



# New York Knight Life

May 1, 2025 Vol. 2 Edition. 5

Official Newsletter for the New York State Knights of Columbus

The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring. - Bernard Williams

## **STATE OFFICERS**

State Deputy

Anthony Ippolito

State Secretary

James McCue

State Treasurer

John Sowinski

State Advocate

William Stewart

State Warden

Daniel Keenan

Administrative State Chaplain

Rev. Brian McWeeney

Associate State Chaplain

Rev. Michael Gelfant, Pastor

Associate State Chaplain

Rev. Christopher Costigan

Associate State Chaplain

Rev. Bret Stockdale SJ

Associate State Chaplain

Rev. Michael Johnson

Associate State Chaplain

Rev. Edward Sheridan

LET US ASK THE LORD

TO HELP US

UNDERSTAND THE LAW

OF *Love*. How GOOD

IT IS TO HAVE THIS

LAW! HOW MUCH

*Good* IT DOES US TO

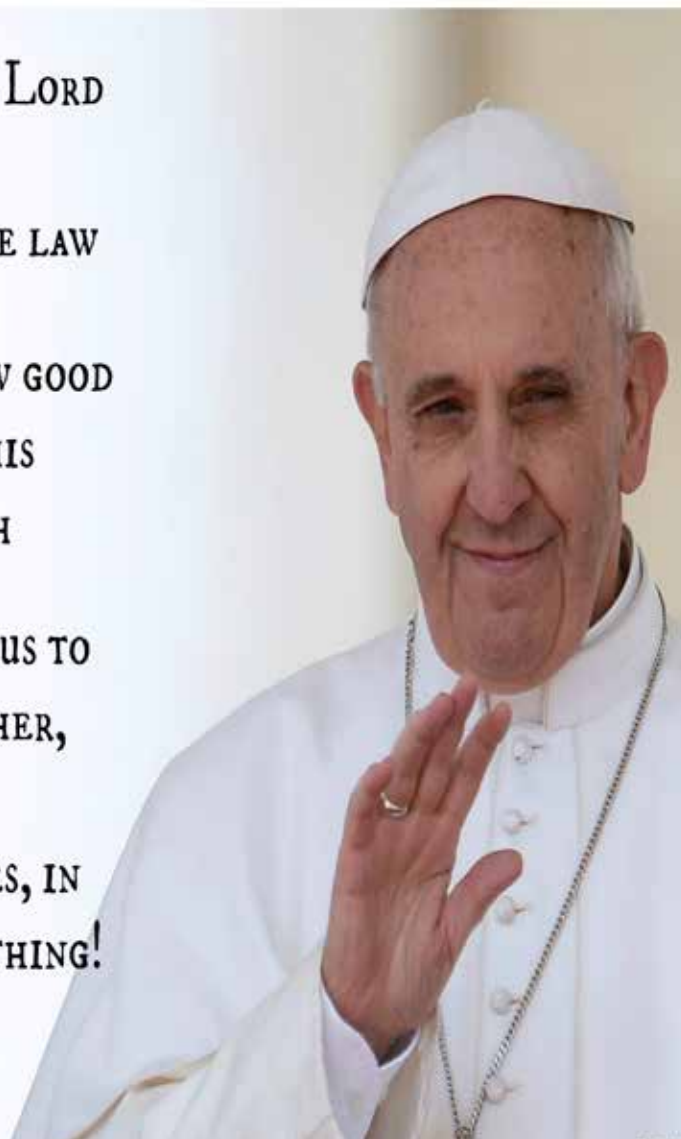
LOVE ONE ANOTHER,

IN SPITE OF

EVERYTHING. YES, IN

SPITE OF EVERYTHING!

*-Pope Francis*



Tell others about Knight Life... Forward this newsletter to Catholic men interested in the Knights, and let them know they can become a member for free online at [kojc.org/join](https://kojc.org/join). You can also share your questions, feedback and story ideas by emailing [mb1122@msn.com](mailto:mb1122@msn.com)

Any links to third-party sites outside of the Knights of Columbus are provided for information purposes only. This is not an endorsement of the service providers.

PUBLISHED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS STATE COUNCIL

## State Deputy's Message

Dear Brother Knights,

Since the month of May is here, then it is time for our annual New York State Convention. The meeting will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Villa Roma. It looks like it will be well attended because all our assigned rooms have been filled. In fact, we had to request additional rooms to accommodate all attendees. As always, the meeting will be both informative and meaningful.

Since this is an election year, make sure you congratulate our incoming officers and wish them continued success. They are **Gary Leonardo, Brian Langdon, Peter Lehr, Rob Garziano and Keith Kemp**. These men have substantially contributed to our Order in the past; and so, I am confident they will continue to do great things and lead the NY State Council to continued success!

Later this month, we will be holding two more ceremonies to dedicate and bless the installation of the new Father McGivney statues:

- May 18 - following the 11 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Shrine pilgrimage in Manorville (Suffolk County).
- May 25 - following the 11 AM Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre (in Nassau County).

As you probably realize, these statues are an outstanding way to honor our founder. So, please feel free to join us at these dedications as we continue to pray for his canonization as a saint of the Catholic Church. Again, my heartfelt thanks go to **Father Michael Gelfant, Lou Pepe and Joe Cerato** for their diligent efforts on this meaningful accomplishment.

Since we will be attending Mass together prior to both ceremonies then this is also an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how we, the Knights of Columbus, are truly the right arm of the Church. We are indeed witnesses to the resurrection of Christ.

Finally, I would like to extend Happy Mothers to all moms!

To everyone involved: **Keep up the good work. I am rooting for you!**

Fraternally,  
Anthony Ippolito  
New York State Deputy





My Brother Knights,

Our Holy Father has passed beyond our sight that he might be in the House of the Lord. His reign gave us great insights into the needs of the peoples of the world.

Examining the spiritual needs of the Church of Christ as well as the trials of humanity he gave us a hint of his mission as the servant of the servants of God by becoming known to the world as Francis. When some heard the name they thought of Saint Francis Xavier, the Jesuit missionary. The Pope-elect, however, cleared any confusion by reminding all of the virtues of Saint Francis Assisi.

