

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

# Catholic TRANSCRIPT

SEPTEMBER 2020

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**SPECIAL EDITION**

## CONNECTICUT PRIEST MOVES CLOSER TO SAINTHOOD

- Who is Father Michael J. McGivney?
- Follow in His Footsteps
- The Miracle that Saved an Unborn Child
- The Cause for Sainthood
- Canonization Prayer





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**ON THE COVER:**  
 Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, a Connecticut priest and founder of the Knights of Columbus, is currently being considered for sainthood.

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## Catholic TRANSCRIPT

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### SEPTEMBER 2020

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair  
**PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER**

Father Matthew Gworek  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Karen A. Avitabile  
**EDITOR**

Shelley Wolf  
**STAFF WRITER**

Aaron Joseph  
**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Jenny Pomicter  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt  
 Archbishop Leonard P. Blair  
 Father Michael Casey  
 Joe Pisani  
 Jack Sheedy  
**CONTRIBUTORS**

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Patrick M. O'Brien  
**PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Elizabeth Martin Solsburg  
**VICE PRESIDENT/EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**

# A New Friend



**KAREN AVITABILE** is the editor of the *Catholic Transcript*.

I have a new friend, someone by my side, who is with me 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He's someone I can talk to and trust, and he helps to guide me when I need it. He doesn't talk to me in person but I can feel his presence. He's Father Michael J. McGivney, a faithful friend.

Father McGivney, a popular Connecticut priest who may be best known for the founding of the Knights of Columbus in 1882, is on his way to becoming a saint. In May, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney that involved an unborn child in the United States who was healed in utero of a life-threatening condition. The intercession occurred in 2015. Read about the parents who experienced the miracle of their son after reaching out to Father McGivney for assistance in this issue of the *Transcript*.

Another miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession will be required for his canonization. To pray for his canonization, turn to **page 15**.

Need a favor or a prayer answered? We can all pray to Father McGivney for his intercession. By visiting his website, **fathermcgivney.org**, you can read petitions reported through Father McGivney's intercession and record any favors you have received from him as well.

While researching Father McGivney's life, I learned a lot about this incredible man who died at such a young age during an influenza epidemic, probably from complications of pneumonia and tuberculosis, in 1890. In only a short period of time, Father McGivney empowered the laity to serve the Church, he ministered to his parishioners during a time of anti-Catholic sentiment and notably he formed the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Church in New Haven to provide spiritual support for Catholic men and financial resources for families who were impoverished when husbands and fathers died young.

Born in Waterbury and having died in Thomaston, Father McGivney's whole life and ministry as a priest were devoted to the people of Connecticut. I was fortunate to walk in Father McGivney's steps around Connecticut thanks to assistance from Father James Sullivan (Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury), Father John Paul Walker (St. Mary's Church in New Haven) and Father Joseph Crowley (St. Thomas Church in Thomaston and Immaculate Conception Church in Terryville). You too can take your own Father McGivney pilgrimage. Check out our guide on **page 16**.

Look to upcoming issues of the *Transcript* for further coverage related to Father McGivney's life and his beatification. May Father McGivney not only become part of your life but may he also grow into a new friend.



Father Michael McGivney in a studio rectory setting, dressed in a long cassock, seated in high-backed upholstered chair, opened book in his lap.



# A VENERATED HERO

**T**o be, or not to be, that is the question." So wrote Shakespeare so long ago. What does it mean for anything to "be"? What does it mean for me to "be"? Why do I exist and what is my ultimate destiny? Jesus Christ not only answers these questions; he is the answer, and in that faith we, as members of his body, the Church, make our pilgrimage through history, awaiting the fullness of time. It is a difficult pilgrimage, a way of the cross, but at every step God raises up heroes, role models, to give us courage and to show us the way to victory. We call those heroes saints.



**ARCHBISHOP LEONARD P. BLAIR** is the 13th bishop of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Saints are often thought of as belonging to distant times and places, and it is certainly true that over two millennia there have been many, each of whom has a story to tell, an example to give. Those whose witness was so forceful that it led to a devout public following even after their deaths often wind up being publicly recognized and venerated by the whole Church after a thorough examination of their lives and after signs from heaven confirming their presence there.

We in Connecticut, in the Archdiocese of Hartford, are now very blessed to learn that one of our own, a parish priest of our own, is going to be numbered among the Church's publicly acknowledged and venerated heroes and heavenly intercessors. I'm referring of course to Father Michael J. McGivney, soon to be Blessed Michael J. McGivney.

Why "Blessed" and not "Saint" Michael J. McGivney? Beatification is an intermediate step toward a full declaration of sainthood. Beatification means that a person can be publicly venerated in those localities and among those faithful with a religious devotion to the person in question. Further miracles can lead to an act of canonization, whereby veneration is no longer just warranted but required, and is extended to the whole Church. Even though Father McGivney is not yet canonized, he is sure to be venerated far beyond Connecticut since he was the founder of the Knights of Columbus with an international membership.

