



FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

Dear Guild Members,



The late 19th century was a time of rapid industrialization across the Western world that led to new conditions, as people moved from rural settings and labor to life and work in crowded cities and factories. Pope Leo XIII responded to these changes in 1891 with his epochal social encyclical *Rerum Novarum* ("Of New Things"), which set the Church on an unprecedented path in addressing the social disorders of modern times. Still referenced today, the encyclical laid out a Catholic perspective on the dignity of the human person, the primacy of the family as the basic social unit, the right to ownership for the common good, the nobility of human labor, and the right of workers to organize to promote justice and fairness for employers and workers alike. Not surprisingly, the groundbreaking document also called both workers and employers to care for those who cannot care for themselves. Justice for the widow and orphan, the unemployed and the disabled was a theme woven throughout the document.

Born in 1852, Michael McGivney grew up within this time of social upheaval. His Irish-born father was a brass molder in Waterbury, Connecticut, and Michael labored in a spoon factory from ages 13 to 16, an experience that made him a lifelong friend of the laborer. It is also notable that Leo XIII was pontiff for the entirety of Father McGivney's priesthood. When a young curate

at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, he spent the greater part of his energies serving the needs of struggling immigrant families and was passionate in his defense of the poor and needy. The working man and his family were central to his pastoral care for anyone in need. Although he died less than a year before Pope Leo's encyclical was released, Father McGivney had already lived out the message expressed in these words: "The Church, moreover, intervenes directly in behalf of the poor, by setting on foot and maintaining many associations which she knows to be efficient for the relief of poverty." Indeed, Pope Leo could well have cited the Knights of Columbus as one of those "associations" formed to give Catholic men an organized approach to keeping them close to the tenets of the faith as they reached out to the less fortunate.

Our present Holy Father, Leo XIV, took his name in honor of his 19th-century predecessor and often speaks of our responsibility to care for others and become aware of the injustices in a materialistic and secularized culture. He insists on the dignity of every human life and refers often to the suffering members of his flock as he urges Christians to care for those who are victims of the moral chaos and neglect so rampant in our time. Leo has also addressed the "new things" in our own age brought about by social media and AI, releasing a document this past January for the World Day of Communications, titled, "Preserving Human Voices and Faces." Although modern technology is a powerful force in society and culture, it remains no more than a tool for humans to use for the common good, he writes. Nothing can replace the human person who is made in the image of God.

With this outlook in mind, we see that the vision and mission of Father McGivney is still relevant today. Despite our society's

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'Father McGivney, pray for me!'

These were the words of Michael McGivney Schachle, the child who was healed of a fatal condition in his mother's womb through the intercession of Father McGivney. Standing with his parents on the stage at LifeFest, 10-year-old "Miracle Mikey" was a living testimony to the power of prayer and the value of all human life from conception to natural death.

After receiving the prenatal diagnosis of fetal hydrops, Daniel and Michelle were given no hope for the survival of Michael, their 13th child. Declining abortion, the couple prayed fervently through the intercession of Father McGivney, and asked all their friends and associates to do the same. If the child lived, they promised to name him after Father McGivney.

Michael was born May 15, 2015, free of hydrops yet with the Down syndrome condition that the family never prayed to remove. Following years of investigation by medical and theological experts at the Vatican, the healing was declared a miracle by Pope Francis in May 2020 and led to the beatification of Father McGivney on October 31 of that year.



Michael McGivney Schachle stands at the podium with his parents, Daniel and Michelle, who gave an impassioned witness about the value of each human life. (Photo: Paul Haring)

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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).

Tumors

I prayed for my nephew to have a positive outcome from brain surgery. Prior to prayer, he was told nothing could be done for him, but they consulted a second doctor. The surgeon removed 14-plus meningioma tumors on the right side of the brain, with no side effects. A few days later, several more were removed. My nephew was unable to speak or swallow the next day, but our prayers were heard, and he can now speak and swallow thick liquids. Seven people have been praying for him since November 2025. The Holy Spirit came to me and asked me to pray to Father McGivney.

Connecticut

My nephew's 10-year-old son was diagnosed with brain cancer this past summer. He underwent several rounds of chemotherapy, radiation, and T-cell therapy. I prayed to Father McGivney that he would be cured. We recently received the great news that he is in remission.

Ohio

My son was diagnosed with cancer. After praying to Father McGivney, he is now OK and back working. I myself was getting dizzy and I prayed to Father McGivney for healing, and I am feeling well now. Thank you, Father McGivney, for your blessings bestowed to us.

New Jersey

My son Jeff, 20, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in July 2025. Jeff and I are members of the Knights of Columbus and we prayed to Jesus and Blessed Michael McGivney. The surgery took place at Yale-New Haven Hospital, where I was born, and a few blocks from the K of C building. I felt a spiritual hope being in New Haven. Six months later, Jeff is doing amazingly well and the tumor was not cancerous.

Connecticut

After I was diagnosed with stage 4 prostate cancer, I asked Blessed Michael McGivney to intercede for me. With a doctor's help, other interventions, many prayers, and Father McGivney, I don't need radiation or chemotherapy and my PSA numbers are very low. Thank you, Jesus!