Though he was already a senior when he was elected he exhibited great physical strength and spiritual wisdom. Building upon his pastoral leadership not only in the Archdiocese of Buenas Aires but throughout Central and South America, he was prepared by the Holy Spirit to assume the awesome tasks of leading the Universal Church. He challenged all of us to approach the world as missionary disciples.

Time and time again he wanted to go into the periferies and serve the course of justice and peace for all, especially the poor and marginalized.

In his writings and homilies he warned us that Creation must be cared for. The refugees from war torn nations must be welcomed. The sick must receive proper care. The humanity which God gave us must be preserved from conception to natural death. Calling upon Mary, he asked us to be faithful to her example of humility, obedience, and generosity. Our degree of faith is shown by our love and charity.

Let us pray for Pope Francis and for his successor. In our society he needs our prayer. We must accompany him as Pope Francis accompanied us.

Vivat Jesus,

Father Brian E. McWeeney D.Min(Prin)  
Administrative State Chaplain

## C&B 2025

As we begin this year's campaign, I would like to congratulate all the Councils last year that achieved bonus status as over \$103,000 was distributed back to local councils.



We commend to those Councils who made the Comeback Club. Books have been given to the Minor coordinators who will be distributing them shortly. Councils should be planning their activities for Spring functions. The Quick Start drawing will held on Sunday July 20 at the Villa Roma. This drawing is only for back covers.

A few changes for this yea:

- Charities supported with C&B funds are listed on the back page
- The winner's Council of Quick Start and Early Bird Drawing top prize will receive \$200 for the Quick Start and \$400 for the Early Bird to be donated to the Charity of the winner's Council choice if they make Quota. This replaces the Book Credits award.
- There will be an award at the 2026 Convention to the top DD in each Conference who has the largest growth of books per member for their District.

Last year we grew books per member to .88 in the State. One book per member is reachable if everyone gives it a little extra push.

Please contact me if you need any assistance or have any questions Good luck to you and your Councils with your Sales in supporting both the State and your local charities.

Ken Karchinski  
Asst Director C&B

# **C & B BONUS PROGRAM**

## **2025**

The enhanced bonus program will continue in 2025 to generate more charity money for all STATE, COUNCILS AND OUR KEY CHARITIES.

### **COUNCIL BONUS**

All goals based on Supreme Membership Roster Numbers as of 7/1/25.

#### **FIRST GOAL**

SELL 1/2 book per member and your Council will receive \$1.00 back for each book sold back to book 1.

#### **SECOND GOAL**

SELL 1 book per member and your Council will receive an additional \$1.00 (on top of the first goal) back to book 1.

### **ADDITIONAL BONUSES**

#### **1. Prizes to your sellers of books**

If your council reaches bonus status, the winner of the first place prize's council will received a \$200 credit for the Quick Start and \$400 for the Early Bird drawings to be donated to a charity of their choice by the STATE COUNCIL

Qualified winners are limited to an individual's name, a Church or Recognized Charity!

#### **2. SELL books equal to 1/2 book per member and STATE will match your councils up to \$1,000 donation to a Catholic School and \$500 donation to a Catholic Religious Education Program (CCD)**

### **DISTRICT DEPUTY AWARDS**

In each minor conference, the District Deputy whose district achieves the highest % books per member increase will receive recognition and a gift at the 2026 State Convention.

# **C & B PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR 2025**

## **PRIZE STRUCTURE**

**First Prize \$25,000**

**Second Prize \$10,000**

**Third Prize \$5,000**

**(10) Consolation prizes \$1,000 each**

Prizes for the seller are \$1,000 top prize, \$500 second, \$250 third & \$100 for consolation prizes

## **QUICK START (7/20/2025) @ VILLA ROMA**

PRIZES WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISTRIBUTED  
BASED ON THE (3) MAJOR CONFERENCES

1st Prize \$400.00 Each – Total \$1,200.00

2nd Prize \$250.00 Each – Total \$750.00

3rd Prize \$100.00 Each – Total \$300.00

## **EARLY BIRD (9/27/2025) @ SAINT ANNE'S COUNCIL IN GLEN OAKS**

PRIZES WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISTRIBUTED  
BASED ON THE (3) MAJOR CONFERENCES

1st Prize \$750.00 Each – Total \$2,250.00

2nd Prize \$500.00 Each – Total \$1,500.00

3rd Prize \$250.00 Each – Total \$ 750.00

**2025 FINAL DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025**  
**Villa Roma Resort • Callicoon, NY**

## **REMINDER**

YOU MUST FILL OUT THE COMPLETE BACK COVER TO BE ELIGIBLE  
FOR BOTH QUICK START & EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS

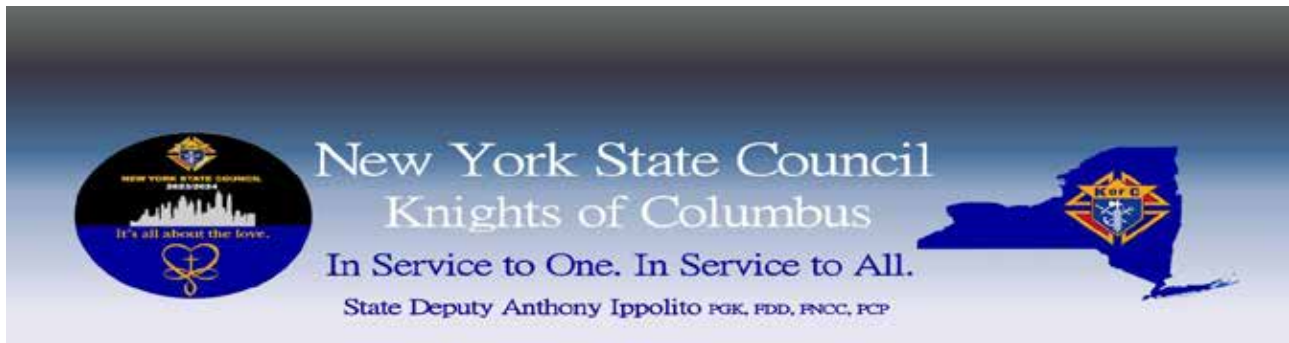
☆☆☆ **DO NOT FILL OUT COVER WITH COUNCIL NAME OR COUNCIL CORPORATION** ☆☆☆  
**AS THE SOLICITOR**