Father McGivney was born in Waterbury in 1852 and died in Thomaston in 1890 after an illness resulting from something we are now experiencing — namely, a pandemic. He lived at the time of a great priest shortage in Connecticut as thousands of Catholic immigrants poured into the state from Europe, often facing harsh anti-Catholic hostility. Like many priests back then whose lives were hard and who were exposed to the diseases of the poor, Father McGivney died young.

Father McGivney is rightly famous as the founder of the Knights of Columbus, but his biography is aptly entitled *Parish Priest* because that was the chief focus of his life. As for the Knights, his purpose was to found a fraternal benefits society for the sake of Catholic parishioners — families whose breadwinners often died very young and very poor with no insurance or public welfare benefits. Over time, the Knights have become a powerful force for charity and for religious and civic virtue.

Much more can and will be said of Father McGivney in days to come. For now, I would simply conclude with these words from the final chapter entitled "A Priest's Life" of the biography I mentioned earlier: "Two aspects of McGivney's inner life never wavered ... from his earliest days to his last. The first was his faith in Catholicism. For better or for worse, he did not question, he did not surmise. He believed — with impervious conviction. McGivney's second lifelong characteristic was an abiding empathy, with a spirit of kindness extraordinary in his time or any other. It was just that which made him an apostle of Christ."

As I write this, we, as a society, are experiencing not only the ravages of a pandemic but also hatred for the symbols of religion, Catholicism in particular, whether by vandalism directed against religious statues or churches or attacks against the Church in general. Through the intercession of Father McGivney, may we be strengthened in the "impervious conviction" of our Catholic faith and be granted a share of his abiding empathy towards all. 🕊



Archbishop Leonard P. Blair offers prayers for the Chrism Mass held in June at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. Joseph MacNeill, who was ordained as a transitional deacon the next day, assists.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

# UN HÉROE VENERADO

**"S**er o no ser, esa es la pregunta". Así escribió Shakespeare hace mucho tiempo. ¿Qué significa que algo "sea"? ¿Qué significa para mí "ser"? ¿Por qué existo y cuál es mi destino final? Jesucristo no solo responde estas preguntas; él es la respuesta, y en esta fe nosotros como miembros de su cuerpo, la Iglesia, hacemos nuestra peregrinación a través de la historia, esperando la plenitud de los tiempos. Es una peregrinación difícil, un camino de la cruz, pero a cada paso Dios levanta héroes y modelos a seguir para darnos valor y mostrarnos el camino a la victoria. A esos héroes los llamamos santos.



**EL ARZOBISPO LEONARD P. BLAIR** es el 13er obispo de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford.

A menudo se considera que los santos pertenecen a tiempos y lugares distantes, y es cierto que a lo largo de dos milenios ha habido muchos, cada uno con una historia para contar y un ejemplo para dar. Aquellos cuyo testimonio fue tan contundente que llevó a un público devoto, incluso después de su muerte, muchas veces terminan siendo reconocidos públicamente y venerados por toda la Iglesia después de un examen exhaustivo de sus vidas y después de las señales del Cielo que confirman su presencia allí.

Nosotros en Connecticut, en la Arquidiócesis de Hartford, ahora somos muy bendecidos al saber que uno de nosotros, un párroco, será contado entre los héroes e intercesores celestiales reconocidos y venerados públicamente por la Iglesia. Me refiero, por supuesto, al Padre Michael J. McGivney, que pronto será el Beato Michael J. McGivney.

¿Por qué "Beato" y no "San" Michael J. McGivney? La beatificación es un paso intermedio hacia una declaración completa de santidad. La beatificación significa que una persona puede ser venerada por estar verdaderamente en el Cielo, especialmente en aquellas localidades y entre aquellos fieles que tienen una devoción religiosa a la persona en cuestión. Otros milagros pueden conducir a un acto de canonización, por el cual la veneración ya no solo se justifica, sino que se requiere, y se

extiende a toda la Iglesia. Aunque el Padre McGivney aún no es canonizado, seguramente será venerado mucho más allá de Connecticut, ya que fue el fundador de los Caballeros de Colón con una membresía internacional.

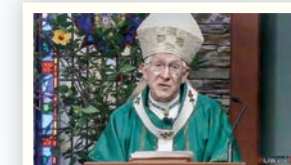
El Padre McGivney nació en Waterbury en 1852 y murió en Thomaston en 1890 después de una enfermedad que resultó de algo que ahora estamos experimentando, a saber, una pandemia. Vivió en el momento de una gran escasez de sacerdotes en Connecticut cuando miles de inmigrantes católicos ingresaron al estado desde Europa, frecuentemente enfrentando una severa hostilidad anticatólica. Como muchos sacerdotes en aquella época cuyas vidas eran difíciles y que estaban expuestos a las enfermedades de los pobres, el Padre McGivney murió joven.

