

AUGUST 13, 2021

OUR FOUNDER'S FIRST FEAST DAY

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.
Amen.

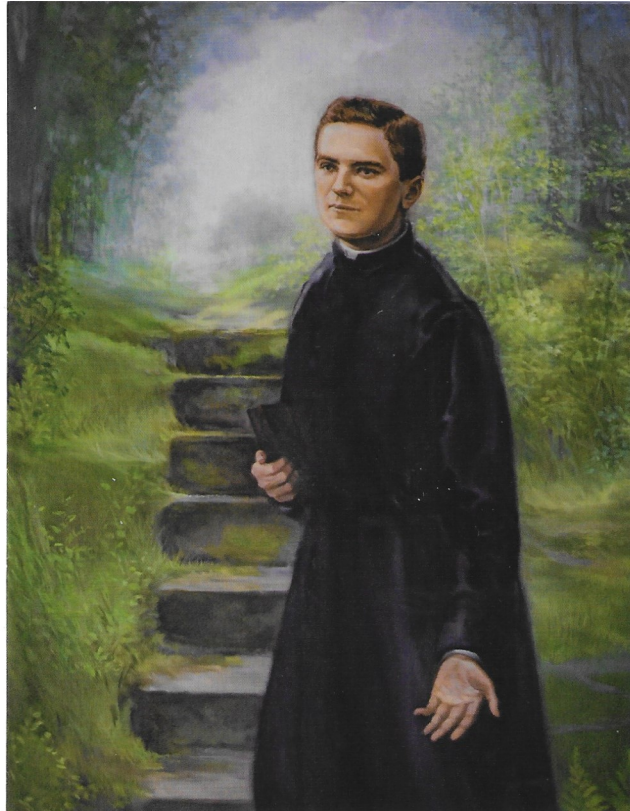
Collect for the liturgical memorial of Blessed Michael McGivney.

*Approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship
and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. No. 400/20).*

*Painting by Terry Waldron, commissioned for
the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, Conn.,
the McGivney Family Parish. Used with permission.*

KNIGHTS OF  COLUMBUS

11225 8/21





VENERATION AND FIRST FEAST DAY MASS
OF BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY
AUGUST 13, 2021

BLESSED FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY'S LIFE

EARLY LIFE

"Born in Waterbury, Connecticut, on August 12, 1852, the eldest child of thirteen children of Patrick and Mary Lynch McGivney. . . . Patrick and Mary were part of the great wave of nineteenth century immigrants from Ireland. The famine that ravaged the Irish landscape drove many Irish natives to seek a new future in emigration to North America. Only six of the thirteen children born to Patrick and Mary McGivney survived. . . . The McGivneys were a close-knit, hard working family. As with many Irish Americans, their Catholic faith was the centerpiece of daily existence. Social life centered on the activities of the parish."

– N.B. the above excerpt comes from Chapter 1, "The McGivney Family," in Part II of the *Positio* of Blessed Michael McGivney presented to the Vatican for the cause of his beatification.

PRIESTHOOD

"In the annals of the priesthood of New England no name deserves brighter honor than that of Father Michael Joseph McGivney. His short life of thirty-eight years, closing in the Summer of 1890, was yet rich in every sacerdotal virtue – the love for souls of the true alter Christus, the childlike piety of the Cure d'Ars, the zeal of Vincent de Paul for works of mercy, the unfatigued optimism of the associates of Ozanam – these traits, so precious in the sight of man and heaven, were clearly mirrored in the soul of that good, simple, honest priest of Connecticut."

"His special vocation it was – and a high and reserved vocation too – to develop Catholic manhood, to bind into one conspicuous solidarity all the elements that make for strength of character and so, indeed, to bring out that solidity of character – in other words, that Catholicity – prominently in its strength before the world. . . . Fr. McGivney's influence over men was something extraordinary. Young men particularly were attracted to him and hung upon his words with an eagerness which he himself often wondered at; hundreds petitioned for the light of his counseling and sent others too, to share his advice."

"To meet him was at once to trust him; children actually loved him; and the very old people of his neighborhood, called him a positive saint and meant it. At the city jail, the wardens still hand down anecdotes of what Fr. McGivney said and did during visits which he paid the prisoners."

– N.B. The above excerpts are from Fr. Joseph Daley's article "The Personality of Fr. McGivney Founder of the Knights of Columbus" in *The Columbiad*, June 1900.

CHRISTIAN CHARITY

"The depth of Father McGivney's compassion was never more evident than during his pastoral ministry of James (Chip) Smith, convicted of murdering his good friend, David J. Hayes. Though Smith's memory of events was affected by his overindulgence of alcoholic beverages, he claimed to be innocent The New Haven Union reported on the Sunday Mass celebrated for Smith prior to his Friday execution. . . . 'Father McGivney, who is Chip's spiritual advisor made an affecting address, which brought tears to the eyes of many. On behalf of James Smith, the young curate asked the ad hoc congregation to pardon [him] for all faults he may have given and at his request asks for the prayers of all of you that when next Friday comes he may die a holy death . . . I trust all of you will offer us fervent prayer to the throne of grace that God will strengthen us [i.e., Father McGivney and Mr. Smith] To me this comes almost as a crushing weight' The day before Smith's execution by hanging, Father McGivney presided at Mass in the jail accompanied by a twenty-four voice choir from St. Mary's parish. . . . After Mass, Smith requested he spend his final night in the room that had the altar with a crucifix. His spiritual director remained with him until midnight and returned early the next morning to pray with him and be with him as he prepared to ascend the gallows. Smith's last will and testament included a plant for Father McGivney 'still in bloom in my cell.'"

– N.B. the above excerpt comes from Chapter 6, "Father McGivney and James 'Chip' Smith," in Part II of the *Positio* of Blessed Michael McGivney presented to the Vatican for the cause of his beatification.

DEATH

"Father McGivney the founder of the institution of the Knights died as pastor of the parish of Thomaston, Connecticut, in August, 1890. He died without leaving any pecuniary debts; but he died also without owning a dollar: and the reason for it was that in his heart of charity he had given his last dollar away."

– N.B. The above excerpt about Blessed Fr. McGivney's life are taken from Fr. Joseph Daley's article "The Personality of Fr. McGivney Founder of the Knights of Columbus" in *The Columbiad*, June 1900

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PRAYERS FOR THE INTERCESSION OF BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY*

PETITIONS

For many graces to come through the prayer of Blessed Michael McGivney, that by his example of virtue we may be inspired to put our faith into action for the good of our families, parishes and communities. R/ Grant our prayer, Lord, through the intercession of Father McGivney.

For chaplains of the Knights of Columbus and for all priests, that they may find in the friendship of Blessed McGivney the strength and joy to cultivate a good shepherd's heart. R/ Grant our prayer, Lord, through the intercession of Father McGivney.

For our personal petitions (*here make your request*), and for a miracle from God that will lead to the canonization of Blessed McGivney. R/ Grant our prayer, Lord, through the intercession of Father McGivney.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY

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

*Adapted from the Knights of Columbus' *A Novena Before the Beatification of Michael McGivney*.

Cover Photo by John Tierney

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