**THE ADDRESS FOR RETURNING BOOKS WILL STAY THE SAME**  
**NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**P.O. BOX 640789 OAKLAND GARDENS STATION**  
**OAKLAND GARDENS, N.Y. 11364-0789**

☆☆☆ **PLEASE RETURN ALL BOOKS WITH YOUR COUNCIL CHECK FOR \$6.00 PER BOOK** ☆☆☆

**"Over For Bonus Program"**





Brother'

We are now in the Fourth Quarter of the Columbian year and our Membership growth since Election Day has been solid and as I compose this article I am pleased to announce that we have recruited 1930 new Brothers to our ranks. Our raw recruitment number places New York State in 8<sup>th</sup> position order wide. Moreover, our overall effort that places us in fourth in the United States.

Supreme's growth metric is measured in percentages and our number places us in 44<sup>th</sup> place with a percentage to goal of 73.74%.

We are within striking distance of reaching 100% and if we can close April and open the Convention on May 1 with a percentage to goal of 75% or better, suggests that the NY State Council can easily reach our COH Goal based upon our past performance.

To spur growth in the Fourth quarter, the State Deputy has instructed the Membership Team to announce the latest set of incentives that will help us to finish the year Strong!

We are calling this incentive 7 Weeks to Success! Commencing on May 5<sup>th</sup>, it will specifically give Council's that have achieved 50% or less of their assigned quota the opportunity to get back out there and bring in their assigned number plus 2 more members. Those Councils who achieve this will receive a 5% rebate on their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Per Capita!

The Second Incentive is the Paul Diorio Extra Effort Award and will be open to all Councils that achieve the highest recruitment percentage to goal. The Grand Knight of that Council that receives the highest percentage will receive an overnight trip to the Knights of Columbus Museum and if possible, a tour of Supreme.

I am CONFIDENT, that we can do this and will steal the State Deputy's tag line "I am rooting for you"

Vivat Jesus!

Peter

## It Starts with You and Me!!

Brothers, There are Hidden Masters Amongst Us.

The New York State Deputy Anthony Ippolito wanted **A Corporate Experience for his training team.**

He stated that he had great Respect and felt a huge Responsibility to the Members. He knew about the Hidden Gem and Passionate and Decorated Staff grounded in a faith-based environment that Certified the Knight of Columbus Training Values.

Many of our Presenters have in their Professional Career been paid Corporate Motivational Speakers

Men like Rich Ditrio {Our Chairman of the Board}

Steve Driscoll {Thinking Out of the Box -Rocket-Man}

**The Mission Statement believed Communication was Imperative for a Successful training program**

Damiano {The Real Deal} Coraci who is our logistical leader in setting up meetings and fabulous repasts.

Jack McArdle his nick-name was {Cheesecake} because when he spoke, he had our members eating out of his hands while doing his presentation.

Then we had Rich {The Professor} Carl who made reading the important and monotonous forms like walking amongst the ferns.

And our Very own the {Pocket Rocket Fr. Michael Gelfant} known as our energizer bunny on his EV bike.

We had {The Big Bopper} John Arcate who kept us on our timeline for Presentations

Special Thanks to Robert Graziano who directed the District Deputies so the wheels on the bus went round, and round and Peter Varol who steered the bus.

Let's give a big hand to Eagle Eye in the sky Chris Reyes for his Video Production. He brought our presentations lived streamed into your living room





Where would we be without our Communication Director and Editorial Whiz Mike Boehm for NYS Newsletter.

Steve and his Band of Brothers transversed from Niagara Falls to Montauk and spread the word through, Zoom Meetings, USB drives, Live Streaming and multiple in-person presentations.

His team called on Current State Officers and Past State Officers and contacted Directly over 80 District Deputies to find the Secret Sauce of Success: and then shared it.

Steve sought out Chairman of The Board Vincent Mineo and Conference Chairman Dan Ramos along with Past Chater President Steve Tommony, and State Fundraiser Tony Vecco. He reached out to leaders in upstate New York like The Honorable Gary Leonardo and last but not least, Fr McGivney's altar Server Walter Fogelman.

When the State Deputy approached me to join Steve Driscoll and Rich Ditro. I said as long as it's a job and not a **Participation Award**.

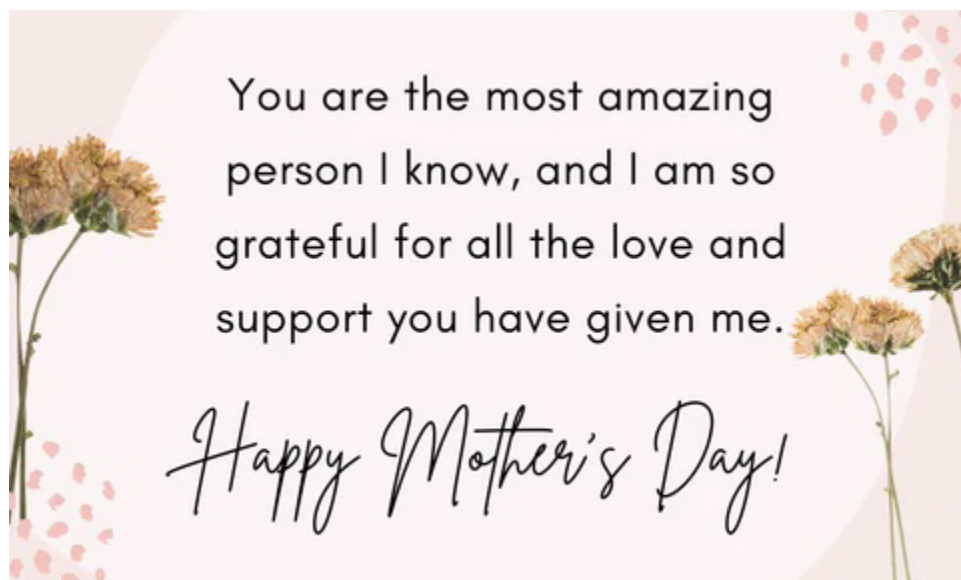
That I wanted to be on a team that made a **Difference**.