El Padre McGivney es justamente famoso como el fundador de los Caballeros de Colón, pero su biografía se titula acertadamente *Párroco* porque ese fue el enfoque principal de su vida. En cuanto a los Caballeros, su propósito era fundar una fraternidad benéfica por el bien de los feligreses católicos: familias cuyos proveedores a menudo morían muy jóvenes y pobres sin seguro o beneficios sociales. Con el tiempo, los Caballeros se han convertido en una fuerza poderosa para la caridad y la virtud religiosa y cívica.

Mucho más se puede decir y se dirá del

Padre McGivney en los próximos días. Por ahora, yo simplemente concluiré con estas palabras del capítulo final titulado "La vida de un sacerdote" de la biografía que mencioné anteriormente: "Dos aspectos de la vida interior de McGivney nunca flaquearon ... desde sus primeros días hasta los últimos. El primero fue su fe en el catolicismo. Para bien o para mal, no cuestionó, no supuso. Creía con una convicción impenetrable. La segunda característica de toda la vida de McGivney fue una empatía duradera con un espíritu de bondad que fue extraordinario en su tiempo y en cualquier otro. Fue exactamente eso lo que lo convirtió en un apóstol de Cristo."

Mientras escribo esto, nosotros como sociedad estamos experimentando no solo los estragos de una pandemia sino también el odio por los símbolos de la religión, el catolicismo en particular, ya sea por vandalismo dirigido contra estatuas religiosas o iglesias o ataques contra la Iglesia en general. Pidamos para que a través de la intercesión del Padre McGivney, seamos fortalecidos en la "convicción impenetrable" de nuestra fe católica y se nos otorgue una parte de su constante empatía hacia todos. 🕊



El Arzobispo Leonard P. Blair celebra la Misa dominical televisada en ORTV.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH





## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *AT A GLANCE*

**27**  
Archdiocesan  
elementary  
schools

**4**  
Archdiocesan  
high schools

**5**  
Private  
high schools

**2**  
Private  
elementary  
schools

# REOPENING PLAN: Schools Prepare for a Safe Return

*Catholic schools to resume in-person learning with flexible plans and safety precautions.*

Story by **SHELLEY WOLF**

Catholic students across the archdiocese are heading back to school this fall, but it won't look quite the same as the usual first day of school.

After departing last March to learn online remotely from home, students will be returning to Catholic school buildings with some new measures — staff must wear masks for everyone's protection, desks will be spread farther apart, lines will be taped to the floor to indicate appropriate social distancing and custodians will be sanitizing daily.

"Our priority is to bring students back in a safe and healthy environment — one that is safe and healthy for our students and safe and healthy for our staff," says Val Mara, adjunct to the vicar for education, research and policy in the Archdiocese of Hartford's Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis.

Archdiocesan administrators say educating and forming Catholic students is best done in-person, so they favor a return to in-person instruction this fall, wherever possible. They hope to reopen most Catholic schools five days a week for in-classroom learning. However, a few schools may begin the school

year with a hybrid plan that mixes several days of in-classroom lessons with a few days of online learning at home.

"Our hope is that all schools will go back five days," Mara says. "But if a school feels they can't do that, they may adopt a hybrid model. Some might have students back a few days a week, but I think that's the exception. The majority is planning to go back five days; one or two schools may start a hybrid plan due to limited space."

Some Catholic schools plan to start classes the last week of August, while others will begin the first week of September, depending on local school district busing schedules. Administrators won't have definitive enrollment figures until opening day. While the details of each school's plans may differ, all will be following guidelines issued by the state of Connecticut, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and OEEC.

### THREE PLANS CONSIDERED

Over the summer, OEEC asked each Catholic school in the archdiocese to develop three plans, which could come into play anytime throughout the school year. The first was for students and staff to return for in-person instruction five days a week. The second called for reducing school capacity through a hybrid model, with students in class two or three days a week, then learning remotely from home online for the rest of the week. The third was for all remote learning.

With three models, most schools can begin the school year

▲ A reconfigured classroom at East Shoreline Catholic Academy in Branford shows fewer desks per room, greater spacing to promote social distancing and open windows to increase ventilation in preparation for the school's reopening in September.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

in-person and quickly switch to hybrid or remote learning plans as needed to respond to any possible uptick in COVID-19 cases in Connecticut or in their school. Additionally, "If someone tests positive," Mara says, "schools are prepared to close for two to five days to disinfect, but that would be temporary."

