

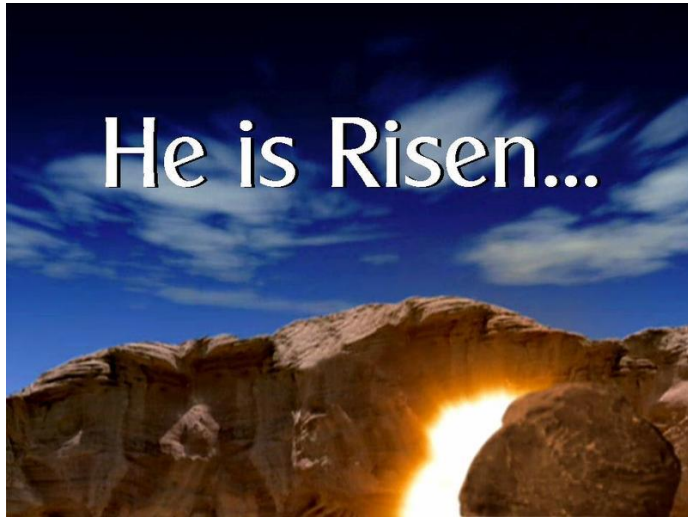


Fr. Leo Anctil Columbian Squires Circle #5211

April 2010 Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2010



He is Risen...

Easter Prayer

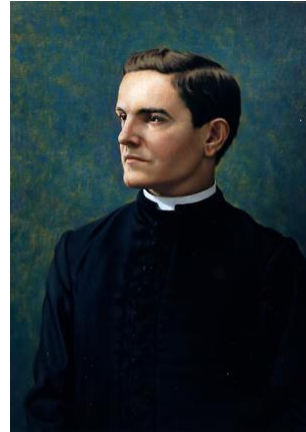
God our Father,
 By raising Christ your Son
 You conquered the power of death
 And opened for us the way to eternal life.
 Let our celebration today raise us up
 And renew our lives by the Spirit that is within us.
 Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 One God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Father Prior and the Counselors of the Father Leo Anctil Columbian Squires Circle wish all Squires and their families a very happy and blessed Easter.

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April Priest of the Month Father Michael McGivney



Father Michael McGivney was born on August 12, 1852, in Waterbury, Connecticut. His parents, Patrick and Mary (Lynch) McGivney, had arrived in the great 19th century wave of Irish immigration. Patrick McGivney became a molder in the heat and noxious fumes of a Waterbury brass mill. Mary McGivney gave birth to 13 children, six of whom died in infancy or childhood. So the first child, Michael, with four living sisters and two brothers, learned early about sorrow and the harsh grip of poverty. He also learned about the powers of love and faith, and family fortitude.

He went to the small district schools of Waterbury's working-class neighborhoods. A good child, he was admired by his school principal for "excellent deportment and proficiency in his studies." Then, after the Civil War, when Connecticut's metals industry was booming, he left school at age 13 to go to work. His job in the spoon-making department of a brass factory provided a few more dollars for family survival.

When Michael reached the age of 16 in 1868, he left the factory. With the priesthood clearly in mind, he traveled with his Waterbury pastor to Quebec, Canada. There he registered at the French-run College of St. Hyacinthe. He worked hard on subjects which would prepare him to apply for seminary admission.

Two academic years followed at Our Lady of Angels Seminary, attached to Niagara University in Niagara Falls, New York. Young McGivney moved next to Montreal to

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TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE



For the third year in a row, our Circle will be holding our annual Tootsie Roll Drive in early May. We will be working on the evening of May 6 & 7 at the Stop and Shop on Tiogue Ave., but Saturday is to be determined.



