

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 & Guild Director

Dear Guild Members:

A century and a half ago, in 1868, young Michael McGivney formally began his journey to the priesthood when he entered the Seminary of St. Hyacinthe in Québec, Canada. This step was preceded by years of thought and prayer.

Inspired by his pastor in Waterbury, Conn., and strongly concerned for the welfare of the immigrant community, including his own family, young McGivney discovered a call from Jesus Christ to dedicate his life to the service of the Church and her people.

It was his relationship with the Lord that impelled him to seek the priesthood. There were obvious obstacles to this course. While not



destitute, the McGivney family struggled to earn a living wage and to make ends meet, just as many other immigrant families. As the eldest son of a large family, Michael was expected to enter the workforce and contribute to the needs of the family.

For young Michael there were also inner questions regarding his vocation to the priesthood. Was he worthy? Was his shy, retiring personality suitable? Could his father's lack of enthusiasm for his vocation be a sign that he was not called? Yet in an act of trust in the Lord, he put aside all doubts and fears and went forward, traveling by train to faraway Québec and beginning a journey of faith that would take him to two other houses of formation before spending his final four years at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. Even this journey was almost interrupted with the death of Michael's father in 1873. He came home to Waterbury for the funeral, uncertain of how to continue to pay for his seminary studies. But God was certain of his vocation and opened a door through the generosity of the bishop of Hartford, who granted the young man a scholarship to attend the Baltimore seminary. As we know, four years later, he was ordained a priest and celebrated his first Mass in Waterbury.

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McGIVNEY HOUSE IN MIDDLE EAST

As part of the Knights of Columbus' ongoing efforts to aid Christians in the Middle East, displaced families are coming home to a modern apartment complex named for the Order's founder.

McGivney House, a 140-unit apartment building in Erbil, Iraq, will provide housing for more than 110 families originally from the Nineveh

Plain, who were driven out by ISIS. Special apartments have been designed for the elderly who need extra assistance.

The building allows Christians once again to live with dignity in their homeland, and grants them ease of worship — McGivney House has a

 See **McGIVNEY HOUSE** Page 2


Standing outside the new McGivney House is Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda of Erbil in Iraq.

FAVORS REPORTED

Medical Recovery

Over the past several years, I've prayed to Father McGivney to intercede in the health and recovery of four friends and relatives who suffered from cancer. Each patient underwent chemotherapy and radiation and each has recovered. I realize that because of the extensive medical treatments, these four cases of remission would not be considered miracles. However, I believe that through Father McGivney's intercession, each patient had the strength, determination and hope to fight this disease to its end.

Connecticut

My nephew had complications after hernia surgery and had to have a second surgery. I asked Father McGivney for his intercession so that my nephew's second surgery would be successful and that he would recover. My nephew's recovery is going excellently.

I was in the hospital for cellulitis and a bad infection in my right leg. I'm diabetic and in danger of losing the leg above the knee. I prayed through Father McGivney to save my leg and it worked. I am back to doing my jobs as the executive of my council, my assembly, as district deputy and the diocesan association. Many thanks for Father McGivney's intercession.

Ontario

My wife and I have been praying to Father McGivney since I became a Knight and increased it to twice a day after we found out we are

having a baby. My wife has a very rare disease and the likelihood of our daughter having it was high. We recently saw the genetics doctor and he viewed everything at his disposal, including ultrasound images, and he told us that our daughter shows NO SIGNS of having this very rare disease. When he told us that, we immediately hugged and after we got back to our car we broke down in tears. We are so thankful for you, Father McGivney.

California

Family Favor

I was attempting to register a vehicle for my mother-in-law who needs a car to get to doctor appointments and to help with her grandchildren. I was running into many pitfalls with insurance and DMV. I was frustrated and anxious and then I found the Father McGivney card I had in my car. I said the prayer, and when I finally received the plates, I realized this was an act of God. Thank you, Father McGivney, for keeping my family safe.

Nevada

Mission Accomplished

Father McGivney interceded in my behalf when I had lost hope that my request to go home on R&R from Afghanistan had either been misplaced or disapproved. Ten days before the expiration date, I received notification that my request had been approved and I received my travel itinerary afterwards. I firmly believe that Father McGivney interceded for me and answered my prayers. Thank you, Father McGivney, my hope and faith have been restored and my prayers answered.

Texas

DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 1

This experience certainly had a profound effect on his attitude and his insights into the condition of families when the breadwinner dies. A lack of funds almost ended his priesthood before it began. But Christian charity opened a door. Charity was to become the guiding principle of the Knights of Columbus.

Whatever obstacles we may face in life, whatever troubles we may experience in the Church, especially what we are suffering today, we should look to Father McGivney as a beacon of hope. As the Vatican declared when he was named a Venerable Servant of God in 2008, he exercised to a heroic degree the virtues of faith, hope and charity. He is indeed a model for our times of priestly fidelity who sought practical solutions to the problems of his day.

Venerable Father Michael McGivney, pray for us!

Yours devotedly in Christ,

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

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

McGIVNEY HOUSE from Page 1

chapel on site and is located less than 10 minutes from a newly opened Catholic church.

