

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



FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

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



### Dear Guild Members,

When Father McGivney's Cause for Canonization opened in 1997, candidates for sainthood in the United States were a rarity. Yet today there are a number of such causes, representing a wide range of clergy, religious and laity, both young and old. These include three US-born males who have been beatified along with Blessed Michael McGivney. We may say that this is a springtime for U.S. saints in the making.

In most cases, a miracle is required for a candidate to be named blessed and a second miracle for sainthood. Usually medically documented healings, these cases are carefully investigated by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints in Rome to make sure that there is no medical or scientific explanation for the recovery. As Guild members know, Blessed Michael needs one more miracle to open the path to sainthood.

Each candidate for sainthood expresses his or her relationship with God in a unique way. Learning more about the individuals can provide inspiration and encouragement for those of us searching for our own way to God. Always rooted in the sacraments of the Church and Sacred Scripture, countless ways of living out the mystery of Christ are found in their lives and ministries.

Blessed Michael McGivney's life offers us an example and an inspiration. From his earliest years, he evidenced a unique quality in his relationship with God. Though immersed in the daily concerns of family life, being the eldest of 13 children, he was more concerned with heavenly realities than things of earth and began to consider the priesthood early on.

The formation of Blessed McGivney's interior spiritual life took place in the family home. Typical of the immigrant community at that time, images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary hung with pride in many living rooms and the family rosary was common among Irish immigrant households.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart, as the McGivney family knew it, was inspired by 17th-century apparitions to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Our Lord told her that his heart was the symbol of his inexhaustible mercy, and asked her to spread the message of unfailing Divine Mercy in the face of irreverence, blasphemy and waning faith in the Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus promised that devotion to his Sacred Heart would bear the fruit of true repentance and preparedness for our final journey into eternity at the moment of death.

Practical expressions of devotion to the Sacred Heart took the form of receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive first Fridays of the month, and spending an hour in prayer, ideally a time of adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Abundant blessings were also promised for places where the image of the Sacred Heart was exposed and venerated.

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

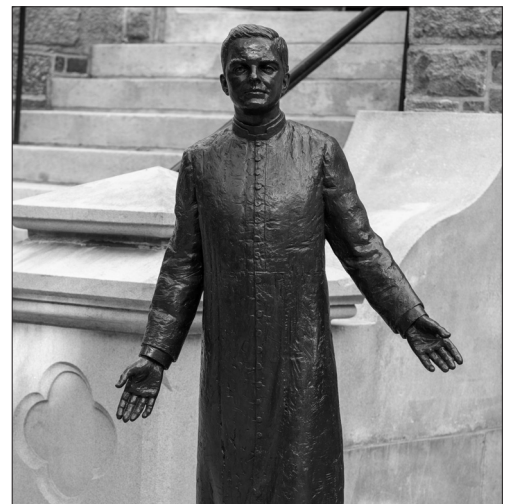
## A Unique Priest

This past Founder's Day, March 29, we remembered the time in 1882 when the Connecticut legislature approved the charter of the newly formed Knights of Columbus, and honored the foresight, planning and unique spiritual genius of Father McGivney. So many things could have gone wrong in gathering men together in a common faith and mission, as fallen human nature and good intentions gone awry can derail most any earthly project.

Indeed, the path was not smooth for Father McGivney even after the K of C was formed. At one point, he wrote, "the Order I was endeavoring to establish fell back almost lifeless but not dead." It was far from surprising that a new organization would face challenges and roadblocks in the anti-Catholic atmosphere of 19th-century America. The truly notable fact is that Father McGivney was able to persevere amid these issues due to his unique character marked by an indomitable will and the gracious heart of a Good Samaritan.

Today, we reap the benefits of such a strong and sympathetic character, a character that helps answer this deep and revealing question: Of all the priests in the United States at the time, why was Father McGivney the one to found the Knights

See **PRIEST**, Page 4



Since his beatification in 2020, a statue of Father McGivney has stood outside St. Mary's Church in New Haven, where he founded the Knights of Columbus. Photo by Mike Ross © 2025 Knights of Columbus.

# FAVORS REPORTED

*Mindful of the fact that 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).*

When my wife came home from teaching in our parish's elementary school, it was evident that she could not put her thoughts into words. I took her to the ER, where it was determined that her blood pressure was extremely high. After the doctors gradually reduced blood pressure, her word and object recognition returned to normal. Her condition was described as a hypertensive emergency causing short-term aphasia. The doctor was very surprised that there was no evidence of stroke or seizure. I believe it was because of Blessed Michael McGivney looking down upon my family that my wife was healed of this dangerous episode so quickly. My wife has indeed made an awesome recovery! It's almost as if the aphasia episode of word loss never happened. Thank you, Blessed Michael McGivney.

Missouri

Last year, I suffered a stroke to the left side of my body and was unable to move. As a Knight, I put all my trust in God and prayer was my only refuge. I had also asked the intercession of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, and a miracle happened. In a month, my left body was restored. Now I do the normal things I love doing as a teacher for special kids. Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Blessed Micheal, for helping me with my prayers to God for healing.

Maryland

Prayers to Father McGivney have had a positive effect for my mother. I was able to arrange hospice care for her rather quickly and easily. Thank you.

Virginia

A childhood friend was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia with little chance of recovery. I prayed daily to Blessed Michael McGivney for his intercession for healing. My friend is currently in remission in spite of the odds against it. Thank you, Father McGivney.

New Jersey

Thanks to Father McGivney's intercession, our family has been healed and filled with the Holy Spirit's gifts of joy, peace, love, happiness, and wisdom.

