

Founder of the Knights of Columbus.  
Venerable 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 &amp; Guild Director

## Dear Guild Members:

The popularity of Pope Francis is often based on the realism of his homilies and addresses which connect to the daily life of believers. A Sunday homily he preached earlier this year is one example of his sensitivity to the plight of ordinary, struggling men and women.

On April 2, the Holy Father said that each of us carries some kind of “tomb” inside our heart, whether from sin or suffering, and we can either stay bogged down in misery, focusing only on ourselves, or allow Jesus to come into that place and heal it. Much of the unhappiness in our



lives, Pope Francis insisted, flows from what is within our minds and hearts “because each of us has a small tomb, some area that is a little bit dead inside the heart: a wound, an injury suffered or done, a bitterness that does not let up, remorse that returns, a sin that you cannot overcome.”

No one gets through life without carrying at least one such interior “tomb.” It is a great comfort and encouragement to hear the Holy Father speak in so understanding a way of this universal human experience.

As a true pastor, Pope Francis acknowledges the burdens we carry in daily life and challenges us to discover the deeper meaning of human existence and that of our personal vocation by confronting our crosses in a faith-filled manner. The person of Jesus is the answer to our dilemma. “In front of the big ‘why’ of life we have two paths,” said the Holy Father, “to stay to watch gloomily the tombs of yesterday and of today, or to bring Jesus to our tombs.” We must invite Our Lord into the world of our “little tombs” if we are to know the power of his resurrection, responding when he calls us to come out.

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

## IN THE FOUNDER'S FOOTSTEPS

To touch, to step, to see, to connect. These are very Catholic actions because our faith is immersed in matter. Jesus took flesh, true God and true man, walked the earth, died in his human nature and rose in his glorified body. We can see the place where he was born, touch the relics of his cross, kiss the stone of his tomb, and walk the paths he trod.

Such connections make the faith more real and relatable.

It was in this spirit that a group devoted to Venerable Father Michael McGivney set out to visit important sites in his life, all within a 15-mile radius from his birthplace in Waterbury, Conn. Called “In the Footsteps of Father McGivney,” the minibus pilgrimage took place on the 127th anniversary of his death, Aug. 14. In addition to sites in Waterbury, the tour included stops in Thomaston, where he was pastor for nearly six years until his death in 1890, and Terryville, where he was in charge of a mission church.

Sponsored by the Guild, the pilgrimage will become an annual August observance. Those who cannot make it in person will be able to follow the pilgrimage route on the Guild website.

The pilgrimage route was mapped out by a brother and sister team who grew up in Waterbury and have a great hometown devotion to Father McGivney — Sister Veronica Sullivan, a member of the Sisters of Life, and Father James Sullivan, pastor of Church of the Assumption in Ansonia, Conn. In recent years, they have worked with state historians, archivists and elected officials, and studied property records to determine the locations of buildings that no longer stand, including the McGivney home along the

 See **FOUNDER'S FOOTSTEPS** Page 2


The pilgrimage ended at the McGivney family gravesite, where Father James Sullivan blessed the group that made the entire trip.

# FAVORS REPORTED

## Long-Sought Cure

My wife had trouble hearing in her right ear for 30 years. We prayed incessantly to Father McGivney for a cure as we visited all kinds of ear doctors. Finally, we feel we had been directed to a particular specialist. He seemed to have had the expertise to cure her ear. Now she can hear perfectly without any aids whatsoever. We are so grateful for the intercession of Father McGivney for answering our prayers in finding the specialist who was able to bring about a successful cure to her long-term hearing problem.

Nova Scotia

Last year, while attending Mass, I prayed for the intercession of Father McGivney for the cure of an illness for Father Jim. A few days later, I spoke with my friend about my prayer and was informed that she had spoken with Father Jim, who felt that a miracle occurred after he felt a healing. I said I would report this favor through Father McGivney's intercession.

