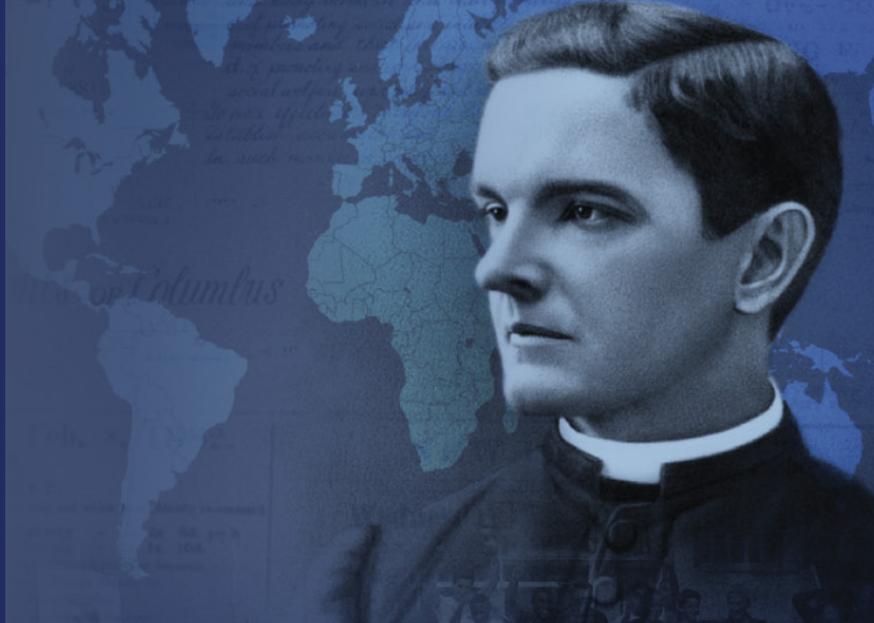


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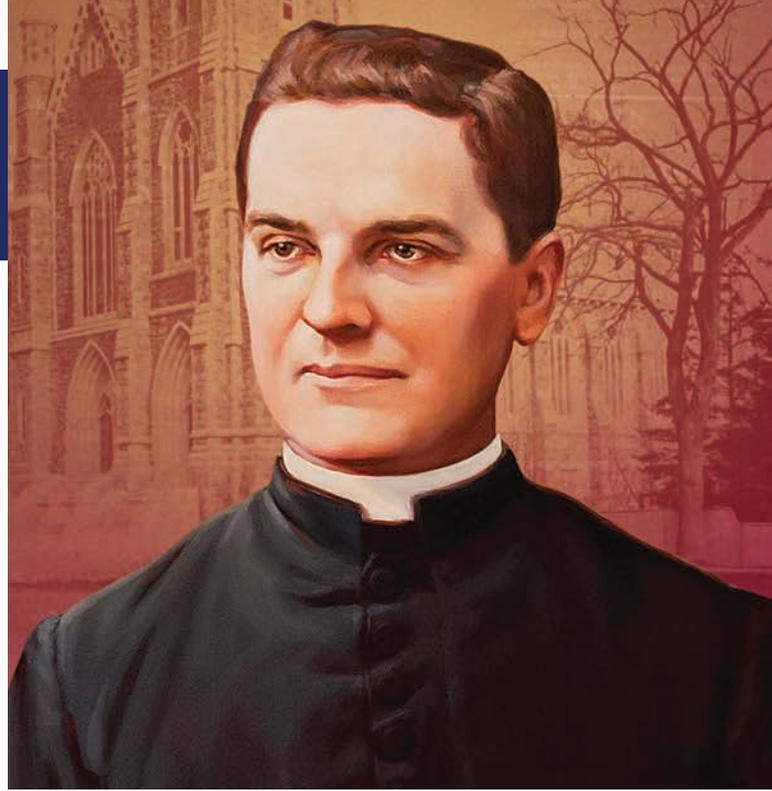
Blessed Michael McGivney



- Born August 12, 1852 in Waterbury, Connecticut
- Eldest of 13 children
- His parents Patrick and Mary (Lynch) McGivney had arrived in the great 19th century wave of Irish immigration
- Michael McGivney's priestly witness inspired his brothers, Patrick and John, to follow his footsteps into the priesthood
- McGivney entered Saint-Hyacinthe Seminary in 1868 (16 years old). He studied there two years
- Studied briefly (1872-73) at St. Mary's College in Montreal (in 1969 it merged with Université de Québec à Montréal—UQAM)
- Ordained a priest, December 22, 1877
- Founded Knights of Columbus in 1882 with a small group of parishioners at Saint Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. McGivney was 29 years old. Started as a mutual aid society, the initial stated purpose of Knights of Columbus was to provide financial assistance in the event of the men's deaths to his widows and orphans. The organization developed as a fraternal society
- McGivney becomes seriously ill in 1889 with a serious case of pneumonia
- On August 14, 1890, McGivney dies, just two days past his 38th birthday
- Within 40 years of Father McGivney's death, the order grows from a few hundred men to more than 800,000 spread across the US, Canada, Mexico, Cuba and the Philippines
- His cause for canonization was formally opened in 1996 by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford
- Declared "Venerable"—a formal recognition of heroic virtue by the Catholic Church—March 15, 2008 by Pope Benedict XVI
- A first miracle was attributed to his intercession, approved by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and authorized by Pope Francis, May 27, 2020
- Beatified (now called "Blessed") on October 31, 2020 in Hartford, Connecticut
- Names given to Blessed Father Michael McGivney:
 - The model parish priest
 - A good Samaritan
 - Apostle of Christian family life
 - Protector of widows and orphans
 - Founder of Knights of Columbus
 - Priest of the Beatitudes
 - Apostle of Spiritual Brotherhood
- Today, Knights of Columbus is composed of 2 million members in more than 16,000 parish-based councils spread across the world