Squire Matt Parent and Counselor Keith Parent during last year's Tootsie Roll Drive

Membership Committee Update

Squires - The membership committee is starting work on a new recruiting video, and will be holding meeting about this soon. Anyone who has any input, such as suggestions for parts of the script, or available cameras etc, should email me at covtina@cox.net. Thank you, and God Bless. Stephen Smith, Membership Committee Chairman

Chief Squire's Corner

I'd like to thank Mr. Tom for all the hard work he has put into the Squires circle over the years. Without him this circle would not be where it is today. There could not be a better role model to look up to than Mr. Tom and of course Mr. Neil. He is very dependable; whenever you need him he is there for you. I speak for all the Squires when saying we appreciate all the things that he has done for us. Even after he is long gone from Rhode Island and off to his new life in Arizona, we will remember all the fun times we shared with Mr. Tom. He makes events more interesting as he enjoys rooting against us at ball games. The rest of the Squires and I will always remember Mr. Tom because he is one heck of a guy. Now the reins have been handed over to Mr. Neil. He will bring the circle to greater heights for the years to come. And I'd like to wish Mr. Tom the best of luck in Arizona. We can't thank you enough for everything you have done for us.
- Nick Parent C.S.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: FRIDAY, 4/2/2010

TIME: 7:00PM

APRIL SOCIAL MEETING

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: TBD

Time: 7:00PM

MAY BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: FRIDAY, 5/7/2010

TIME: 7:00PM

MAY SOCIAL MEETING

PLACE: ST. THERESA SHRINE, NASONVILLE, RI

DATE: SATURDAY, 5/23/2010

Time: 2:30PM

Corps d'Elite Progress

As Mr. Neil reported in March's Business Meeting, you have met the majority of your requirements as you have completed four spiritual, four service, four membership and three circle activities. We will be scheduling a circle activity in June. However, the BIGGEST requirement that we need to accomplish is to find three Squires who will join our ranks to have a net gain of two Squires. Let's make it happen!

Congratulations New Page Squires



Mr. Tom and Mr. Keith present Stephen Smith with Page badge and certificate

During the March Social Meeting, Advancement Counselor Mr. Keith presented three Squires with their badge and certificate on the occasion of having obtained the rank of Page. Nick Parent, Josh Fidler and Stephen Smith all made Page Squire and are now working toward the next rank - Shield Bearer. Alex and Sam Cote have also obtained Page rank but were not present at the meeting - they will receive their certificate and badge at a later time.

Honoring Father Forcier



Mr. Tom, Father Forcier and GK Glenn Holt during Father's Tribute Night

On Wednesday, February 24, 2010, the Msgr. Blessing Council and the Father Leo Anttila Circle honored Father Robert Forcier for his faithful service as Council Chaplain and Circle Father Prior. This was the first joint social meeting by the Council and the Circle. Both Grand Knight Glenn Holt and Chief Squire Nick Parent gave speeches honoring Father and presented gifts from both the Council and the Circle. It was a pot-luck dinner with plenty of delicious offerings from the Knights, Squires and their families. A great time was had by all, and we were all able to thank Father for all he has done for us. It was not long after the Tribute Dinner that Father Forcier learned he was assigned as Pastor of St. Paul's Parish in Cranston – the very first parish he was assigned to after being ordained.

Thank You Mr. Tom!



Mr. Tom in full Yankees gear at the first Squires PawSox game

At the March Social Meeting, our Chief Counselor "Mr. Tom" Del Mastro made the announcement that he would be stepping down as Chief Counselor of the Circle. He and his wife Dolores are in the process of selling their home and moving to Arizona. It was Mr. Tom who originally made plans for instituting a Squires Circle sponsored by the Msgr. Blessing Council when he was Grand Knight. The Circle will most certainly miss Mr. Tom, but he wanted the Squires to know that he is just an email away and that he would be keeping tabs on the Circle through the newsletter! Please keep Mr. Tom and his wife Dolores in your prayers as they prepare to move to Arizona.

Donations Made!



Chief Squire Nick Parent presents donation to Project Friends of Coventry

The Circle made two donations at the March Social Meeting. The first donation was to Mrs. Linda Macomber of the Coventry Food Bank. The Squires' presented canned goods they had collected for the Easter Holiday. The second donation was a check for \$300 to Project Friends of Coventry.



Squires present food collected to Mrs. Linda Macomber of the Coventry Food Bank

April is Squires Month

Each April, in celebration of "Squires Month," circles throughout the Order conduct open houses, membership drives, community service projects and social events that highlight the Squires as a leadership development program.