Florida

## Help With My Heart

Father McGivney helped me during my heart operation 10 years ago. It was a miracle that he was with me at the gate of heaven. He asked me to go back. The Knights of Columbus needed me more. At present I am working as a grand knight and a diocesan membership

and program coordinator. I am always asking brother Knights to pray and ask for the help of our founder.

Philippines

## A Child in Need

Our son was born into poverty and spent his infancy in a Central American orphanage. He has developmental delays and is on the autism spectrum. He was placed outside our district in special education schools for five years. Having no typical peer support or role models, his anxiety increased, and his behaviors did not improve. We learned about Father McGivney when we toured the Knights of Columbus Museum, and after praying to him for guidance, decided to return our son to our home district school. We firmly believe that with Father McGivney's intercession, the school district agreed to give it a try. We prayed to Father McGivney daily that the transition would be successful. Our son's transition to our home district was remarkably smooth, and he had the best year ever, in any school that he had ever attended. The teachers and the school administration are kind, patient, and accepting of him, as are the other students in the school. It truly is a miracle that he was able to transition back to the district school at all. That he transitioned so well, and with such love and acceptance from the school community, is miraculous. We continue to pray for Father McGivney's intercession. We are eternally thankful to Father Michael McGivney, and wholeheartedly endorse his path to sainthood.

Connecticut

## McGIVNEY RELATIVE PASSES AWAY

Msgr. G. Thomas Burns, grandnephew of Father Michael McGivney, passed away June 23 at age 85 in Sarasota, Fla. After ordination in 1957, he served in two New Jersey parishes, St. Cecilia in Kearny, and St. Raphael in Livingston, where he was pastor from 1979 till his retirement in 2002. Msgr. Burns' mother, Zita, was a daughter of Rose

(McGivney) Finn, the sister of Father McGivney. Her brother Msgr. Leo M. Finn was Knights of Columbus supreme chaplain from 1939-1960. A Funeral Mass was offered June 29 in St. Raphael Church, with burial in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in East Hanover, N.J.

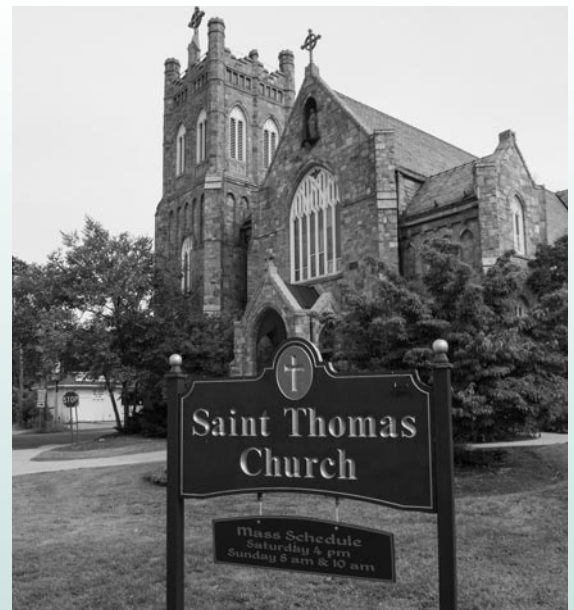
### FOUNDER'S FOOTSTEPS from Page 1

Naugatuck River, the school young McGivney attended, the church where his parents were married and he was baptized, and the old St. Thomas rectory where he died.

A highlight of the pilgrimage was a visit to the Thomaston Opera House, which opened in 1884, the year Father McGivney became pastor of the church a few blocks away and where he staged parish plays. Standing on the stage that Father McGivney walked, one could feel the spirit of the venerable servant of God and imagine the audience applauding one of the lighthearted plays he staged to bring his parish family together.

The pilgrimage ended at the McGivney family gravesite in Old St. Joseph's Cemetery in Waterbury. Father McGivney had been buried there until 1982, when the Knights of Columbus received permission to exhume his body and move it to a sarcophagus in St. Mary's Church in New Haven, where the young priest had founded the Order in 1882. Still buried at the Waterbury site are his parents, two brothers who became priests and three other siblings.