New York

I am grateful for the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney for the conversion of my son, Felipe, who, after declaring himself an atheist, told me today that he wants to become a Knight of Columbus. Glory to God! Long live Jesus!

Mexico

My wife, Arlene, a seven-time cancer survivor, was first told she had cancer when she was only 29 years old. A Knight since 1987, I began praying for her to be healed. I prayed to God and asked Father McGivney to guide me through this tragedy. She went through surgery and was cleared of cancer. Over the years, she was diagnosed with cancer six more times, and every time I prayed to Father McGivney for healing, and now she is 65 years young and clear of any cancer. This year we celebrated 40

wonderful years of marriage. I pray to Father McGivney every day asking him to watch over all of us and to keep my wife free of cancer and to keep her healthy. For this is a miracle for my wife through prayer. We thank Father McGivney everyday. God bless!

South Carolina

My time in the hospital was nearly three weeks, yet the many tests could not find why I was unable to swallow. I was losing weight and decided to pray for Father McGivney's intercession. The doctors said I had a rare case of myasthenia gravis. After the proper medications were given, I was able to keep food down. The therapists said I was a miracle because of my age. Thank you, Father McGivney, for not letting me give up hope.

Texas

In the summer of 2024, my fiancé was diagnosed with stage 4 terminal lung cancer and secondary bone marrow cancer. She underwent chemo and radiation with not much improvement. She was then blessed by our priest with a first-class relic of Father McGivney along with her doctor trying a new and powerful medicine. She has now had clear scans for a year and said she immediately felt better after the blessing. Blessed Michael McGivney needs to become a saint! Thank you, Father McGivney!

Arkansas

One of my youngest siblings had been sick with stomach flu for quite a while, and it caused my family distress since he was very resistant to receiving medication. I asked Blessed Michael McGivney to heal him, and by the power of God, my sibling is healed. May God be praised and worshipped, and we pray that he make Blessed Michael exalted here on earth.

California

Thank you to Father McGivney for intercession on behalf of an aunt who was discharged from hospital in Seattle, Washington. Discharge suggests an improvement that is much appreciated.

Florida

I am extremely grateful to the powerful intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney during my surgical intervention to recover my hearing, which was carried out successfully with favorable results.

Quebec

My brother was diagnosed with a rare lymphoma in 2021 and has been getting treatment in Dayton, Ohio. There was one small visible area that was not disappearing. I prayed for his healing through Father Michael McGivney's intercession. Just recently, he was told he had complete remission.

Pennsylvania

I am so grateful for the intercession of Father McGivney that has kept my kidney cancer in remission for almost two years. I continue to pray daily to Father McGivney.

Arizona

# 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Blessed McGivney Beatification Medallion — \$40
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer for Canonization card
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer for Canonization card (with third-class relic)
- \_\_\_\_\_ McGivney Novena Prayer Booklet

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).*

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

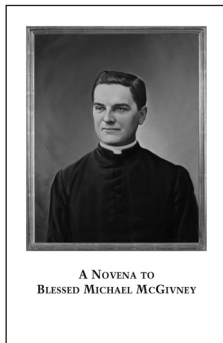
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A NOVENA TO  
BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY

### Novena Prayer

Perfect for praying alone or with your family or council. Each day recounts a period in Father McGivney's life, so that at the end of nine days, you will know more about this holy priest and move closer to his powerful intercession.

**Free (25 copies or less)**



### 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**



A statue of Father McGivney stands in St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport, Conn., which was part of the Diocese of Hartford during McGivney's lifetime. A first-class relic of Blessed Michael is also encased in the cathedral for veneration of the faithful. Photo by Amy Mortensen for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

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### DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 1

Michael McGivney grew up with this devotion as a part of his daily life, as he learned of a true "heart to heart" with Christ in his Sacred Heart. He passed on that devotion to his Knights and to this day the Order he founded promotes devotion to the Sacred Heart through a pilgrim image circulating among councils.

In declaring the Sunday within the octave of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday at the beginning of our millennium, St. John Paul II gave devotion to the Sacred Heart a new impetus. The wounded and suffering heart of Jesus offers forgiveness and tender love to all who open their hearts to his heart. He embraces the sinner while triumphing over sin and destroying the power of all human suffering and death in the victory of his resurrection. By his wounds we are healed.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was a cornerstone in the spiritual vision of Father McGivney. June is the month the Church dedicates to the Sacred Heart, which we celebrate with

a Solemnity on June 12. It is a time when every Catholic is called again to accept Christ's love through the mystery of his Sacred Heart. As he reveals himself as the Way, the Truth and the Life, we discover the true purpose for which we have been put on this earth – to love God and neighbor, and to spend an eternity of happiness in heaven, with the Most Holy Trinity, saints and angels.

Blessed 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**

### PRIEST, from Page 1

of Columbus on such a firm footing that it continues to thrive today around the world in charity, unity and fraternity?

The Guild welcomes your answers to this key question that we are pondering more and more as we work toward Blessed Michael McGivney's hoped-for canonization. Please write to us to express what Father McGivney means to you. How has he touched your life or the lives of your loved ones? What would you like for him to pray for on your behalf? Would you wish to offer thanks for a favor you believe you received through his intercession?

Through the many heartfelt petitions and reported favors we receive at the Guild, we are confident in the powerful intercession of the blessed founder of the Knights of Columbus, who, from his place in eternity, has shown particular care for those of us seeking help in the following areas: 1) loss of jobs and employment; 2) family finances; 3) family reconciliation; 4) overcoming addiction; 5) conversion and return to the Catholic faith, and 6) recovery from serious illness.

Whatever your care, concern or question, the Guild would like to hear from you, at [guild@kofc.org](mailto:guild@kofc.org). Thank you!