

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

Dear Guild Members:

As we stand at the end of the second decade of the 21st century, the challenges facing believers, most especially Catholic men and women, are intense. The cultural, religious and moral changes of our times seem to have accelerated at an alarming rate. The progressive loss of respect for human life, the refusal to recognize the sacredness of marriage and the family, and the lack of civility in politics, entertainment and other forms of social communication are warning signals. We face a decline and, in some cases, a rejection of the Judeo-Christian tradition of faith and human values. There is in some quarters of our culture and politics an open hostility toward religion and suspicion of anyone who adheres to a religious tradition or professes definite moral values.

This predicament must be confronted by the believer from the standpoint of faith and God's providential plan for our salvation and the destiny of the world. It is amazing to reflect on how more than a century ago, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney successfully navigated the bigotry and prejudices of his time. As a first-generation American of Irish-born parents, he knew firsthand the prejudice against the



immigrant population by the largely Anglo-Saxon Protestant populace. The second half of the 19th century also witnessed a strong wave of anti-Catholicism that sometimes broke out into physical violence. These prejudices were particularly strong in New England, where Father McGivney lived and died.

In his life as a parish priest, Father McGivney felt the full force of these prejudices as he witnessed the difficulties parishioners faced in finding employment because of their ethnic roots. Father McGivney's first assignment, St. Mary's Church in New Haven, was situated in the middle of Yale University, a Protestant stronghold. The presence of a Catholic church with its poor immigrant congregation was considered a blight on the otherwise proper and upright university campus.

The public schools attended by the parish children catered to the spiritual needs of Protestants but refused to consider the religion of Jewish and Catholic students. While the young parish priest was not aggressive or argumentative, he was a stalwart defender of the rights of his Catholic brothers and sisters. He quietly but firmly approached civil and religious leaders, seeking justice and equality. Indeed, one of his desires in founding the Knights of Columbus was to form a community of Catholic men that would bring these very values to the culture at large. The fraternal Order of the Knights was not a retreat into a narrow Catholic enclave but the formation of a brotherhood of faith that could pierce the darkness of prejudice and bigotry of every kind with works of charity and an example of lives committed to moral absolutes and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

 See **DIRECTOR'S DESK**, Page 2


Father James Sullivan, rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, offers Mass at the McGivney family gravesite in Waterbury.

McGIVNEY WEEK MASS OFFERED AT FAMILY GRAVESITE

To commemorate the birth and death dates of the Knights of Columbus founder, Mass was offered August 14 at the McGivney family burial plot in Old St. Joseph's Cemetery in Waterbury, Conn. Sitting on folding chairs arranged on the grass around the large gravestone, more than 80 Knights and family members turned out on the overcast evening that became sunny shortly before Mass.

Father James Sullivan, rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, where Father Michael McGivney offered his first Mass after ordination in 1877, was celebrant for the outdoor Mass. A Waterbury native himself, Father Sullivan and his family have had a strong devotion to Father McGivney over many years. When he was a student at Providence College in 1982, Father Sullivan recalled in his homily, his uncle who was a priest asked him and some other students to serve a Mass for the reception of the bodily remains of Father McGivney to St. Mary's Church in New Haven, where the Order was founded 100 years earlier. The remains had been exhumed from the grave where Father Sullivan was now offering Mass, he pointed out.

"It was a memorable event and deeply moving," Father Sullivan recalled. "I think Father McGivney was working that day for vocations because three of the college guys, including myself, eventually became priests."

 See **McGIVNEY WEEK MASS**, Page 4

FAVORS REPORTED

Back to Life

I was taken to the emergency room thinking I was having a heart attack. As it turned out, I had a staph infection stemming from athlete's foot. I am on the way to full recovery. For 30 minutes after I was picked up by the medics, my kidneys stopped functioning and my heart started to go crazy. My blood pressure was 54 over 24. I turned to my wife and said; "I am dying; I've seen the angel of death." Then the doctor told her to start preparing because the outcome may not be good. I didn't say Father McGivney's prayer but simply asked him to save me because I needed to be around for my grandchildren. He brought my oldest to me and as she lay on my chest everyone believes she breathed life back into me.

Connecticut

While traveling, I ended up in the hospital with internal bleeding. I had lost three units of blood and was being prepped for surgery. I prayed to Father McGivney for his intercession. The bleeding stopped and saved me from going into surgery in a different state.

Washington

New Job

I was laid off as part of a corporate restructure. For 50 days I could not find employment. On day 51, I started praying for the intercession of Father McGivney and on the 13th day I was offered a position. There's more to this story, but just wanted to give you the background.

Pennsylvania

I became unemployed about a month ago and have been praying to Father McGivney and St. Joseph for help in finding a new job. I was just hired by a great company in my desired field. Thank you to Father McGivney and St. Joseph!

Rhode Island

I was having trouble finding a job, but prayed for Father McGivney's intercession, and two days later I was hired as a quality inspector for a good company.