Find more information on the pilgrimage on [fathermcgivney.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reliquary (Case with Second-Class Relic) — \$25 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, EXCEPT AS NOTED

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Parish Priest* (Paperback, 240 pp.) — \$12
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Parish Priest Study Guide*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *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 petitions and submit them by October 16 for the All Souls Novena.



### Father McGivney Medal

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

Chain sold separately.

**Sterling Silver Medal: \$25**

**18" Women's Chain: \$14**

**24" Men's Chain: \$15**

(BACK IN STOCK)



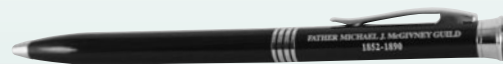
### Collector's Spoon

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



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### All Souls Novena of Masses

From Oct. 24 to Nov. 2 (All Souls Day), a Mass will be celebrated each day for the deceased relatives and friends of Guild members. Intentions sent by Guild members on behalf of deceased loved ones are placed on the altar for remembrance. You may use the form on page 3 to submit petitions, or submit them on the website: [fathermcgivney.org](http://fathermcgivney.org). Please submit by Oct. 16, 2017, for petitions to be included in the novena.

### DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 1

Happiness is a constant theme of the pope's preaching and teaching. In a homily on All Saints Day 2016, he insisted that the saints "found the secret of authentic happiness, which lies deep within the soul and has its source in the love of God. That is why we call the saints blessed."

Again, it is in the depths of the heart and soul where we discover the reality of the little tombs and the love of God that makes it possible to bear our burdens and crosses. It is typical of the saints that they are genuinely happy not because they are without their own interior tombs, but because they have learned to bear their trials and sufferings in union with Christ's own passion, death and resurrection. Our Lord does not always take away the difficulties, but he always gives strength and courage to bear them, sometimes until the end of our lives.

Devotion to the saints is one way to enlist assistance in our struggles. Saints are examples of courage and heroic virtue in the face of great trials, even persecutions and martyrdom, because of their faith in Jesus Christ and their dependence upon his grace and strength. They witness to the possibility of being happy in the midst of suffering and adversity. We can gain strength and encouragement in our own lives as we follow the example of the saints and pray for their intercession.

This truth is at the heart of the mission of the Guild, which strives to make Father McGivney better known, to promote devotion to him, and to receive and publicize reports of favours through his intercession. He was, by all accounts, a happy man. In the few photos we possess of him, we do not see a smile — 19th-century men did not smile for the camera as we do today — but there is a certain tranquility and nobility of spirit reflected in his face. His happiness flowed from his inner life, his union with God and his fidelity in tirelessly spending himself for the needs of his parishioners.

Declared "venerable" by the Church for his life of heroic virtue, Father McGivney should inspire in us a deeper commitment to Christ and a determination to be happy in daily life. This happiness cannot be measured by external signs of celebration, but by that deep inner peace that we see reflected in the brow of Venerable Father McGivney.

While members of the Guild promise to pray for Father McGivney's beatification and canonization, the true mission of the Guild is the same as that of the founder of the Knights of Columbus: to bring glory to God and his Church by inspiring others to a life of holiness and service. The unique expression of Father McGivney's mission is to be found in the principles of the Knights of Columbus: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

As Guild members know, a miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession is needed for the Church to announce his beatification. It will be a great day for rejoicing, indeed, if such a miracle is reported and then accepted by the Church. As we pray for the coming of that day, we must follow the lead of this saintly priest. From the tombs of our inner sufferings we must call to Christ for help, and by accepting his love, learn the way of true Christian happiness.

*Venerable Father Michael McGivney, pray for us.*

**Devotedly in Christ,**

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

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

**Guild Director**

**Vice-Postulator**