It has been a Honor to work alongside the **Best of the Best**

**IT WAS HUGE!!!!!!! God Bless You and God Bless America**

**Michael T. Murtha**

**New York State Administrative State Chairman for Training**





## RSVP WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In early November of 2024, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus announced that since 1981, councils and assemblies had surpassed \$100 million in financial support for seminarians, postulants and novices through its Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). Councils and Fourth Degree Assemblies from across New York State have contributed spiritual, motivational and financial support to seminarians, postulants and novices on their journey to serve Christ and our Church. While we as Knights should be proud and thankful that we have helped those entering the religious life, the question sometime arises, “How do the recipients feel?” Unfortunately, there are times when a “Thank You” note or letter does not reach our Columbian Community.

In an earlier issue of *Knight Life* I mentioned my conversation with a seminarian where he mentioned that while the financial help of RSVP was welcomed, it was the support and encouragement of the Knights that was helping him on his journey to the life of a priest. At an Assembly meeting early this year, the Vocations Chairman of the Assembly gave me a copy of the following letter.

The seminarian who wrote the letter is a student at Saint Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, completing his “Pastoral Year” of study at a suburban parish in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Saint William the Abbot Church  
Seaford, New York

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Cardinal Mercier Assembly  
4<sup>th</sup> Degree 0705

Dear Knights of Columbus/Mark,

I hope this letter finds you in great spirits, I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous support and unwavering commitment to my journey toward the priesthood. Your kindness has not only provided me with the necessary resources to continue my studies but has also filled my heart with encouragement and hope.

I often reflect on the profound impact that community can have on one’s vocation. Your contributions have alleviated many of the financial burdens associated with seminary life, allowing me to focus wholeheartedly on my spiritual and academic development. This support is a testament to the values you uphold---charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism---which inspire me to embody these principles in my future ministry.

With each passing day, I am reminded of the immense responsibility that comes with the priesthood. My aspiration is to become a kind, wise, and loving priest, someone who can minister the sacraments to families and loved ones. Your belief in my calling encourages me to strive for excellence in my studies and personal growth. I am committed to nurturing my faith and becoming a compassionate leader within the community, one who reflects the love of Christ in all aspects of life.

The support from the Knights of Columbus extends far beyond financial assistance. It signifies a shared vision of faith and service. Your commitment to fostering vocations is a vital part of the Church's mission, and it inspires many to pursue their own paths of service. I am grateful to be a part of this legacy and hope to contribute to it in the years to come.

As I continue this journey, I carry with me the prayers and good wishes of each member of the Knights of Columbus. Your generosity not only impacts my life but also the lives of those I will serve in the future. I am excited about the possibilities ahead and remain deeply thankful for your role in helping me achieve this calling.

Thank you once again for your incredible support. I look forward to the day when I can share the gifts of the sacraments with the families and communities you represent. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and commitment to the Church.

With heartfelt appreciation and prayers,

Seminarian Kevin A. Rueda

The above speaks well of our participation in RSVP. It exemplifies a strong response to our mission to answer the shortage of aspirants to the priesthood and religious life. Are we sharing responses such as this with our councils, assemblies, parishes and the community?

### **VOCATIONS ARE EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!**

Thanks to Sir Knight Mark Daley of Cardinal Mercier Assembly for the above letter. Do you have a great story or picture? Got a great vocations story or picture? Send it to me and we can share it.

**REMINDER:** Applications for the Supreme Council and New York State Council RSVP programs are due June 30<sup>th</sup>. Applications can be found in the April issue of *Knight Life*.

Austin Cannon, Jr., PGK, FM, KGCHS  
516 221-7186  
Cannonjr1@hotmail.com

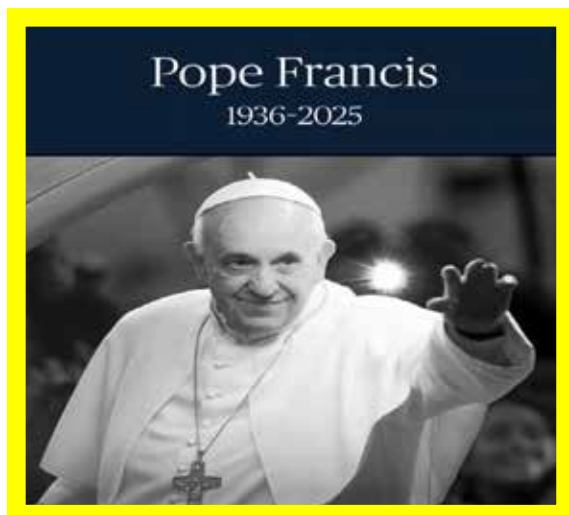


As I sit to write this month's message, so many thoughts are going through my head. Our NYS Convention is on the horizon, where we gather with our Brothers from all over this great State of New York. It is always such an amazing time. A time when we get to see old friends and meet new

friends. This year we will elect new Officers, the Officers who will guide us through the next two years. And as whenever we go through a transition, it has a tinge of sadness to it, but we also have a sense of excitement as we anticipate the arrival of a new administration. Before I go any further I must say that it was a terrific honor to serve with the group of Brother Knights in the current administration. All of the Officers, Priests, Directors, Administrators and Chairmen are absolutely a remarkable group of individuals who worked so hard to carry on the work of this great State and the Order. And I do not want to leave out their wives and families who are always there too! I truly feel Blessed to have been able to be a small part of it.