Guidance

New to the Catholic faith, I plan to be confirmed and receive my first Communion this Easter. A few months ago, the Knights of Columbus did a presentation during Mass at my home parish. Our pastor also spoke about Blessed Michael McGivney. It was the first time I had ever heard of him, but I was moved by his story and picture. The next week, I had a job interview in New Haven. I was unfamiliar with the city and got lost even with my GPS. I came across the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center and recognized his picture. I turned down the street to get my bearings, and sure enough, I found the building for my interview. I made it on time and got the job. I really needed this job and am thankful for God's Providence and Father McGivney's intercession.

Connecticut

I had never heard of Father Michael McGivney or seen his image, yet in a dream, I saw the Virgin Mary and a priest with the letters "MICHAEL" beneath his face. Later that day, I searched online and found the exact face from my dream: it was Michael McGivney. I shared his prayer with my aunt, who prayed a nine-day novena. Afterward, she unexpectedly received a leadership job despite no prior experience. I believe this was a miracle and a sign of his intercession. Thank you!!!

Pennsylvania

I sent a prayer request asking for Father McGivney's intercession to grant me a favor in passing the 2025 Philippine Bar. And every night since then, I have said the prayer for his canonization. Today the results were released and my name is included in the successful examinees who passed the exam.

Philippines

On my third attempt of the behind-the-wheel test, Father Michael McGivney assisted me through the grace of God. I was able to pass and so renew my hope in the Living God. It may not seem like a large miracle, but God sent his servant to bear fruit in all these struggles.

California

Relief

My wife had extended muscle twitching over the course of one week. Massage, heat and medications were not helping. I prayed to Father McGivney, and one day later the twitching stopped.

Ontario

My daughter's father-in-law had been rushed to the hospital with pulse 120 and nothing they could do to lower it. He was confused to say the least. By God's grace, he came through the operation and was discharged the same day! Thanks to Father McGivney for his intercession. Now the man is healed.

Missouri

I had subdural hematoma that required two brain surgeries. When further bleeding occurred, I prayed to Father Michael McGivney, and after six months the CT scan shows the bleeding is fully absorbed. Thank you, Blessed Michael McGivney, for prayers answered.

Vancouver, Canada

Healthy Baby

I prayed for a healthy baby in my womb, and a healthy birth, and a baby gifted with life brought into this world by God. I am so blessed and forever grateful that God, Jesus and Blessed Michael McGivney heard and answered my prayers.

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. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

- _____ 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

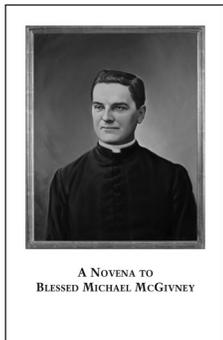
PRINTED ITEMS — FREE OF CHARGE UP TO 25 COPIES

- _____ *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



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**



Father Michael J. McGivney Guild®

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A replica of the original St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, Conn., is shown on the front lawn of the current church building. The model was constructed for the 150th anniversary of the Town of Thomaston by members of Atlantic Council 18, which was chartered by Father McGivney when he was pastor there from 1884 till his death in 1890.

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technological advancements, there are still families in distress, children who are effectively orphaned by the breakup of marriages, those seeking spiritual or material aid, and countless souls yearning for solace in a broken world. Indeed, Father McGivney's Knights are called into service each day to practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

This season of Lent, preparing us for the great celebration of Easter, is a special time to practice the virtue of prayer and almsgiving. Each day draws us closer to the Risen Christ. Awakening to the needs of those around us is one of the best "penances" we can take on to beget in our hearts that same charity that Leo XIV urges us to and Blessed Michael McGivney

lived to a heroic degree. We pray that the Blessed Servant of God, staunch defender of the poor and forgotten, will guide us on our journey to the resurrection of Jesus. May he soon be raised to the honors of the altar with the title of saint.

Blessed Father McGivney, pray for us!

Devotedly in Christ,

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

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**Guild Director
Vice-Postulator**

PRAY, from Page 1

"It breaks my heart that 90 percent of Down syndrome children are aborted," Michelle said in her witness talk. "He is exactly as God meant him to be, a joy day after day."

"I asked for Father McGivney to pray for Michael, but I also asked not for my will, but for God's will to be done," said Daniel, who is a Knights of Columbus general agent of the Order's insurance program in Tennessee. "The grace we were given to trust God's plan allowed the gift of new life — and the gift of a miracle through the prayers of Blessed Michael McGivney."

Throughout the morning gathering, a first-class relic of Father McGivney was available for veneration, along with relics of St. Carlo Acutis, the recently canonized Italian teen, who died in 2006; St. John Paul II; St. Teresa of Calcutta, and the Ulma family, whose parents and children were killed by Nazis for protecting Jews during World War II.

Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, K of C supreme chaplain, concluded the morning program by offering a Votive Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life. New York Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Espallat delivered the homily.

Held at the Gaylord Convention Center in Oxon Hill, Maryland, LifeFest was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Sisters of Life on January 23, the morning of the 53rd March for Life in Washington, D.C.



A bronze statue of Father McGivney with a widow and orphan was dedicated in September 2025 in the newly renovated basement Grand Hall of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, Connecticut, which encompasses the parish where McGivney was born.