father.

What was it that made Father McGivney so exquisitely sensitive to suffering? Perhaps it was the fact that he was the eldest of 13 children and had witnessed the deaths of six of his siblings as well as the awful toll that this took on his parents.

Maybe it was that he lost his own father when his dad was only 48 years old, leaving his mother a widow when she was yet a young woman. Or maybe, being frail of health, he understood vulnerability better than most.

He suffered criticism for being so self-giving, especially from his seminary rector in the last months before his priestly ordination. In the rector’s final evaluation of McGivney, there’s one point that he finds so awkward and embarrassing that he switches from English to Latin to camouflage the shocking, scandalous thing he

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Photo: Dan Kwon, Spirit Juice Studios

Prenatal Problems

My wife and I are expecting our third child. An ultrasound showed our baby was not growing at the proper rate, and the baby's heart was beating slowly. At our most recent doctor's appointment, we found that our baby has grown in size, and the heartbeat has gotten stronger. We are over the moon with gratitude. Thank you, all!

South Dakota

COVID-19

Our grand knight of Council 12419 and his wife tested positive for COVID-19 in May 2021. Through prayers to Father McGivney, they both have made a full recovery.

Calgary

Cancer

My sister-in-law was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and a heart ailment that doctors could not determine a cause for. Open heart surgery seemed to be the only option. I prayed to Blessed Michael McGivney daily for his intercession. She is now cancer free and no longer suffers from any heart ailment. Her doctors have no explanation. I thank Blessed McGivney for answering my prayers.

North Carolina

I was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. Every day I asked Blessed Father McGivney, as champion of widows and defender of orphans, to intercede with Mary, Mother of God, to ask her Son, Jesus Christ, the Divine Healer, the Great Physician, to heal me, to remove this cancer from me, to restore my health so I may be a faithful husband and amazing father. My MRI report showed no trace of cancer.

Florida

My cousin was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. I gave her a Father McGivney prayer card and started praying daily for her to be cancer free. Her older sister was also diagnosed with breast cancer. Through the intercession of Father McGivney, the tumors shrank in size and were removed successfully. Both women now are cancer free!

Rhode Island

For several months, we have included prayers to Father McGivney for a young girl who has been enduring pediatric cancer. We are overjoyed to share that she is now cancer free! All tests, spinal fluid, peripheral blood, MRI, and her bone marrow were negative for cancer cells. We offer now a joyous prayer of thanksgiving!

New Jersey

Recovery

My grandson, age 21, fell four stories from a balcony onto concrete and was not given much of a chance to live through the

night. He had massive brain damage, and they had to remove part of his skull to relieve pressure on his brain. They said even if he did live, there was not much hope for a quality life. He made it through the night. I asked my brother Knights to pray for him to Father McGivney, and they did. It has been six months now, and my grandson has been home for three months. He has recovered to about 80% of normal capacity and is going to rehab.

Nebraska

My 16-year-old daughter sustained a gymnastics injury to her elbow and was diagnosed with an OCD lesion. The doctor said it was unlikely to heal without surgery. We prayed to Blessed Michael McGivney for healing every night. Through several obstacles, including COVID and the Texas ice storm, surgery was never performed. My daughter could not compete in her level 10 gymnastics season. It has been six months, and now my daughter is doing gymnastics again, pain free, and has been contacted by college coaches!

Texas

A brother Knight had been in a near-fatal car accident and received a traumatic brain injury along with a broken rib and broken leg. A healing Mass was held for his recovery. I prayed to Blessed McGivney to heal our brother Knight. Soon after, he made a miraculous recovery.

North Dakota

Thank you, Father McGivney, for interceding for our Sister Helen, who had a serious infection that spread throughout her body and was 70 days in the hospital. Sister Peggy suggested that we pray to Blessed Michael McGivney, and all the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood did just that. Sister Helen was discharged recently and was able to walk by herself into our residence. We know that Father McGivney was involved in her recovery. Praise God!

New York

A friend's test showed a tumor on his bladder. I started praying for him twice a day to Blessed McGivney and was very happy that the prayers were answered. The test was negative, and there was no cancer. I thank Blessed McGivney for answering my prayers.

Texas

After more than two years of physical therapy, epidurals, and nerve blocks, with nothing working, I started praying for the intercession of Father McGivney for a miracle that this last medical procedure would work. Even though it was an outpatient procedure, not only has it worked, but I've also avoided fusion surgery that I was terrified of. Some may think it's more science that has been my cure, but I'm thanking God and Father McGivney for this personal miracle.

Florida

EVEN UNTO TEARS, from Page 1

has to say. The rector writes, "In giving you this final evaluation of Mr. McGivney, I must say that Mr. McGivney is a very good and pious young man with good and attractive manner." But then the rector reverts to Latin: "He is exceedingly sensitive, *usque ad lacrimas...*" *Usque ad lacrimas* means "even unto tears." When Michael McGivney experienced the suffering of another, he was quickly moved to tears. He would cry.