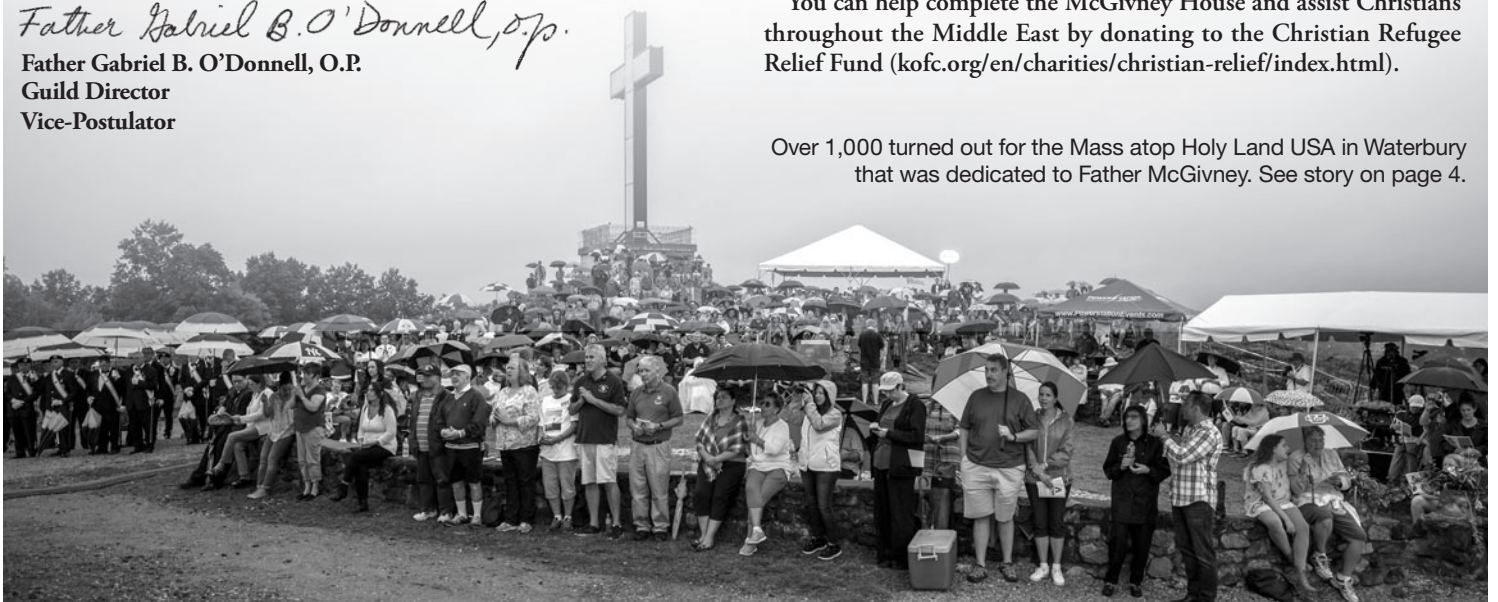
Nearly complete, the building still needs funds for the installation of electricity, air conditioning and a water supply,

Highlighting the important task of completing the project, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said in his address at the Supreme Convention Aug. 7, "Christianity might have died in Iraq. ... Because of our commitment, life goes on for our brothers and sisters. But our work is not over. It is not time to turn away. We must continue."

The Knights of Columbus is also helping to rebuild the town of Karamles in Iraq, which was destroyed by ISIS. Thus far, the Order has received and disbursed more than \$20 million through its Christian Refugee Relief Fund, which works with local churches to provide aid where it is most needed.

You can help complete the McGivney House and assist Christians throughout the Middle East by donating to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund (kofc.org/en/charities/christian-relief/index.html).

Over 1,000 turned out for the Mass atop Holy Land USA in Waterbury that was dedicated to Father McGivney. See story on page 4.



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 w/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

- _____ 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**



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**



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**



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

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McGivney House, a 140-unit apartment building in Iraq, will provide housing for more than 110 families.

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A VENERABLE HOMETOWN HERO

Gathering atop a mountain in the city where Father Michael McGivney was born, more than 1,000 Connecticut Catholics joined Hartford Archbishop Leonard Blair for a Mass honoring the legacy of the Knights of Columbus founder.

The turnout, despite a persistent light rain, was a sure sign of an enduring devotion to Father McGivney, who is honored as a holy son of Waterbury, where he was born, attended school, celebrated his first Mass and initially buried in his family's plot. A bronze statue of Father McGivney stands on a traffic island at a major intersection near Waterbury's City Hall.

The Mass was offered on the evening of Saturday, Aug. 11, to coincide with two major dates in Father McGivney's life. He was born Aug. 12, 1852, and died two days after his 38th birthday on Aug. 14, 1890. A covered stage was set up for the Mass, which was held atop Holy Land USA, a once-popular Catholic theme park that had been closed to the public since the 1980s. The 17-acre site was purchased five years ago by Waterbury's mayor and a local businessman, with plans to restore it for pilgrimages. A new 60-foot, illuminated cross was constructed on the site which is visible from major highways that cut through the city.

Concelebrating with 13 priests, Archbishop Blair made note in his homily of Father McGivney's living legacy, saying that the charity and fraternity of the Order he founded are the best testaments to his continuing influence in people's lives.

Serving as lectors at Mass were John Marrella, the K of C's supreme advocate, and Rebecca Calabrese, niece of John Greco, founder of the Holy Land site, who died in 1986.

Speaking of the revival of the mountaintop site, Marrella said, "Because people have a deep hunger for God, and he has not stopped working in human history, it is perfectly appropriate to celebrate Mass



CNS photo/Aaron Joseph, for The Catholic Transcript

Archbishop Leonard Blair offers Mass in honor of Father McGivney in Waterbury.

at Holy Land, which is the highest point in the most Catholic city in Connecticut, and which is also the hometown of the founder of the Knights of Columbus."

Father James Sullivan, who was born in Waterbury and is pastor of a parish in nearby Ansonia, was the organizer of the Mass. "This was a significant religious event for the city and the state, in the spirit of the new evangelization," he said. "It was a celebration of Holy Land and Father McGivney's life and legacy."

Prior to Mass, a rosary was led by Knights of Columbus along with the Prayer for the Canonization of Father McGivney.