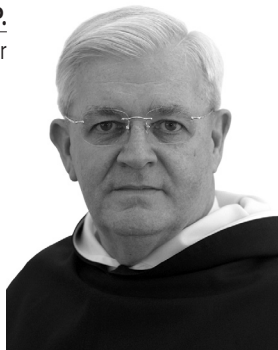


Founder of the Knights of Columbus.  
Blessed Michael McGivney,  
Apostle to the Young and  
Protector of Christian Family Life,  
Intercede for Us.



FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

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



## Dear Guild Members,

We are privileged on August 13 to celebrate for the second time the memorial, or feast day, of Blessed Michael McGivney. What a gift the day is to the Church, to the Knights of Columbus, to the Archdiocese of Hartford and to all the faithful who call upon this wonderful heavenly advocate of “ordinary” Catholic men and women. Because of the worldwide reach of the Knights, awareness of and devotion to Blessed Michael have spread to many countries, and a Votive Mass in his honor will be offered not only in Hartford, the diocese in which he lived and died, but also in many dioceses in the United States and throughout the world. The recommended Gospel reading for the Mass is from St. Matthew’s account of the Beatitudes: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God ...” (Mt 5:3-12). The

“blessed” named by Jesus are the ones Father McGivney cared for during his priestly ministry and still cares for in his heavenly intercession.

As we have noted previously, August 13 falls between Father McGivney’s birthday (Aug. 12, 1852) and his “birthday into eternity” (Aug. 14, 1890). This gives us three days to meditate on his life, offered to God and his fellow man in heroic virtue, and his holy death at the young age of 38. Celebration of his beatification and first feast day were somewhat curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but with most restrictions on religious services now lifted in most places, this August would be a great time for parishes, councils and Knights everywhere to gather to honor the holy parish priest and founder of the Knights of Columbus. Indeed, Catholics are invited to invoke the intercession of Blessed Michael each and every day and to report any favors to the Father McGivney Guild.

A second documented miracle attributed to his intercession is needed for Blessed Michael to be raised to sainthood.

As we celebrate Blessed Michael’s feast in a world marked by serious social and moral confusion, we should not fail to note his interest and activity in the events of late 19th-century America.

See **DIRECTOR’S DESK**, Page 4

## Bridgeport Statue Honors Founder

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Conn., dedicated a statue of Blessed Michael McGivney at St. Margaret Shrine, saying the founder of the Knights of Columbus was “a testimony to the difference that one life can make” who should be a role model for priests everywhere.

“Consider the effects this one man had in founding the Knights of Columbus. Consider all the years, all the good works, all the charity, and the outreach to the sick, the homeless and those in need,” the bishop said at the June 4 ceremony attended by more than 150 Knights and their families and friends.

In Father McGivney’s day, the bishop pointed out, Bridgeport was a part of the Diocese of Hartford, which encompassed all of Connecticut. Father McGivney had two younger brothers who served as priests in Bridgeport and as supreme chaplain of the Order at different times.

The project to purchase the statue and create a memorial area was a cooperative effort of Sheridan Assembly 107 and the following councils: Park City Council 16 and Rev. Msgr. Patrick McGivney Council 12615, both in Bridgeport; Our Lady of the Assumption Council 11077 in Fairfield, and Msgr. Mooney Council 13228 in Stratford. Among the attendees were State Deputy Matthew McGrath and John Walshe, a great grandnephew of Father McGivney.

Grand Knight David Sanchez of Council 16, a member of St. Peter Church, said, “This is such a good project, and we are blessed to have this site near our meeting room. Blessed Michael McGivney came up with this spot.” (Excerpted from a story by Joe Pisani in the *Fairfield County Catholic*.)



With Fourth Degree Knights shown in the foreground and State Deputy Matthew McGrath in the background, Bishop Frank Caggiano reads the prayers for dedication of the statue of Father McGivney in Bridgeport. (Photo by Joe Pisani)

# FAVORS REPORTED

*Mindful of the fact a second miracle is needed for Father McGivney to advance to sainthood, the Guild continues to ask all members to pray to this Blessed servant of God and to spread knowledge of and devotion to him in your parishes and Knights of Columbus councils. Please report any favors received to the Father McGivney Guild (guild@kofc.org).*

## Cancer Recovery

A close family friend had stage 4 cancer, and I asked for Father McGivney's intercession for her. She is now fully cancer free after treatment.

