



CHAPLAIN'S *report*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS *In service to One. In service to all.*

LEARNING THE FAITH, LIVING THE FAITH ♦ 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326, USA

SPECIAL SUMMER ISSUE

Due to preparations for the Chaplain's Meeting at the 135th Supreme Convention, we are offering a special summer issue of the *Chaplain's Report*. The monthly publishing of the report will resume in September.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The New Phase of Evangelization and the K of C

Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, OP

Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



The statistics are appalling: For every one soul that enters the Catholic Church in America, 6.45 Catholic souls leave; by the age of 29, over one-half of baptized Catholic young adults have joined the ranks of the “nones,” or those having no religion; and 70 percent of young adult Catholics who leave the Church do so by the age of 23. This is the sobering context of the recent Convocation of Catholic Leaders on the topic of: “The Joy of the Gospel in America,” held in July in Orlando, Fla.

Pope Francis' vision of missionary discipleship and pastoral accompaniment demands that the entire Church “devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a

pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 25).

How do we prevent more than six souls from leaving the sacred faith for every one soul that puts on the new man of Christ? Who will share the Good News that “it is possible to live this way” when tens of thousands of young adult Catholics are leaving the Church each year to embrace a culture of meaninglessness, scientism, relativism and self-invention? How can the Church retain the members of the Body of Christ when secular membership in a gym appears to offer the social interaction, self-betterment and accountability millennials crave?

In 1881, a New Haven vicar with four years of priesthood under his belt faced similar odds. His response was to rally the Civil War veteran husbands and fathers of St. Mary's parish. Together, they would combat the spiritual warfare of his day with a new ardor, serving as missionary disciples to the

many baptized Catholic immigrant men who were exiting the Church in droves. In his vision of the Knights of Columbus, Father McGivney saw what *Evangelii Gaudium* calls “a spirituality which can offer healing and liberation, and fill them with life and peace, while at the same time summoning them to fraternal communion and missionary fruitfulness” (89).

As chaplains, we have no better model of what it means to be a Catholic priest with the “smell of the sheep” — as well as a priest with a desire to foster the leadership gifts of the laity — than Father McGivney. There is no other Catholic lay organization so ready to accompany and assist the gradual return of Catholics who have slipped to the sidelines of the “nones.” Let us take seriously the challenge before the Church in our times, robustly encourage our brother Knights to step into the breach and accompany on the road back all our brothers and sisters who have left.

Vivat Jesus!

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Detail from the Father Michael J. McGivney Memorial in Waterbury, Conn. Dedicated in 1957, the memorial depicts the pillars of the Order, with the above detail showcasing the virtue of “unity.”

Going to the Peripheries

*Excerpts from a speech given at the Convocation of Catholic Leaders:
“The Joy of the Gospel in America,” Orlando, Fla., July 3, 2017*

Jesus is already at the peripheries. The question for us is whether he will be there alone or whether his disciples will be there with him.

As Knights of Columbus, we are committed to going beyond our own comfort zone and even beyond our own nation to reach those peripheries. ... As Catholics, we profess a universal church. As missionary disciples, we must make our universal church increasingly present at the peripheries as the process of globalization accelerates.

Yet the most difficult challenge may not be in reaching out to the world. The most difficult challenge may be in reaching out to our own neighbor. Going to this periphery

requires us to not only go beyond our comfort zone to do more — it requires us to go beyond our comfort to be more. ...

In *Redemptoris Missio*, St. John Paul II said this: “The call to mission derives, of its nature, from the call to holiness. ... It is not enough to update pastoral techniques, organize and coordinate ecclesial resources, or delve more deeply into the biblical and theological foundations of faith. What is needed is the encouragement of a new ‘ardor for holiness’ among missionaries and throughout the Christian community” (90). He made clear that since the two calls are linked, they must proceed together; we cannot wait for perfection in the spiritual life before we begin to answer the call to mission. ...

Vince Lombardi once said, “We will chase perfection, and we will chase it relentlessly, knowing all the while we can never attain it. But along the way, we shall catch excellence.” Of course, the spiritual life is not a football game. But do not our brothers and sisters in the faith, and all those who



we hope might one day join us in faith, deserve the same sort of relentless determination from those of us who have been entrusted with a special mission in the Church?

One final thought: We are a community that exists not only in space but also in time. The life of our community over time shapes both our identity and our witness. The sacrifice, contribution and legacy of the Catholics who have gone before us have helped to make us who we are today.

As we think about going to the peripheries and specific areas of ministry, we should look to those missionary leaders who are our heritage as Catholics in America,

especially those who combined mission and holiness — men and women like Elizabeth Ann Seton, Junípero Serra, Frances Cabrini, Kateri Tekakwitha, Michael McGivney and Stanley Rother. Among these Catholics and others we will find inspiration and intercession for today’s task of missionary discipleship. We might even see them as patron saints of the peripheries.

For centuries, Catholics in America have been a home to great missionary disciples. ... In America, we see stretching across time countless creative minorities of clergy, religious and laity building Catholic communities of churches, schools, hospitals, orphanages and charitable associations throughout what was, in their day, the great periphery. ...

Catholics in America have never feared to go to the peripheries. It is who we are and who we will continue to be in the future.

Pope Francis calls us to “embark upon a new chapter of evangelization” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 1). Let us arise and be on our way!

The supreme knight’s full address can be found at kofc.org. There, you can view a video of the address and a Q & A discussion.