I am also reflecting on the very recent passing of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. It is amazing to me that the words and teachings of our Holy Father could be considered controversial to fellow Catholics, but they were. Many accused him of being a third-worldist and a communist, or even worse, a liberal. I suppose it is because he said no to an economy of exclusion and inequality, no to an economy that kills, no to an economy without a human face, no to an unjust social and economic system that locks us into unjust social structures, no to a globalization of indifference, no to the idolatry of money, no to money that governs rather than serves, no to an inequality that engenders violence, no to anyone who tries to hide behind God to justify violence, no to the social insensitivity that anesthetizes us in the face of the suffering of others, no to human trafficking, no to any form of provoked death. Pope Francis did nothing but update the commandment "Thou shall not kill," defend the value of human life from beginning to end and repeated in the present day the Lord's question to Cain: "Where is your brother?". I always thought that fell into line with what we as Knights do. He preached empathy, mercy, forgiveness and welcomed sinners into the Church. Sound familiar? It should. I will miss him.

M. Boehm



Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina to Italian immigrant parents, was the first pope from the Americas and the first born outside of Europe in over a millennia. He will likely be remembered as the most progressive pontiff in the Catholic Church's history.

His leadership - of over some 1.4 billion Catholics globally - will be remembered for outreach to women, immigrants and refugees, LGBTQ+ people, and people from other faiths. He sometimes took progressive or controversial stances on pressing issues, such as same-sex couples and climate change.

Over the years, the pope from South America left his mark in unprecedented ways. Pope Francis spoke openly about many issues afflicting the Church and indeed the world, visited countries no pope before him ever visited, met with controversial figures, and made the cover of magazines such as Time and Rolling Stone.

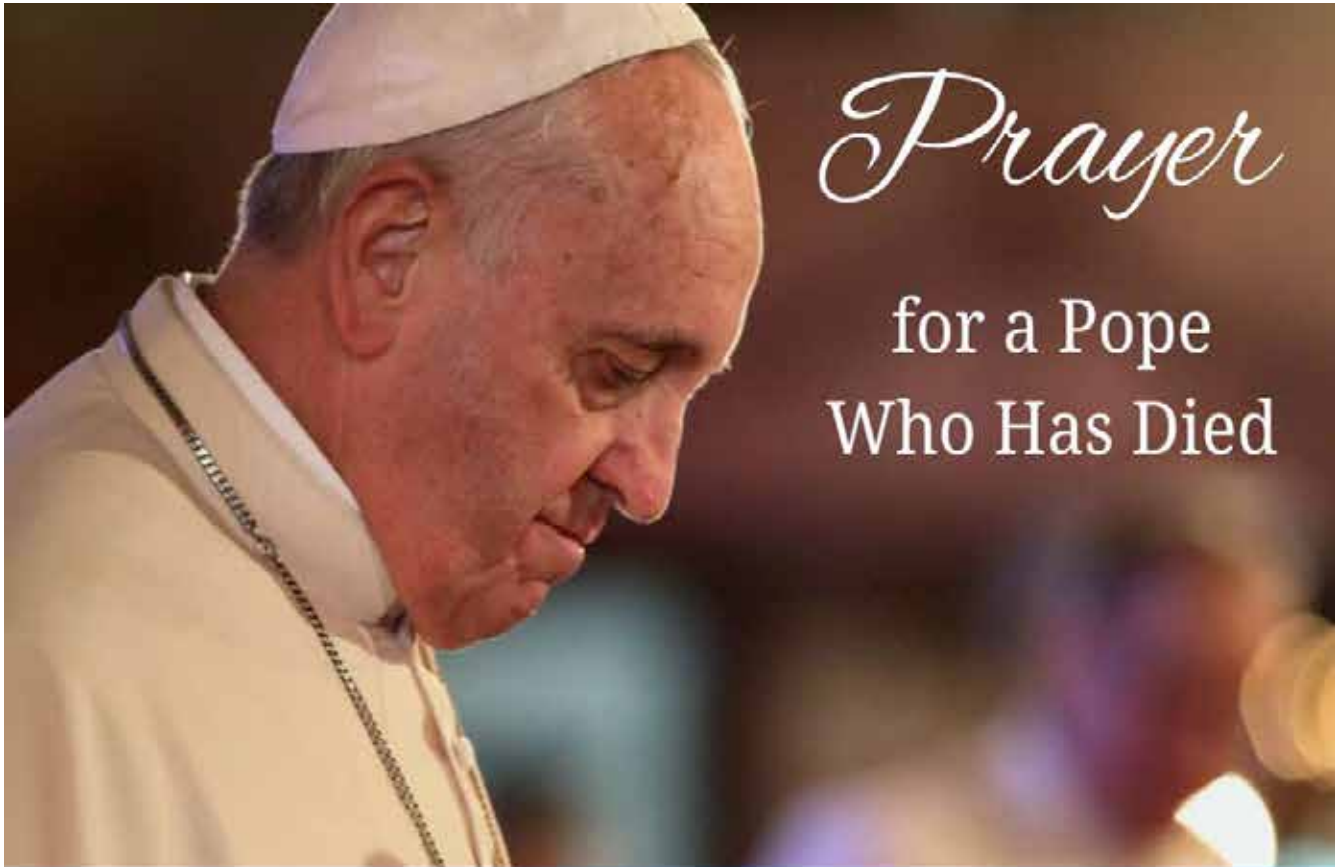
Throughout his papacy, Francis was celebrated for his commitment to humility, social justice, and outreach to marginalized communities. Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, the pontiff was also the first Jesuit pope in the history of elected popes. Throughout his tenure, he transformed old thinking, merging them with the modern times while aligning with the Catholic Church's ancient teachings, championing compassion over dogma. "Let us pray for one another. Let us pray for the whole world," he urged. His papacy championed a Church that operates like a "field hospital", where healing and aid takes precedence over judgement. He called for a faith rooted in empathy, encouraging inclusion for those historically marginalized by the Church, encouraging meaningful dialogue in an effort to bridge gaps between the traditional teachings and the contemporary realities. When first elected pope, he was asked the question "who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio? His answer was simply "a sinner". As we reflect on Pope Francis' legacy, we recognize a leader who brought moral clarity to a world often clouded by division and self-interest. He reshaped the papacy into something more human, more approachable, and more engaged with the real struggles of people. He challenged the status quo, not through dramatic upheaval, but through a steady,



persistent push for a more inclusive and conscientious Church. 'Well done, good and faithful servant!