But celebrating the success of the Squires is not the only purpose of "Squires Month." Circles are reminded to sponsor newsworthy activities and events to increase public awareness. Charitable efforts and other worthwhile circle programs will help draw attention to your circle during "Squires Month" and through the entire year. Use whatever means are at your disposal to provide the people in your community with an opportunity to learn about the Squires so they'll have a better understanding of who the Squires are and what they do.

Father McGivney (Cont. from Page 1)

attend seminary classes at the Jesuit-run St. Mary's College. He was there when his father died in June of 1873.

Lacking funds and concerned about his family, he went home for the funeral, lingering awhile in Waterbury. Then, at the request of the bishop of Hartford, he entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. After four years of study, on December 22, 1877, he was ordained in Baltimore's historic Cathedral of the Assumption by Archbishop (later Cardinal) James Gibbons. A few days later, with his widowed mother present, he said his first Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Waterbury.

Father McGivney began his priestly ministry on Christmas Day in 1877 as curate at St. Mary's Church in New Haven. It was the city's first parish. A new stone church had been built, after the old one burned, on one of New Haven's finest residential streets, Hillhouse Avenue. There was neighborhood objection which even the New York Times noted in 1879, under the headline: "How An Aristocratic Avenue Was Blemished By A Roman Church Edifice." So Father McGivney's priestly ministry in New Haven began with tension and defensiveness among the working-class Irish families he served.

One of the responsibilities of St. Mary's priests was pastoral care of inmates of the city jail. In a notable case, a 21-year-old Irishman, while drunk, shot and killed a police officer. James (Chip) Smith was tried for first-degree murder in 1881, convicted and sentenced to be hung. Father McGivney visited him daily.

After a special Mass on the day of execution, the priest's grief was intense. The young offender 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."

Father McGivney worked closely with the young people of St. Mary's parish, holding catechism classes and organizing a total abstinence society to fight alcoholism. In 1881 he began to explore with various laymen the idea of a Catholic, fraternal benefit society. In an era when parish clubs and fraternal societies had wide popular appeal, the young priest felt there should be some way to strengthen religious faith and at the same time provide for the financial needs of families overwhelmed by illness or death of the breadwinner.

He discussed this concept with Bishop Lawrence McMahon of Hartford, and received his approval. He traveled to Boston to talk with the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, and traveled to Brooklyn to consult the Catholic Benevolent Legion. He met with other priests of the diocese. Wherever he could, he sought information that would help the Catholic laymen to organize themselves into a benefit society.

People who knew Father McGivney in this period were impressed by his energy and intensity. Father Gordian

Daley later recalled, "I saw him but once, and yet I remember this pale, beautiful face as if I saw it only yesterday. It was 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."



William Geary, one of the Order's charter members, said that at the first council meeting in 1882, he was "acclaimed as founder by 24 men with hearts full of joy and thanksgiving, recognizing that without his optimism, his will to succeed, his counsel and advice they would have failed."

Father McGivney had suggested Sons of Columbus as a name for the Order. This would bind Catholicism and Americanism together through the faith and bold vision of the New World's discoverer. The word "knights" replaced "sons" because key members of the organizing group who were Irish-born Civil War veterans felt it would help to apply a noble ritual in support of the emerging cause of Catholic civil liberty.

In the first public reference to the Order on February 8, 1882, the New Haven Morning Journal and Couriersaid the Knights of Columbus' initial meeting had been held the night before. On March 29, the Connecticut legislature granted a charter to the Knights of Columbus, formally establishing it as a legal corporation. The Order's principles in 1882 were "Unity" and "Charity." The concepts of "Fraternity" and "Patriotism" were added later. Each of these ideals played a major role in ceremonials from the beginning. The Columbus-linked themes, says historian Christopher J. Kauffman, "reverberated with pride in the American promise of liberty, equality and opportunity."