Florida

After a brother Knight contracted COVID-19, he became severely weak and was struck with lymphoma cancer. At our council meeting, our chaplain led us in prayer for a favor through the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney to cure our brother. After six months of treatment, his doctor said that all traces of cancer were gone completely. He didn't experience any pain or sickness during his treatments and now is healthy.

Rhode Island

I prayed for the intercession of Father McGivney that no malignancy be found in my goddaughter's breast tumor. Biopsy of the tumor prior to surgery showed papillary neoplasm, which according to doctors meant cancer. Upon surgery, no malignancy was found.

Philippines

The day before my 81st birthday, I was told I had bladder cancer. I had a previously scheduled meeting with a friend to learn about joining the Knights, and he was the first person I told of the cancer. Subsequent to that meeting, I became a Third Degree and later, with his encouragement, a Fourth Degree. With treatments over a 10-month period, the cancer is gone. I believe my prayers to Blessed Michael McGivney and the prayers of my fellow Knights along with those from friends have eliminated the cancer.

Florida

Five years ago, I discontinued treatments for bladder cancer after they became unbearable. Recently, a periodic observation revealed some concern, and tests were ordered. Weeks later, I received a phone call that the doctor wanted to see me about the results. I prayed to Blessed Michael McGivney and made the 80-mile trip, bracing for bad news. To my delight, my doctor told me all looks great! Thank you, Blessed Michael, for your intercession.

Michigan

My sincere thanks to Blessed Michel McGivney for his intercession in helping me make many big decisions. I prayed to him for a job that was close to my heart, and I got it. At the same time, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and because of the job, I was able to get the right insurance coverage for my surgery and other expenses. I am now cancer free after the prostatectomy but have been having other health issues because of my weak immune system. I am constantly praying to him and all the saints for healing and full recovery, and I know he will answer my prayers. I will resume saying his novena and praying for his sainthood.

Florida

## Employment

My son found himself unemployed after mismanagement at his company. I prayed through Blessed Michael McGivney that he would find a good job. The prayer was answered, and now everything is going well. I pray the canonization prayer every day and have joined/contributed to the Guild. May Blessed Michael McGivney be glorified on earth in accordance with God's will!

New York

My son, always a hard worker, was having trouble finding a job after college. The pandemic took the wind out of everyone's sails. I remembered Father McGivney and began praying for this special intention since many months had passed with few positions of interest to my son. I had faith and optimism that his perfect job would come, and it did! My daughter, who has lost much of her faith, said, "What about me?" The story continues.

Ohio

Due to a downsizing and ultimate closing of the school, my son lost his position at a Connecticut university where he taught for six years. I've prayed the canonization prayer since that time, and he has secured a new position where he participates in the weekly celebration of the Eucharist through music ministry. Positions in mathematics are difficult to obtain, and we are most thankful for the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney. My son and I are both Fourth Degree Knights.

Pennsylvania

I prayed for my son Paul to get a job and for my stepdaughter Amy to find a place to live even though it seemed impossible for this to happen. However, within three weeks of praying the Michael McGivney canonization prayer for both of these favors, the prayer was answered.

Kansas

## COVID-19

I contracted COVID the last week in July 2021. I was taken later to the hospital due to low oxygen and placed in the ICU for a week. My family prayed specifically to Blessed McGivney, and the next day they heard reports from nurses that indicated answered prayers. The day I began the novena to Blessed McGivney, I began to improve. I have no lasting effects from the illness.

Oklahoma

## Healing

Our grand knight was diagnosed with a severe liver disease and needed a transplant. Our council gathered to pray for him, using the Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer Hour booklet. Early the following morning, our grand knight was notified that they had found a new liver for transplant. After surgery and seven weeks of recovery, he is back serving our council. Prayer works!

South Carolina

So very happy to report that my nephew is on the road to healing. He has found Jesus in his heart. He looks great! He was able to sell his condo and start fresh. Thank you, Father McGivney, for your prayers and intercessions.

Connecticut

# 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.

\_\_\_\_\_ Beatification DVD — \$45

\_\_\_\_\_ Blessed McGivney Beatification Medallion — \$40

\_\_\_\_\_ 4-Foot Statue — \$2,400 (Plus Shipping & Handling)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Father McGivney Plaque — \$190

\_\_\_\_\_ 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)

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.