To learn more about Pope Francis and the K of C you can follow the link:

[Pope Francis and the K of C](#)



## *Prayer*

for a Pope  
Who Has Died

*O God, immortal shepherd of souls, look on your people's prayers and grant that your servant Pope Francis, who presided over your Church in charity, may, with the flock entrusted to his care, receive from your mercy the reward of a faithful steward. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.*





# NEW YORK STATE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Join us at CitiField on

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025 AT 1:40 PM**

to watch the action between the

## COLORADO ROCKIES

and the

## NEW YORK METS



Early arrivals can get a Hello Kitty Bobblehead!



So, bring the family and friends!

### **Tickets are \$70.00 each**

For each ticket sold you will receive a NY Mets hat, and  
\$10 will be donated to ??????????????

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT**

Tony Vesco at 646-642-9145

Or email: Tony404@aol.com

**MAIL FORM BELOW WITH PAYMENT TO:**

METS TIX  
% ANTHONY VESCO  
1015 73rd STREET  
BROOKLYN, NY 11228

Make Check or Money Order **payable to: NYS COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** (Please put "METS" in the Memo)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY BELOW

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$70.00 each      Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## **MASS & STATUE DEDICATION**

**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025**

**10:00AM Rosary**

**11:30AM Mass  
Statue Dedication**

**CELEBRANT**

**BISHOP JOHN O. BARRES**



### **SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE ISLAND**

**258 Eastport Manor Road  
Manorville, NY 11949**



**BLESSED MICHAEL J. McGIVNEY  
FOUNDER  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**Blessed McGivney statue donated by  
Suffolk County Knights of Columbus**

**NEW DATE!**



## **MASS & STATUE DEDICATION**

**SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025**

**11:00AM**

**CELEBRANT**

**BISHOP JOHN O. BARRES**

### **ST. AGNES CATHEDRAL**

**29 Quealy Place  
Rockville Centre, NY**



**BLESSED MICHAEL J. McGIVNEY  
FOUNDER  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



## 2025 New York State Free-Throw Championship at West Point



Congratulations to this year's winners

	Major Conf	Minor Conf	Name	Hometown	Council	District	Score
Girls 9	Long Island	Kings	Mila Marusarz	Brooklyn	4783	35	23
Girls 10	Long Island	Nassau	Lily Wassenbergn	Rockville Center	2548	19	19+5/5
Girls 11	Long Island	Queens	Jenna O'Brien	Breezy Point	17580	23	18
Girls 12	Upstate	Northern	Madeline Newcombe	Redford	2166	98	22
Girls 13	Upstate	Central	Riley Hodkinson	Sherrill	10904	81	22
Girls 14	Upstate	Western	Lindsay Laszewski	East Amherst	14687	79	19

	Major Conf	Minor Conf	Name	Hometown	Council	District	Score
Boys 9	Downstate	West / Putnam	Colin Venuto	Ossining	311	48	18
Boys 10	Upstate	Finger Lakes	Parker Suits	Penfield	15917	92	21
Boys 11	Long Island	Queens	Owen Carney	Jackson Heights	3701	25	20
Boys 12	Long Island	Queens	Ampersand Lee	Fresh Meadows	8964	29	22
Boys 13	Long Island	Queens	Brandon Yakubov	Rego Park	14578	26	21
Boys 14	Downstate	BMS	Dillon Legakis	New York	2147	38	19





## 2025 New York State Free-Throw Championship at West Point

This year's event was a huge success thanks to the efforts of many people dedicated to our principals of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism from all throughout NY State. . From the start of the season in January with Councils across the State making arrangements to host local events in their communities; to District Deputies coordinating District shootouts; to Chapters/Counties holding events for their areas; to each of the Major Conferences arranging events; and culminating with the State finals at the West Point Military Academy Prep School gym, it was truly a State-wide effort.

The Cadets who are members of the Bishop O'Keefe College Council #8250, along with some other cadets including young women cadets, did all the work. From setting up the gym, to welcoming and checking-in the contestants, to scoring and rebounding, they did it all. During the warm-ups they manned the baskets, gave some tips to the kids and provided excellent mentorship to the kids. They were role models of an age that the

kids could easily relate to. In addition, the cadets hosted a cookout for all the families, grilling up hundreds of hamburgers and hot dogs and providing snacks and beverages.

Here is a group photo of the Knights in attendance at West Point. What a great turn out of support from our Brother Knights! Vivat Jesus!



### Full List Of Participants in Attendance

	Major Conf	Minor Conf	Name	Hometown	Council	District	Score	Place
Boys 9	Downstate	West / Putnam	Colin Venuto	Ossining	311	48	18	1
Boys 9	Upstate	Central	Daniel Mirakian	Baldwinsville	5082	81	14+ 8/10	2
Boys 9	Long Island	Nassau	Andrew Job	Westbury	4422	18	14+7/10	3
Boys 10	Upstate	Finger Lakes	Parker Suits	Penfield	15917	92	21	1
Boys 10	Long Island	Nassau	Lucas Rodriguez	Baldwin	3689	18	20	2
Boys 11	Long Island	Queens	Owen Carney	Jackson Heights	3701	25	20	1
Boys 11	Downstate	BMS	Dwight McNabb	Staten Island	3993	40	19	2
Boys 11	Upstate	Northern	Tucker Backus	Ogdensburg	1059	101	17	3