After 60 Years a Priest, Father McGivney’s Grandnephew Dies

Reverend Msgr. G. Thomas Burns, grandnephew of Servant of God Venerable Father Michael McGivney, passed away June 23 after a very brief illness following a cerebral hemorrhage.

Msgr. Burns was the son of the late Gerald T. Burns and Zita Finn Burns of West Orange, N.J. His maternal grandmother was Rose McGivney Finn, one of the 13 children born to Patrick and Mary McGivney. Among these children were Michael, Patrick and John (each of whom became priests and served as supreme chaplain to the Knights of Columbus) and their sister Rose. Rose herself had 14 children, three of whom also became priests: Msgr. Leo M. Finn, also once a supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus; Father Francis J. Finn; and Father Vincent E. Finn. According to the obituary published in the New Jersey *Star-Ledger*, Msgr. Burns saw these uncles as his role models, and they greatly influenced his own decision to become a priest.

Ordained a priest on May 25, 1957, Msgr. Burns served at St. Cecilia’s in Kearny, N.J., until 1979. Msgr. Burns was then appointed pastor of St. Raphael’s, where he served until his retirement in 2002.

Please remember the soul of Msgr. Burns in your prayers. And, in his memory, please pray for men — especially young Knights — discerning the priesthood, asking that they, like Msgr. Burns, might be inspired by the example of Father Michael McGivney.

Check Out These Materials on Father McGivney

FATHER MICHEAL MCGIVNEY FILM



Through archival footage and dramatic reenactments, *Father Michael McGivney* provides a window into Father McGivney's unique solutions to the challenges faced by his parishioners — solutions so timeless they continue to be relevant today.

From his prison ministry to his care for widows and orphans, the one-hour documentary reveals a priest committed to helping those on the margins of society.

The film can be ordered by visiting fathermcgivney.org. Check out the DVD today!

HE WAS OUR FATHER

This short play, written by Dominican Father Peter John Cameron and produced by the Blackfriars Repertory Theatre, was commissioned by the Knights of Columbus and premiered at the 2015 Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention in Chicago. The drama traces the saintly life and exemplary pastoral care of Father McGivney, highlighting historical events that were to become turning points for the Church and for the world. The play is available for purchase on Amazon.

PARISH PRIEST: FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY AND AMERICAN CATHOLICISM

Have you read this *New York Times* bestseller by Douglas Brinkley and Julie Fenster? In it, they explore the life of Father Michael McGivney, in whom the modern era's ideal of the priesthood is reflected at its best. The son of Irish immigrants, he was a man to whom the term "family values" meant something more than mere rhetoric. And, as a fiercely dynamic and tenderhearted man, he left a legacy of hope still celebrated around the world.

The book, as well as an audiobook version, is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble. All author proceeds from the book's sale will be donated to Knights of Columbus Charities.

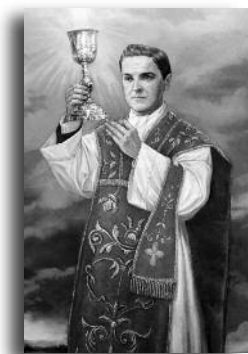


Pictured above is St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md., as it looked when Father McGivney attended the school in the 1800s.

Suggested Activities

AUGUST

Preach about the central importance of the Transfiguration and the Assumption, celebrated Aug. 6 and Aug. 15.



Support Knights as they prepare for events in the fraternal year, including K of C Family Week, Aug. 7-13.

Celebrate special Masses on the anniversaries of our founder's birth, Aug. 12, and death, Aug. 14. Also, distribute *prayer cards* (#10115) and copies of *A Model For Our Times* (#5044 — available in limited quantities of 50) to all the members of your parish.

SEPTEMBER

Encourage devotion among your brother Knights by observing the World Day of Prayer for Peace, Sept. 11; the feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Sept. 23; and the feast of the Archangels, Sept. 29.

Bear witness to Father McGivney's active involvement in the community by holding a youth Mass to welcome the local students who are starting up the new school year. The Mass could be followed by an opportunity for confession, as well as a Q & A discussion led by a Catholic speaker from your area. Be sure to ask your council's youth leader to help you assist with planning the event.

BEST PRACTICE

Connect With a Brother Priest

One of the best ways you can connect with Father McGivney as a priest and connect with your brother priests in the Order is to join the Father McGivney Guild.

The guild serves as an official source of information about his life and spirituality; receives reports of favors granted through his intercession; and oversees the distribution of relics. The intentions of guild members are included in Masses and novenas. Members also receive a newsletter with updates on the cause for canonization, reports of favors received and more.

All one needs to do is fill out the application and mail it in to become enrolled. There is no charge to enroll. Simply visit fathermcgivneyguild.org.

Father Michael McGivney (first stair, second from right) poses with a group of fellow priests. The image was taken in the 1870s by New Haven photographer John Tierney.





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1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326



Five Petition Prayer of St. Paul

At the Organizational Meeting of State Deputies, June 9, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori prayed the words below, offering the five petitions for his brother Knights and parishioners in the hope that they might dedicate themselves to manifesting and living the love of Christ

“I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Eph 13-21).

Lord Jesus, we believe. Help our unbelief and make your home in our hearts.
As we gaze upon your cross and adore you in your sacrament, let us understand as Paul did that you loved us and gave yourself for us!

Vivat Jesus!

The Mission of Father McGivney

As described by Father Joseph G. Daley, a contemporary of Father McGivney, who served as a priest of the Diocese of Springfield, Mass.

“Humanity – its woes; human souls – their rescuing: with topics like these so persistently upon his mind, he studied and prayed and meditated and took counsel: then he went straight to work.”