*Many more Father McGivney promotional and devotional items may be purchased online with a credit card or check at the KnightsGear website ([knightsgear.com](http://knightsgear.com)).*

Write out your prayer intention below and mail to the Guild, or submit an intention online at [www.fathermcgivney.org](http://www.fathermcgivney.org)

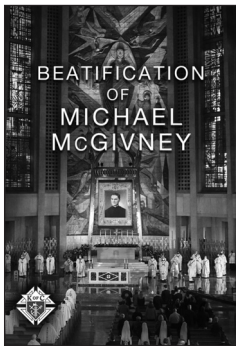
---



---



---



### Beatification DVD

The historic Mass of Beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney is captured on this DVD of the ceremony of Oct. 31, 2020. Relive the moment when Father McGivney was proclaimed "Blessed." **\$45.00 (includes shipping)**



### 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**



### 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**



### Father McGivney Plaque

This semi-relief plaque is perfect for hanging in a council meeting place. Solid yet portable, it measures 12 in. high, 10 in. wide, a half-inch deep, and weighs 4 lbs. Made of compressed marble powder and plated with a composite of copper and nickel, each piece is hand-designed by a U.S. Catholic art house. **\$190**



# Father Michael J. McGivney Guild™

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS • 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA • NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly presented the charter for a new council named for Blessed Michael McGivney during Solemn Vespers at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, where the Knights of Columbus founder completed his studies for the priesthood. Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore presided at the April 26 event, and Maryland State Deputy Vince Grauso and Sulpician Father Philip Brown, president and chaplain of Council 17759, also took part.

## IN THIS ISSUE —

From the Director . . . . . 1

Bridgeport Statue Dedicated

Favors Reported . . . . . 2

Guild Items . . . . . 3

Council Named for McGivney . . . . . 4

### DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 1

Local, national and international issues were part of his concern. As the son of Irish immigrants, he was aware of the religious and land-ownership crises in Ireland, and he organized presentations and discussions on the topic in the church hall. Connecticut politics and state regulations regarding prayer in the public schools prompted decisive action on his part, and this was noted and commented upon in the local press. Blessed Michael was not indifferent to social disorders and the needs of others, near and far.

The combination of his intense spiritual life and his tireless efforts on behalf of the disadvantaged, the vulnerable and the poor marks the spirituality of Blessed Michael and expresses his unique vision. The fruit of his prayer and contemplative spirit can be found in his design of a fraternal benefit society, the Knights of Columbus. Founded to strengthen and support ordinary Catholic men in their call to be faithful husbands and fathers, Blessed McGivney insisted that their faith should find expression in a wide-ranging outreach to widows, orphans and the marginalized. Their closeness to the parish and their pastors would guide them but never limit their activity in addressing the difficulties and problems in the wider culture. Father McGivney's Knights were to be men of the Church and men involved in the world.

The decree of Pope Francis read at the 2020 beatification ceremony stated that Father McGivney's "zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and generous concern for the needs of his brothers and sisters made him an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and fraternal assistance." These words highlight what we might call "McGivney spirituality," that is, a remarkably deep religious spirit of union with Christ combined with a commitment to serve the least among us with an intense

generosity and a bold determination to address in a hands-on manner the ills of the culture.

The saints are given to us by the Church for our admiration and imitation. Blessed Michael devoted every day of his brief priesthood for the service of his neighbor. The fuel that sustained him was his life of prayer and the sacraments of the Church, most especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. These are the "ordinary" means available to every "ordinary" Catholic. For Father McGivney, they led to extraordinary sanctity. His example suggests that saintly holiness is possible for all those who take the Gospel seriously; his feast day is an occasion when he is urging us on toward heaven.

As we await the day when Blessed Michael will be canonized, our devotion to him and our recourse to the power of his heavenly intercession become our constant petition that God would grant the necessary miracle required by the Church for the canonization and the bestowal of the formal title of "saint." The lives of the saints make personal holiness a believable reality for the rank-and-file Christian. If Father McGivney could live the ordinary life of a parish priest with such unusual love and fidelity, then the rest of us can welcome God's grace, which transforms us deep within, as we pray and work for his glory.

Enjoy the feast day! 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**