## 2025 New York State Free-Throw Championship at West Point

Boys 12	Long Island	Queens	Ampersand Lee	Fresh Meadows	8964	29	22	1
Boys 12	Downstate	West / Putnam	Desmond Henderson	Yonkers	14814	48	17	2
Boys 12	Upstate	Central	Brayden Spooner	Oriskany Falls	18024	84	9	3
Boys 13	Long Island	Queens	Brandon Yakubov	Rego Park	14578	26	21	1
Boys 13	Upstate	Finger Lakes	Xavier Skolen	North Chili	17086	93	18	2
Boys 13	Downstate	Hudson Valley	Ben Bjorkman	Poughkeepsie	7551	52	17	3
Boys 14	Downstate	BMS	Dillon Legakis	New York	2147	38	19	1
Boys 14	Upstate	Northern	Kopeland Welch	Plattsburgh	13127	98	18	2
Boys 14	Long Island	Suffolk	William Carrara	Lindenhurst	794	11	12	3
	Major Conf	Minor Conf	Name	Hometown	Council	District	Score	Place
Girls 9	Long Island	Kings	Mila Marusarz	Brooklyn	4783	35	23	1
Girls 9	Upstate	Northern	Olivia Newcombe	Redford	2166	98	18	2
Girls 9	Downstate	Hudson Valley	Gianna Bronzi	Stormville	4065	52	15	3
Girls 10	Long Island	Nassau	Lily Wassenbergn	Rockville Center	2548	19	19+5/5	1
Girls 10	Downstate	West / Putnam	Sarafina Phillips	Croton-on-Hudson	4730	50	19+3/5	2
Girls 10	Upstate	Western	Morgan Mitchell	Orchard Park	2220	73	10	3
Girls 11	Long Island	Queens	Jenna O'Brien	Breezy Point	17580	23	18	1
Girls 11	Downstate	Hudson Valley	Razan Karadsheh	Poughkeepsie	7551	52	15	2
Girls 11	Upstate	Northern	Lilianna Goodspeed	Rouses Point	3525	99	12	3
Girls 12	Upstate	Northern	Madeline Newcombe	Redford	2166	98	22	1
Girls 12	Downstate	Hudson Valley	Audrey Maher	Montgomery	2270	55	19	2
Girls 12	Long Island	Queens	Sophia Chin	Fresh Meadows	8964	29	18	3
Girls 13	Upstate	Central	Riley Hodkinson	Sherrill	10904	81	22	1
Girls 13	Long Island	Kings	Tiffany Sands	Brooklyn	197	32	15	2
Girls 14	Upstate	Western	Lindsay Laszewski	East Amherst	14687	79	19	1
Girls 14	Long Island	Queens	Kiley Esteban	Jamaica	14578	26	16	2

## **Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest**

The Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest is for students in grades 8 through 12. Participating in this contest is a wonderful way to encourage youth to become citizens grounded in their faith through creative writing. This year's topic was, "What are the two most important virtues for an elected leader to possess, and why? How can you determine if a leader has these virtues?"

The committee had its hands full with this topic, reading some genuinely excellent work. Unfortunately, only one essay at each grade level could be sent to the final selection process at Supreme.

The following students' essay are New York State winners, and their essays have been sent to Supreme:

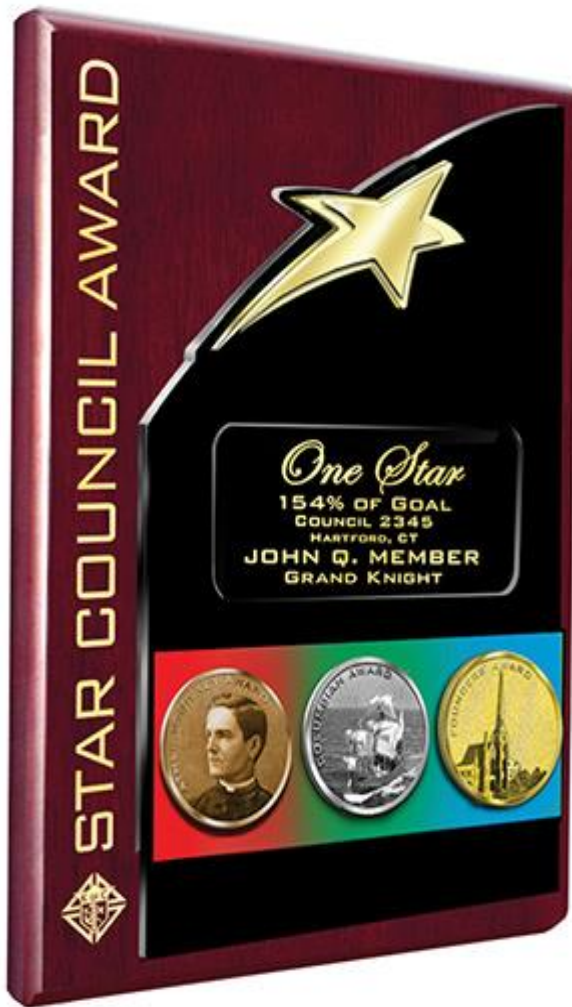
Grade 8	Jack Kollmer	Council #12839	Saint James
Grade 9	Stella Hua	Council #4012	Peeksville
Grade 10	Brian Lebitsch	Council #4012	Hopewell Junction
Grade 11	None		
Grade 12	Dorothy Stravalle	Council #14578	Middle Village

Michael J. Tully, PGK, FDD, PFN, FM  
Administrative State Chairman  
New York State Council





## 2024 – 2025 Fraternal Year



The Star Council Award recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and programming. In order to achieve the Star Council Award, a council must earn the Father McGivney, Founders', and Columbian Awards. Additionally, the council must submit both the [\*Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity\*](#) (#1728) and [\*Service Program Personal Report\*](#) (#365). In the United States and Canada councils must also be fully compliant with applicable safe environment requirements.

Prior to the end of the fraternal year on June 30, make sure that your council achieves the requirements to qualify for your awards. To view your quota and/or progress towards earning the Star Council Award, please log on to [Officers Online](#) regularly. **DON'T WAIT!!!**

If you have ANY questions, contact your District Deputy!



Over 22 members from St. Bernard Council 14269 turned out on a Saturday morning to clean the church in preparation for Holy Week. The Knights mopped the floors, cleaned the pews, polished the wooden altar and chairs and cleaned all the windows and glass doors. Great Job Brothers!