In April 1882, Father McGivney, with the permission of Bishop McMahon, wrote to all the pastors of the Diocese of Hartford. The Order's primary objective, he wrote, was to dissuade Catholics from joining secret societies by providing them better advantages at times of death or sickness. He urged each pastor to exert influence "in the formation of a

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Father McGivney (Cont. from Page 4)

Council in your parish." Father McGivney personally installed the first officers of San Salvador Council 1 in New Haven, in May 1882.

By May 1883, Council 2 had been instituted in Meriden, Connecticut and Bishop McMahon, so impressed with the organization, became a member of Council 11 in 1884, and served it as council chaplain. By the end of 1885, there were 31 councils in Connecticut.

Father McGivney's dedication to the Order was evidenced in trips he made to all parts of Connecticut and in handwritten correspondence—little of which survives—about K of C business. At St. Mary's, despite all this, he remained the energetic curate with constant concern for every parishioner's problems. Then in November 1884, he was named pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, Connecticut, a factory town 10 miles from his hometown. It was a factory parish, heavily in debt, serving working-class parishioners with few resources beyond their faith. With prayerful acceptance, Father McGivney put his seven years at St. Mary's behind him.

In six subsequent years at St. Thomas, he wrestled with the church debt and built the same close ties of devotion and charitable concern he had developed in New Haven. He continued, as well, to serve as supreme chaplain, personally involved in helping the Order to extend its membership into Rhode Island. Later, from 1901 to 1939, his younger brothers, Msgrs. Patrick and John J. McGivney, served the Order as supreme chaplains.

Never robust in health, Father McGivney was suddenly stricken with a serious case of pneumonia in January 1890. It hung on. Various treatments for consumptive illness were tried, but his decline persisted. The young priest lost physical strength just as the Order he founded was moving toward new vitality.

On August 14, 1890, Father Michael J. McGivney died at the age of 38. In his 13 brief, busy years as a priest, Father McGivney's piety and compassion had won the love of those he served as curate and pastor. His Christian inspiration, leadership and administrative drive had brought him the loyalty and affection of thousands who knew him as the founder of the Knights of Columbus. From the moment he launched it, the organization fortified Catholics in their faith, offered them ways to greater financial security in a sometimes hostile world, and strengthened them in self-esteem.

Remarkably developed from its simple beginnings in a church basement, the Knights of Columbus today combines Catholic fraternalism and one of the most successful American insurance enterprises. The four towers of the international headquarters symbolize the Order's worldwide commitment to charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. More than 12,000 fraternal councils are active in 13 countries.

Nearly 1.7 million Knights contribute about \$130 million

and 61 million hours of volunteer service to charitable causes each year. And—as a particular result of the Order's multi-faceted services to the Church—the board of directors in 1988 conducted formal business of the Order for the first time in a room named for the Knights of Columbus within the ancient St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

At St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Father McGivney's polished granite sarcophagus, sheltered inside a totally restored church, now has become a shrine for pilgrim Knights where the Order began.



Fr. Anctil Squires beside Fr. McGivney's sarcophagus

At the first memorial service for deceased Knights held later in the year he died, this tribute was accorded him: "He was a man of the people. He was zealous of the people's welfare, and all the kindness of his priestly soul asserted itself more strongly in his unceasing efforts for the betterment of their condition . . . Oh, Reverend Founder. . . that act alone which gave life to the Knights of Columbus has surely secured for thee everlasting joy and eternal peace."

The story of Father McGivney continues. In 1996, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford opened an investigation into Father McGivney's life, with a stated goal of his beatification and canonization, or formal recognition by the Church of his sainthood. Fr. Gabriel O'Donnell, OP is the postulator of McGivney's cause, as well as director of the Fr. McGivney Guild. The diocesan investigation was closed in 2000, and the case was passed to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Vatican City. On August 7, 2007, in his homily at the Opening Mass at the 125th Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus, Cardinal Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone pledged his assistance to this cause.

On March 15, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI approved a decree recognizing the heroic virtue of Fr. McGivney. His Holiness' declaration significantly advanced the process toward sainthood. The declaration allows Catholics to refer to McGivney with the title "Venerable Servant of God".

* Source: <http://www.fathermcgivney.org>