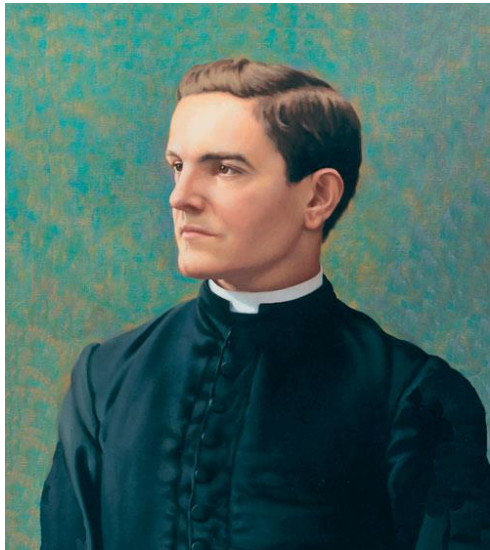




DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



Bishop Barres' Statement for the October 31, 2020 Beatification of Fr. Michael J. McGivney, Diocesan Priest and Founder of the Knights of Columbus

We join with Catholics around the world in celebrating the October 31, 2020 Beatification of Fr. Michael J. McGivney, a diocesan priest and the Founder of the Knights of Columbus.

I look forward to celebrating a Mass at St. Mary's parish in New Haven, Connecticut, where Fr. McGivney served as an assistant, established the Knights, and where his body now rests, just hours after the Beatification Mass is completed at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

We will be present with many of our seminarians, our priests, our University students -- accompanied by Fr. Lachlan Cameron, Director of Campus Ministry and Chaplain of Stony Brook University -- and our dedicated Knights of Columbus from Long Island.

We will be asking the intercession of Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney for a rich new harvest of vocations to the priesthood for Long Island and everywhere around the world.

Fr. Joseph G. Dailey, a contemporary of Fr. McGivney, gives this moving account of meeting with Fr. McGivney in 1883: "Fr. McGivney himself was anything but aristocratic; he was a man of extreme grace of manner in any society, but without any airs...I saw him but once and yet I remember his pale, beautiful face as if I saw

it only yesterday; it was a ‘a priest’s face,’ and that explains everything. It was a face of wonderful repose; there was nothing harsh in that countenance, although there was everything that was strong; there was nothing sordid, nothing mercenary, nothing of the politician, nothing of the axe-grinder. Guile and ambition were as far from him as from heaven. To meet him was at once to trust him; children actually loved him; and the very old people of the neighborhood, whom he hunted up and who got part of his time even on busiest days, called him a positive saint and meant it. At the city jail the wardens still hand down anecdotes of what Father McGivney said and did during visits which he paid the prisoners. Elsewhere, too, incidents abound to his credit. A blind, aged man who used to live by charity, but who was not a Catholic went every Sunday to Mass at St. Mary’s to hear ‘that voice.’ Non-Catholics found in Father McGivney a soul of immense sympathy, which invited them strongly toward investigating the religious truths his lips proclaimed.”

We take this opportunity to celebrate Fr. McGivney’s spirit of holiness and mission manifested to this day in the global mission of the Knights of Columbus and we celebrate the gift of the Catholic priesthood to the Church and to the World.