### Finger Lakes Chapter C&B Bonus Check Distribution



Saturday April 22, 2025 our Worthy State Deputy Anthony Ippolito and Assistant C&B Director Ken Karchinski, both attending via ZOOM, presented C&B Bonus Checks to the Finger Lakes Chapter. The State Deputy and Assistant C&B Director both commented that the Finger Lakes once again had a Very Successful C&B Drive in 2024 and that Finger Lakes is 3<sup>rd</sup> in Sales in the State. In the photo are State Advocate William(BILL) Stewart and Major Upstate Coordinator C&B Roman Zguta presenting the Bonus Check to Finger Lakes.

Highest Seller of books per member and Past Minor C&B Coordinator Ken Moyer Council # 7980 the council check. Through the Hard Work of Brother Ken the council Sold 13.8 Books/Member and they are 4<sup>th</sup> out of the Top 5 councils in the State. Photo # 2 shows Robert Rejewski Council # 7707 Spencerport receiving the check from State Advocate William Stewart and Major Coordinator Roman Zguta.



Supreme Master Michael McCusker paid a visit to some of our newest Fourth Degree Members at West Point recently. While there he took the opportunity to hand out 4th Degree Certificates to the Cadets who had the Honor of having the Fourth Degree bestowed upon them at St. Patrick's Cathedral back on February 22, 2025.



## March was the Month of Meet and Greet for our NYS Candidates!



## **MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER**

**God of power and mercy,  
you destroy war and  
put down earthly pride.**

**Banish violence from  
our midst and  
wipe away our tears,  
that we may all deserve  
to be called your sons  
and daughters.**

**Keep in your mercy  
those men and women  
who have died in the  
cause of freedom and  
bring them safely  
into your kingdom of  
justice and peace.**

**We ask this through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

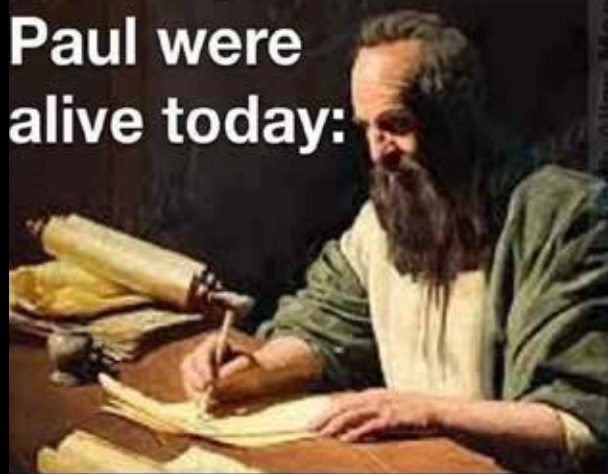
- Prayer from *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

[dosp.org](http://dosp.org)





**If the apostle Paul were alive today:**



"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, to the churches of the United States of America—grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ: I don't even really know where to begin with you guys..."



**The parish priest who changed the world.**



**BLESSED MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY**

Parish Priest

Founder

Knights Of Columbus

## **The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Church Statue Initiative**

Join the New York State Knights of Columbus, the first jurisdiction to place  
10 statues of Blessed Michael McGivney in the 8 Cathedrals and  
2 Co-Cathedrals of New York State.

Celebrate Blessed Michael McGivney's profound impact on the Catholic Church  
and his remarkable journey toward sainthood.

Commemorate this humble parish priest, who founded the Knights of Columbus  
and is revered for his unwavering faith and dedication to serving others.

## **Contributions**

Donations should be payable to "New York State Council Knights of Columbus"  
and sent to SK Louis Pepe, 93 Rapelve St. 4D, Brooklyn, NY 11231.





Join us on  
**Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nykofc>

**Facebook Group of New York State Council Knights of Columbus.**  
**Posts should be limited to the Knights of Columbus. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, you have access to resources, such as social media, to help you grow deeper in your faith, stay informed about the Order and connect to your Brother Knights. This is the **ONLY OFFICAL FB** Page of the NYS Council**



**In order to have enough time to get everything reedy for the Newsletter, Please send your Articles and Photos in **NO LATER** than the 20<sup>th</sup> of **EACH MONTH.****

**Send them to the Editor at [mb1122@msn.com](mailto:mb1122@msn.com)**



Still not receiving our Monthly Newsletter Directly to your Mail Box? Sign up here to receive it every moth, plus additional information about the NYS Council! Just click here:  
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/bf9Z1MQ>



# May



**Mother's Day Apr 11th**



**Memorial Day Apr 26th**



## Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, **Blessed Michael McGivney**, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify **Blessed Michael McGivney** on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen



The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild promotes the cause for sainthood of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, who was beatified on Oct. 31, 2020. Members of the Guild, and anyone devoted to Father McGivney, can play an active role in the cause by praying for his intercession in times of need, especially in cases of serious illness, and reporting to the Guild any favors received.

Membership in the Guild is free and open to anyone who is devoted to Father McGivney and wishes to invoke his intercession and assist in his sainthood cause through prayer. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and are remembered in a weekly Mass offered for their intentions.

Catholic men who wish to live out the vision and mission of Father McGivney are invited to join the [Knights of Columbus](#) and become part of a network of charity, unity and fraternity that serves local parishes and communities. Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven, Conn., and died at the age of 38 in 1890. His cause for sainthood was opened in 1997, and his heroic virtue was recognized by the Vatican in March 2008, when he was declared a Venerable Servant of God by Pope Benedict XVI.

On May 26, 2020, Father McGivney took another step toward sainthood when Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree recognizing a [miracle attributed to his intercession](#). With the approval of this miracle, he was beatified on Oct. 31, 2020, with the title of Blessed.

Another miracle through his intercession is needed for him to be canonized as a saint.

Those devoted to Father McGivney are encouraged to recite regularly the prayer for his canonization, which is available online and on a special prayer card. You may Report favors through this website or by email or regular mail at the addresses listed below.

To request a third-class relic or to order devotional items, click on the [online form link](#). Print out the form, fill it out and mail it to the Father McGivney Guild.

The Guild has more than 176,000 members, and you are encouraged to join by filling out and submitting the [online form](#). Please assist in the cause of Father McGivney by spreading the word about this holy and blessed priest.

For more information or to request a prayer card:

Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

Tel: 203-752-4087

Email: [guild@kofc.org](mailto:guild@kofc.org)