



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. N. 400/20

HARTFORTIENSIS

Instante Excellentissimo Domino Leonardo P. Blair, Archiepiscopo Hartfortiensi, litteris die 11 mensis augusti 2020 datis, vigore facultatum huic Congregationi a Summo Pontifice FRANCISCO tributarum, textum *latinum et anglicum* orationis collectæ atque lectionis alterius pro Officio lectionis Liturgiæ Horarum in honorem futuri beati Michælis J. McGivney, presbyteri, prout in adiecto exstat exemplari, perlibenter probamus seu confirmamus.

In textu imprimendo mentio fiat de approbatione seu confirmatione ab Apostolica Sede concessa. Eiusdem insuper textus impressi duo exemplaria ad hanc Congregationem transmittantur.

Contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Ex ædibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, die 22 mensis octobris 2020, in memoria sancti Ioannis Pauli II, papæ.

Robertus Card. Sarah

Robertus Card. Sarah
Praefectus

+ Arthurus Roche

Arthurus Roche
Archiepiscopus Secretarius

Blessed Michael McGivney, Priest

From the Common of Pastors: For One Pastor.

God of eternal mercy,
who set your priest Blessed Michael in the Church
to comfort the suffering and the weary, the lonely and the oppressed
with works of charity and a gentle heart,
grant that, through his intercession,
we too may become vessels of mercy in our day
and so enter into our heavenly inheritance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Blessed Michael McGivney, Priest

From the Common of Pastors.

FIRST READING **Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13** *In the work of ministry, in building up the Body of Christ.*
Brothers and sisters, I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you...

RESP. PS. **Psalm 110:1, 2, 3, 4**
R/. (4b) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

ALLELUIA **Luke 4:18**
The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor
and to proclaim liberty to captives.

From the Common of Holy Men and Women.

GOSPEL **Matthew 5:1-12a** *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*
When Jesus saw the crowds... *12 up until* your reward will be great in heaven.

Blessed Michael McGivney, Priest

He was born on August 12, 1852, in Waterbury (Connecticut) of Irish immigrant parents and baptized there on August 19 in St. Peter's Church (predecessor to what is today the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception). Ordained priest on December 22, 1877, he was assigned to St. Mary's Church, New Haven, where his remarkable ability to relate to all people of every social, economic and religious background became apparent. In 1882, he founded the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal benevolent association that offered spiritual and apostolic direction to Catholic men. He died of tuberculosis on August 14, 1890, while Pastor of St. Thomas' Church in Thomaston (Connecticut) and was beatified on October 31, 2020 in Hartford (Connecticut).

From the Common of Saints: For Saints Noted for Works of Mercy.

The Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From *The Six Books on the Priesthood* by Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop

(*De sacerdotio* II. 1; PG 48, 631-632)

If you love me, tend my sheep

What greater advantage could there be, than to be doing what Christ himself declared was proof of love for Christ? Conversing with the chief of the apostles, he said, *Peter, do you love me?* And when Peter confessed that he did, he added, *If you love me, tend my sheep.* The Master asked his disciple if he loved him, not to learn the truth (how could he, since he penetrates the hearts of all?) but rather to teach us how much he cares for the supervision of the flock. Once this is evident, it will be equally obvious that a great, unspeakable reward awaits the man who works hard at the tasks that Christ highly honors.

When we see anyone caring for our servants or sheep, we take his concern for them as a sign of his love for us – although such matters of wealth can all be bought. What gift, then, will he give as a reward to the shepherds of his flock, which he purchased not with money or any such thing, but by his own death when he gave his blood for his flock's ransom? And so when the disciple said, *You know, Lord, that I love you*, and called as a witness of his love the one he loved, the Savior did not stop there but added the proof of love. He did not want to prove then how much Peter loved him (which was already clear to us for many reasons), but he wanted Peter and all of us to learn how much he loves his own Church, in order that we too might show great concern for the same.

Why did God not spare his only-begotten Son but surrendered the only one he had? It was to reconcile to himself those who hated him and to make them a people of his own possession. Why did he shed his blood? It was to purchase the sheep that he entrusted to Peter and his successors.

In the same way, Christ rightly said, *Who is the faithful and wise servant whom his lord shall set over his household?* Again, the words denote perplexity but their speaker was

not perplexed when he spoke them. On the contrary. It is as when he asked Peter if he loved him; he did not ask because he wanted to know his disciple's love, but because he wanted to show his own exceeding love. So here when he asked *Who then is the faithful and wise servant*, he did not ask because he did not know the faithful and wise one, but because he wanted to show how few there are and how great is this office. See, indeed, how great is the reward: *He will set him over all his possessions*.

RESPONSORY

1 Pt 5:1-2,4

Therefore, I exhort the presbyters among you, as a fellow presbyter and witness to the sufferings of Christ.

- When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Tend the flock of God in your midst not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it.

- When the chief shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Prayer

God of eternal mercy, who set your priest Blessed Michael in the Church to comfort the suffering and the weary, the lonely and the oppressed with works of charity and a gentle heart, grant that, through his intercession, we too may become vessels of mercy in our day and so enter into our heavenly inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.