

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



Father Michael J. McGivney

Guild® Newsletter

OCTOBER –
DECEMBER
2025

FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

ISSUE 4

Five 'Blessed' Years

This past October 31 marked five years since Father McGivney was beatified – and what a five years it has been! From the day of the 2020 Mass of Beatification in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut, numerous favors attributed to the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney have been reported, some of them truly amazing healings or rapid recoveries. Our founder has proven to be a powerful intercessor before God for those most in need, just as he was an advocate for his immigrant flock who faced poverty, poor working conditions and rabid anti-Catholicism in 19th century America.

Devotion to Father McGivney has spread around the globe, even to countries where the Knights of Columbus are not formally present. In our world of rapid communications, Catholics in South America, Africa, Australia, Ireland, Italy and Indonesia have found out about him in social media posts and Catholic websites. Like the Order he founded, Father McGivney has become an international figure whose appeal crosses borders and cultures, and he unites all people in the basic principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

Of course, devotion is most fervent in the areas where Father McGivney was born and ministered as a priest. On October 31, to mark the fifth anniversary, a Votive Mass of Blessed Michael McGivney was offered in his hometown parish of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, Connecticut. Father James Sullivan, the rector who is also a Waterbury native, celebrated the Mass, offered a first-class relic for veneration, and then led a procession of relics of many saints through the city's streets.

At Blessed Michael McGivney Parish, which encompasses all the churches of New Haven, a vigil prayer service for All Saints Day was held at St. Joseph Church, followed by a procession with a first-class relic of Father McGivney and many other saints.

Last summer, Father McGivney was honored at the 143rd Supreme Convention in early August in Washington, D.C. At the Opening Mass, offered on August 5 by Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, a large banner with McGivney's image was suspended from the façade over the main entrance of the Basilica of the National Shrine

of the Immaculate Conception. A permanent memorial was dedicated two years ago when a statue of Father McGivney was placed in the basilica's lower level, in recognition of his unique contributions to the growth of the Church in America.

The convention's Memorial Mass, offered as a Votive Mass of Blessed Michael McGivney, featured a procession of relics, including one of Father McGivney which was carried by Father Jeffrey Romans, the KofC Connecticut state chaplain. The main celebrant was Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore.

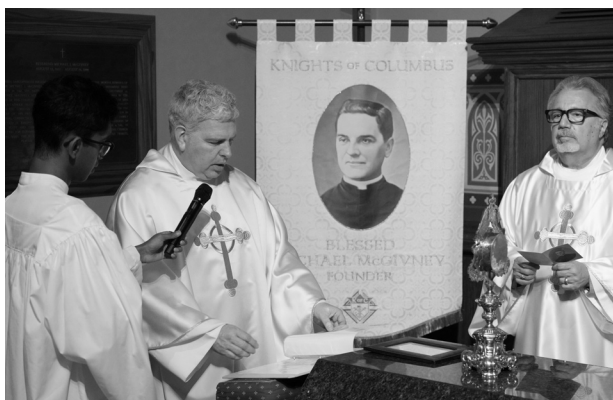
The annual Blessed Michael McGivney Award was bestowed on Father Frank Donio, a member of the Pallottine religious community and State Chaplain for the District of Columbia, for "priestly zeal and exemplary service" in the spirit of Father McGivney. A charter member of Catholic University of America Council 9542, and a theology professor at the school, Father Donio has served the Order and college Knights with a humble and effective spirit of charity and duty that has inspired hundreds of graduates.

Memorials to Father McGivney have continued to increase as well,

notably in the Archdiocese of New York, with the support of Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Earlier this year, in February, a McGivney statue was dedicated and installed at St. Patrick's Cathedral, an event described by the cardinal as America's Parish Priest finding a home in America's Parish Church. More recently, on September 3, another statue was dedicated by Cardinal Dolan in



Ireland's County Cavan, where Father McGivney's parents were born, has adopted the K of C founder. On the August 13 feast day, in the Cathedral of Saints Patrick and Felim, Bishop Martin Hayes of Kilmore offered Mass with the mayor and other officials, as well as local McGivney relatives.



Father Michael Dolan offers prayers on August 13 in St. Mary's Church, New Haven, at the tomb of Father McGivney.

See "BLESSED" YEARS, Page 4

FROM THE DIRECTOR

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



Dear Guild Member,

Recent events illustrate how God continues to provide saints for our veneration and inspiration. On September 7, two young models of holiness in the lay vocation were canonized by Pope Leo XIV – Sts. Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis. Frassati lived in early twentieth-century Italy while Acutis, called the “first millennial saint,” was an Italian of the twenty-first century. Although separated by decades, there are striking similarities between them. With youthful enthusiasm and energy, they both desired to give everything to God and were concerned with the plight of the poor and marginalized.

St. Pier Giorgio died of polio when he was 24; St. Carlo succumbed to leukemia in 2006 at age 15. In rare but moving moments, Carlo’s devoted mother attended the canonization in St. Peter’s Square, and Carlo’s brother (who was born with a twin sister four years after his death), was a lector at the Mass.

Known for his physical and spiritual strength, Frassati was a man of social action. Acutis combined concern for the poor with a strong devotion to the Eucharist, using the internet to compile a log of eucharistic miracles. For both, a deep relationship with Jesus touched every aspect of their lives.