But if you ask me, this is the very glory of Blessed Michael McGivney. So much so that if I were ever to found a religious community, I would want to found it in honor of Blessed Michael McGivney, and the community would be called the "Usque ad Lacrimasarians." And they would be people with tremendous

empathy for the suffering, the sorrowing, the poor, the afflicted, because we desperately need saints like that in our life today, right now. We need Blessed Michael McGivney.

Let's keep in our hearts what we proclaimed in that first psalm of tonight's evening prayer. "From His misery, the Lord raises the poor, to set them in the company of princes." Blessed Michael McGivney ... we look appealingly at you. Please raise us up from our misery, and set us in the company of princes, and of knights and of saints. Gain for us, with you, the grace to squander ourselves for Jesus Christ our Savior. Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us.

GUILD ITEMS

Please Send Items Below To:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

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. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

- _____ #A/#B Note Cards (6-pack) — \$5
- _____ #A/#B Note Cards (12-pack) — \$10
- _____ Blessed McGivney Beatification Medallion — \$40
- _____ Beatification Mass Booklet — \$10 one copy / \$6 each additional
- _____ 4-Foot Statue — \$2,400 (Plus Shipping & Handling)
- _____ Reliquary (case w/third-class relic) — \$20 donation
- _____ 8" Figurine (Fiberglass) — \$50

- _____ Red Rosary (PG-614) — \$10
- _____ White Rosary (PG-615) — \$10
- _____ Pewter Spoon — \$11

- PRINTED ITEMS — FREE OF CHARGE UP TO 25 COPIES
- _____ *A Model for Our Times* booklet (**NEW AND UPDATED!**)
 - _____ Prayer for Canonization card
 - _____ Prayer for Canonization card (with third-class relic)

Many of the Father McGivney Guild promotional and devotional items previously listed on this page may now be purchased online with a credit card or check at the KnightsGear website (knightsgear.com).

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.



Prayer for Canonization card
Now that Father McGivney is "Blessed" this prayer card for his canonization is more necessary than ever. Order up to 25 prayer cards.



Third-Class Relic
A small piece of cloth touched to the bodily remains of Father McGivney is contained in an ornate reliquary and placed in a solid plastic case. Use for personal prayer and devotion. **Donation: \$20**



Beatification Medallion
A beautiful bronze medallion featuring a bas-relief by Chas Fagan, based on the official image unveiled at the beatification by the same artist. The reverse depicts the coat of arms of the Archbishop of Hartford, host of the beatification, and inscriptions memorializing the occasion. Comes in a blue gift box. While supplies last. 2.75" x 0.25" **\$40**

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael 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 Blessed Michael 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.



Father Michael J. McGivney Guild

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Photo: Spirit Juice Studios

Father Peter John Cameron preaches during a vespers service on Oct. 31, 2020, following the beatification of Father McGivney. *Excerpts of his address begin on page 1.*

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of his people, Father McGivney showed heroic humility and obedience when the bishop transferred him from St. Mary's Church in New Haven to St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, a small city at the other end of Connecticut. Just as the Knights of Columbus was finally turning the corner of success, its founder let go of his leadership and any sense of it being his personal project to respond in obedience to his bishop. In addition to humility and obedience, he showed his willingness to collaborate with the laymen whom he left in charge.

As I discovered these qualities in the life of Blessed McGivney, I began to ask for his heavenly assistance and was surprised at how quickly my plea was answered. He became my heavenly intercessor who came to my aid and the aid of many people who sought my help and advice.

At one time during the diocesan phase of the cause, a priest asked for prayer cards to take to his mother who was critically ill in the hospital. When he called his mom to tell her he would visit later in the week, he asked how she was faring. She reported that she had been free from pain since a priest visited her and blessed

her. When her son arrived with the prayer cards bearing the image of Father McGivney, she said, "Oh, that's the young priest that visited me; even though he didn't say anything, he did give me his blessing." Many such reports are sent to the Guild office, but most interventions attributed to Blessed McGivney go unreported. They are accepted in faith as God communicates his love and mercy through the intercession of his saints long after their lives on this earth are finished.

I encourage all Guild members to observe August 13 as a day of special prayer in thanksgiving for the beatification of Father McGivney, but also as a day of intercession, commending to his spiritual care the need of our families and friends.

Blessed Michael McGivney, 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

Father McGivney Videos Online

Inspiring and informative videos on Father McGivney and his powerful intercession have been produced in recent months. Among the short, high-quality productions are: "Father Michael McGivney: An American Blessed," a documentary on his life, works and virtue; "A Witness for the World," a survey of how devotion to him is spreading in many countries; "Dear Father McGivney," an

inspiring video of the heartfelt petitions that are offered to the new blessed; "Miracle Mikey," a moving 7-minute film about the miracle that brought Father McGivney to beatification; and three short videos on individuals who have received significant favors through prayers to Father McGivney. To view these and other videos, visit: <https://www.fathermcgivney.org/en/media/index.html>.