Michigan

I was laid off and having difficulty finding work for several months. I prayed to our friend and helper, Father McGivney. Within days, I had three job interviews and several job offers. I'm currently gainfully employed. I am also praying for the renewal of Holy Land shrine in Waterbury, Conn. My father worked in that city for a long time, providing for my family. I always saw the cross on the hill when he brought me to work with him sometimes on the weekends. Father McGivney is near and dear to me. I am hoping to help others when I can. Peace and love to all!

Connecticut

Place to Live

After our home was foreclosed, my sister and I were homeless. My sister was not well and was not up to the stress of homelessness. She died in December last year. I was able to obtain a place in a so-called Christian men's homeless shelter. I filled out the intake paperwork indicating I was a practicing Roman Catholic and would not be changing my faith. In May, I was told I had 30 days to find a new place because I would not convert to a Protestant faith. I prayed for Father McGivney's intercession to help with finding a home. I just received my letter from the Housing Authority stating I have a place reserved. I am very grateful for God's Providence and for Father McGivney's help. I called on the name of the Lord through Father McGivney and was answered with a home.

Iowa

Healing

A brother Knight and his wife have an adopted son who suffers from a hyperthyroid condition. When a doctor increased his medication for the condition, the teenager began experiencing serious side effects that seemed life threatening. The boy's father contacted the council's grand knight to see if he could obtain a relic of Father McGivney, and one was eventually provided by the British Columbia State Council. After venerating the relic, the boy's symptoms began to subside and his parents were able to take him off all medications. He is now with a new team of doctors who are treating his condition successfully. His parents and all Knights of the council are convinced that this positive outcome is due to the intercession of Father McGivney.

British Columbia

When I had surgery in April, I prayed to Father McGivney in pre-op. During my recovery I didn't need to take any pain medication or ibuprofen during my month in a sling. I'm almost back to full range of motion four months into a six-to-eight month recovery period.

California

I have received several favors: for relieving me and my family of sickness; for my eyesight; for many financial favors.

Newfoundland

Passing Grade

I prayed and requested through Father McGivney's intercession for my son to successfully complete his exam to become a registered nurse. This prayer request was answered. We are so very grateful and thankful.

Michigan

Safe Travel

Praises and thanks to Father Michael McGivney for our safe and good travel back home to the Philippines. Our good health, good luck, peace, unity, safety and security and happiness. To Father McGivney: Thanks for your help and intercession. Amen!

Philippines

DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 1

We who pray daily for the beatification and canonization of Venerable Father Michael McGivney do well to follow his example. In a time when dissenting voices, outside and even within the Church itself, clamor to be heard, it is our duty to uphold the truths of our faith and the unchanging moral values which are revealed in the sacred Scripture and the magisterium of the Church. Pope Francis, following the oft-repeated message of St. John Paul II, urges the Catholic faithful to carry the message of the Gospel from the Church into the highways and byways of the world. Ordinary Catholics have access to their brothers and sisters in their neighborhoods and workplaces far beyond the influence of priests or consecrated religious. A plan for harnessing this powerful witness of the laity was central to the founding of the Knights of Columbus.

Perhaps the best way to confront today's confusion is for us to consistently live out the values of faith, and to resist the influence of those who intimidate with disapproval or rejection. Rather than give in to

discouragement, it is Christian hope, so well mirrored in Venerable McGivney, that must drive us forward. Ours is an age which calls for true apostles and missionaries of the Catholic faith. The example of Father McGivney sets the standard and we pray that his intercession will strengthen our resolve to hold strong and steady as he did more than a century ago.

Venerable Father McGivney, pray for us.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

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Guild Director

Vice-Postulator

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 (Temporarily out of stock)
- _____ 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.

Write your intentions and submit them by October 16 for the All Souls Novena.



Father McGivney Medal

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



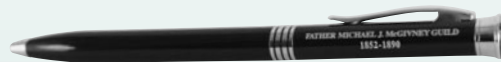
Collector's Spoon

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 (Temporarily out of stock)



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
 McGivney Week Mass
 Favors Reported 2
 Guild Items 3
 Prayer for Canonization 4

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. Use the form on page 3 to submit petitions by October 16, or submit them through the website: fathermcgivney.org.

McGIVNEY WEEK MASS, from Page 1

The Mass celebrated at the gravesite was organized by Waterbury's Sheridan Council 24. The first reading was delivered by John Walshe, great-grandnephew of Father McGivney. The altar server was Stephen Caulfield, a member The Catholic University of America Council 9542, where he is outside guard and chairman of the pro-life committee.

Father McGivney was born Aug. 12, 1852, and died two days after his 38th birthday, Aug. 14, 1890. The two dates mark what is known as McGivney Week within the Order. Still buried in the Waterbury cemetery plot are the founder's parents, Patrick and Mary McGivney, and some of his siblings.



John Walshe, great-grandnephew of Father McGivney, served as a lector for the Mass at the McGivney family gravesite.

PRAYER FOR CANONIZATION

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

As you can see from the Favors Reported on page 2, God answers prayers through the intercession of Venerable Father McGivney. We ask all Guild members to entrust their needs to the Order's founder and to report any favors received. A miracle through the intercession of Father McGivney is needed for his beatification.