Blessed Michael McGivney



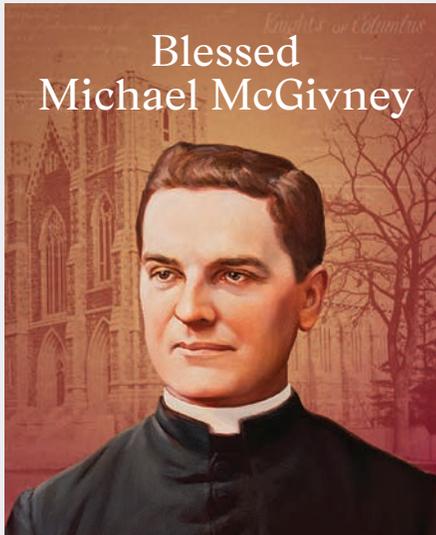
Did you know?

- **Knights of Columbus was among the first groups to recruit blood donors**, with formal efforts dating to 1937 during the Great Depression.
- **Not only Catholics, but even Protestants were inspired by Father McGivney's witness of faith.** Alida Harwood, the daughter of a prominent Episcopal minister in New Haven, frequented Mass at St. Mary's Church where Father McGivney served. When Alida contracted malaria at the age of 25 and lay on her death bed, it was Father McGivney that she asked to see.
- **He was a heck of a baseball player.** We know that in one game with his seminary team he scored three runs, contributing to a big victory with a score of 23-6. He paved the way for a long history of baseball players who would join the Knights.
- **More forward-thinking than Yale? Father McGivney pushed the boundaries as a theater director.** At a time when nearby Yale University was limiting theater to only male actors, Father McGivney welcomed women to perform when he directed his parish's St. Patrick's Day play in 1880.
- **He helped young people take charge of their lives and create a better future.** Father McGivney saw that many young men were neglecting their religion and turning to alcohol abuse. In response, he founded St. Joseph's Total Abstinence and Literary Society, a group that helped young men stay strong in the faith and become active in their communities. They organized and participated in sports and theatrical productions. McGivney offered members a meeting space with books, magazines, newspapers and a piano. No doubt, Father McGivney's experience with this group prepared him when he later founded the Knights of Columbus.
- **His vision for the role of the laity was very unusual for the time.** Seventy-seven years ahead of the Second Vatican Council, the idea that a Catholic organization could be led by laymen was quite extraordinary. Yet that was Father McGivney's vision for the Knights of Columbus.
- **He ministered to inmates.** Father McGivney was responsible for ministering to inmates in the city jail. One inmate was 21-year-old Chip Smith, who—while drunk—shot and killed a police officer. Smith was convicted for first-degree murder and sentenced to be hanged. Father McGivney visited him daily, and, on the day of Smith's execution, the priest was filled with sorrow. Just before he died, Smith comforted him: "Father, your saintly ministrations have enabled me to meet death without a tremor. Do not fear for me, I must not break down now."
- **His belongings were burned when he died.** When Father McGivney died of tuberculosis, his personal items were burned to prevent the spreading of the disease. Only a small number of his writings and belongings survived.
- **He is known to intercede especially in four areas: Employment and finances; Substance abuse; Family reconciliation and Return to the faith.**



**Knights of
Columbus®**

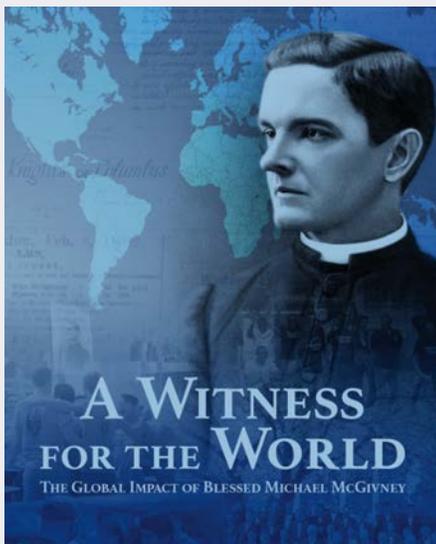
Blessed Michael McGivney



Blessed Michael McGivney

The life of Father Michael J. McGivney and the miracle that led to his beatification.

[Watch trailer here >](#)



A Witness for the World

A documentary on the world's largest fraternal order for Catholic men—and their families.

[Watch trailer here >](#)

RUNNING TIME:

[Blessed Father Michael McGivney](#), 27:30

[A Witness for the World](#), 29:46

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CANADIAN INTERVIEWS/WITNESSES:

Arcie Lim, Director, Board of Directors, Knights of Columbus
(*A Witness for the World*, 5:47)

Cardinal Gérald C. Lacroix
(*A Witness for the World*, 1:20, 7:25, 27:37)

David Anctil, Council 15574, British Columbia
(*A Witness for the World*, 6:48)

David Peters, Ontario State Deputy, Knights of Columbus
(*A Witness for the World*, 25:40)

Michael O'Neil, Council 12158, Ottawa, Canada
(*A Witness for the World*, 25:57)

Travis Van Vliet, Council 15574, Langley, British Columbia
(*A Witness for the World*, 6:37)

Curtis Van Nourt, Council 15574, Langley, British Columbia
(*A Witness for the World*, 6:37)

"We priests and bishops need to learn from his leadership."

Gérald C. Lacroix, Cardinal Archbishop of Quebec City
—in *A Witness for the World*



**Knights of
Columbus®**