Is there any relation between these two new saints and Blessed Michael McGivney? Indeed, there is. Like them, from his earliest years, Michael felt called to live the Christian life to the full and offered his life and death for his own sanctity and the good of his people. He lived long enough to become a priest, and in that vocation showed himself to be a man for others. Immediately after his ordination, he was immersed in the serious problems of the immigrant families he was sent to serve in New Haven. His willingness to shoulder the burden of the material and spiritual ills of his parishioners earned him a respect and love that increased with each year of his ministry. His premature death at 38 was mourned by the thousands who attended his funeral.

Like the two new young saints, he showed courage in the face of a fatal sickness. Pope Leo said in his homily of Carlo and Pier Giorgio, “Even when illness struck them and cut short their young lives, not even this stopped them nor prevented them from loving, offering themselves to God, blessing him and praying to him for themselves and for everyone.”

See **DIRECTOR’S DESK**, Page 4

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).

Employment

After the intercession of Father McGivney, months of unemployment ended with a job that uses the talents provided by God.

Maryland

Weight Loss

As a Grand Knight, I could not stand because of excess weight. When Father McGivney was beatified, my prayers were to help me to lose weight to do more for others. It has worked. I have shed over 150 pounds and counting down.

California

Serious Burns

I received third-degree burns when 400-degree asphalt road tar was accidentally flung onto the back of my neck. The pain was horrendous. As I sat awaiting the doctor in the ER, I prayed the rosary and at every decade prayed to Father McGivney, saying, “I am the sole wage earner for my family, please bring expedited healing and limit the pain so I can continue to work.” I awoke the next morning with no pain and never took pain medication other than Ibuprofen for swelling. Eight days later, a plastic surgeon said there was no need for skin grafting because the tissue had grown back. The burns healed in two weeks, and I never missed a day of work. I attribute all of this to the intervention of Blessed Michael McGivney.

North Dakota

Cancer

Our son was diagnosed with testicular cancer in August 2024. The day before surgery, he was prayed over and anointed by Father James Sullivan at the Waterbury Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, in the presence of a relic of Blessed Michael McGivney. The next day, doctors discovered through biopsy a different cancer, which could be cured with surgery. We believe God’s grace, through Blessed Michael McGivney’s prayers, restored him. He remains cancer free and will be able to have children.

Connecticut

Our daughter was diagnosed with melanoma on a spot she had for 30 years. We prayed to Father McGivney to have the cancer remain at this spot until her surgery and not travel to lymph nodes. Surgeons were able to remove the spot, have clean margins, and it did not spread to her lymph nodes. Thank you, Father McGivney!

Wisconsin

I asked my council brothers to pray for my sister-in-law and we prayed for Father McGivney’s blessing a few times. When the test results came back, she was negative for cancer! Thank you, Father McGivney!

California

Charity

Blessed Michael McGivney helped with our council’s Charity Golf Tournament. We doubled the number of golfers and doubled the contributions to our two named charities. We humbly thank Father McGivney and our Lord for these blessings.

Florida

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

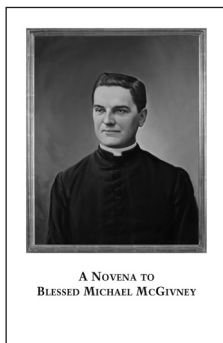
PRINTED ITEMS — FREE OF CHARGE UP TO 25 COPIES

- _____ *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®

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS • 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA • NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326



A new statue of Father McGivney was dedicated by New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan in the chapel of St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie. Joining the celebration were New York State Knights and other K of C officials.

IN THIS ISSUE —

Five "Blessed" Years	1
From the Director	2
Favors Reported	2
Guild Items	3

"BLESSED" YEARS, from Page 1

St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, where students from New York, Brooklyn and Rockville Centre prepare for the priesthood. In blessing the statue at the conclusion of the Mass of the Holy Spirit that inaugurated the seminary's academic year, the cardinal said, "We gather in faith and gratitude to bless this sculpture of Blessed Michael McGivney, Parish Priest and Founder of the Knights of Columbus. Through his ministry, he served the poor, defended the dignity of human life and strengthened families in the bond of charity. May this image, which will stand in the halls where these future priests will learn and are formed each day, inspire us to follow Christ more closely as he did, and to trust ever in the grace of the Holy Spirit."

DIRECTOR'S DESK, from Page 2

Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus to assist Catholic families through the faith formation of men who would give time and talent in service to the Church and their needy brothers and sisters. His vision was a prophetic anticipation of the later surge in lay spirituality and Catholic Action that was integral to Church life in the 20th century. Father McGivney would have found kindred spirits in the two young saints we now celebrate.

At the first canonization ceremony of his pontificate, Pope Leo called Catholics to take up the joy-filled challenge of Christian holiness, saying:

"Sts. Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upwards and make them masterpieces. They encourage us with their words: 'Not I, but God,' as Carlo used to say. And Pier Giorgio: 'If you have God at the center of all your actions, then you will reach the end.' This is the simple but winning formula of their holiness. It is also the type of witness we are called to follow in order to enjoy life to the full and meet the Lord in the feast of heaven."

With these inspiring words in mind, let us follow the example of the new saints to build a better world, filled with hope and peace. And let us pray with renewed fervor that Blessed Michael McGivney be raised soon to the dignity of sainthood.

Devotedly in Christ,

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

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

Guild Director

Vice-Postulator



Father Frank Donio received the McGivney Medal at the Supreme Convention. With him are Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori, and Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and his wife, Vanessa. Photo: Paul Haring