

Council Meeting Insurance Report - November 2020 – Reflections of Fr. Michael J McGivney

How many tens of millions, hundreds of millions of times has our loving God heard this sentence from the prayer for Fr. McGivney's canonization? "We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant, Fr. Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will." No doubt, you, like I, have been saying this prayer of supplication for years. Now those prayers have been answered as our Venerable Founder becomes our **Blessed** Founder. The journey began December 18, 1997 when the Cause for Sainthood was opened in Hartford, Connecticut by Archbishop Daniel Cronin. Nearly five years later the official document, the Positio, outlining the case for Fr. McGivney's cause was sent to Rome. On March 15, 2008 Fr. McGivney was declared "Venerable" indicating he lived a life of heroic virtue. This year on May 27, nearly twenty-three years after his cause was opened, Pope Francis authorized a decree that a miracle attributed to Fr. McGivney's intercession has been approved.

October 31, 2020 will now be remembered as the date Fr. McGivney's beatification Mass was celebrated at the beautiful Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. You can view the 2-hour Mass on You Tube.

This should be a time of celebration for all members of the Knights of Columbus; spotlighting our founder and his reasons for founding the Order. He strongly desired to strengthen men in their faith and to provide for the financial needs of families when they were overwhelmed by illness or early death of the breadwinner. This spotlight continues to draw many more Catholic men to join daily. Our Order is an immense force for good in this world with the billions of dollars donated to worthy causes over the past decade. The Knights of Columbus helps husbands and fathers not only fortify their faith, but also provides an opportunity for us to protect our families. Do you believe that it is significant that the approved miracle involved the son of one of our General Agents from our insurance program? I choose to believe so.

When 21-year-old Michael's father, Patrick McGivney died unexpectedly, he had to leave the seminary to help provide for his family. He and his family struggled so much with this loss; but, the Bishop of Hartford stepped up with financial support for Michael to realize his dream of becoming a priest. Later, as the curate at St. Mary's New Haven, CT, he saw parishioners facing similar situations and he remembered the feeling of charitable love after tragic loss. He called the laity men of his parish together to organize the Knights of Columbus. As a leader, he inspired so many people both spiritually and temporally to simply "...wipe away the tears of sadness and replace with acts of charity."

Speaking of men of action, now is the time for you to act as well: You should have received our 2020 Fraternal Survey. Whether you complete on paper or online, please take a minute to act. It is prefilled with much of your information to make it a snap to update. These updates will provide current contact and family information that will help me, and your Financial Secretary keep updated. This is probably the number one method of always being able to understand how we can help YOU and YOU can help us!

There is a very informative insert included in the survey packet. Please take a minute to review that, too. I look forward to continuing my personal journey and want you to know how much I appreciate you in this Thanksgiving Season. Your acts of charity are so important to a living and vibrant Faith every day and are even more critical considering this current pandemic.

Vivat Jesus!

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