No matter how the pandemic unfolds, all Catholic schools are staying flexible and are committed to educating students according to their high standards of academic excellence coupled with an emphasis on the spiritual development of every child. This holistic approach, Mara says, works best in-person in school buildings where students, faculty and friends are physically present.

"Right now, we must be cognizant not just of academic performance but also students' social and emotional needs," she explains. "There's a critical relationship between students and teachers, not to mention the opportunity for students to come together and to pray together."

Father Michael Whyte, the new vicar for education, evangelization and catechesis, who started in the role on June 15, wholeheartedly agrees. "Catholic education is focused on the whole person, and that's why it's exceptional as a form of education," he says. The focus on mind, body and spirit, he explains, sets Catholic schools apart from other schools.

All Catholic school reopening plans, known as "Return to In-person Instruction Plans," were submitted to OEEC by July 31. The plans included 27 archdiocesan elementary schools, two private elementary schools, four archdiocesan high schools and five private high schools.

Plans were prepared by each school's "Return to In-Person Instruction Team" made up of administrators, teachers, parents, school board members and local health district representatives.

"What this office and this staff are perfectly in the position to do is to provide schools with the best practices," Father Whyte says. "We become a clearinghouse so they can pick what works best for them and their student bodies and they can move forward."



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Custodian Gilbert Palma tapes an area around a desk to indicate each student's personal space at East Shoreline Catholic Academy in Branford.

### PREPARING TO OPEN

One school, St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, had hopes for a return to campus starting with freshman orientation on Aug. 31, followed by a gradual phase-in of all grades by Sept. 8. "I'm looking forward to bringing them back and having the campus come alive again," says Cary Dupont, school president. "Everyone misses the interaction."

"We also recognize that some members of our school community might not be able to come back," he adds, noting that some students might live with grandparents who require greater protection and some faculty members might have undergone medical treatments. "We still need to have options for those members of the community. We might have some livestream remote instruction going on at the same time."

Whatever happens, he says, "Our number one priority is the health, safety and well-being of our students and faculty. Our goal here is to create an environment that is safe and respects all of the guidelines that the CDC has put out there."

According to Dupont, that will require everyone to wear masks, sanitize hands multiple times a day and social distance to the extent possible. It will also mean more frequent sanitizing of classrooms, bathrooms, handrails and doorknobs. And the school will work with its local health district to monitor students and faculty for potential symptoms.





David Elliott from the Archdiocese of Hartford Office of Communications videotapes, from left, Laura McCaffrey, adviser to the vicar for finance and technology, Father Michael Whyte, the new vicar for education, evangelization and catechesis, and Val Marra, adjunct to the vicar for education, research and policy. The video introduces school principals to the archdiocesan schools' new administration team and shares Father Whyte's vision for the new school year.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

**“CATHOLIC EDUCATION IS FOCUSED ON THE WHOLE PERSON, AND THAT’S WHY IT’S EXCEPTIONAL AS A FORM OF EDUCATION.”**

– Father Michael Whyte

The cafeteria, auditorium or library might be used for classes, he adds. Good fall weather might allow for outdoor classes and lunch outside. “It makes sense to utilize the campus to protect kids during the course of a normal school day,” he says. “We’re also increasing the number of lunch waves so not as many people will be in the room at the same time.”

DuPont is hoping the school’s positive experience with remote learning last spring will be even better this fall if students must learn from home. “We had very good remote learning in the spring, in my opinion, which exceeded expectations,” he says. “We’re an iPad school, so we did the move to home without missing a beat. The difference now is that 25 percent of our students will be new incoming freshman, so they’re not familiar with our technology platforms.”

To get new students up and running quickly, the school offered “technology days” for two weeks in July for cohort groups of six students at a time. The small groups limited their exposure and served as a trial run for the fall.

**PARENTS WEIGH IN**

Cheryl Panzo, principal of East Shoreline Catholic Academy in Branford, which serves pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, polled parents to see their comfort level for a return to in-school instruction or whether they would prefer remote learning.

“Based off early results,” she said, with three-quarters of the results in, “I would say 90 percent of parents want to return to in-school instruction.” The degree of parents’ support for a return surprised her, but not the fact that most recognize the benefits of in-person teaching. “It’s important to see the kids and make that connection with them. We’re excited to bring the new technologies and all that we learned last spring into the classroom.”

At ECSA, which expects an enrollment of 200 students this fall, those technologies include use of Google Meet, Google Classroom and Seesaw. “We’re still preparing for hybrid and remote learning,” she adds. “A lot of people are thrilled that we did better than public schools in remote

learning, with no delays in getting up and running.” Classes are scheduled to begin on Sept. 1. Students from kindergarten through eighth grade will be wearing masks, as will adults. “We understand there will be a lot of showing kids how to use masks,” Panzo says. With class sizes of 15 to 18 students, the school will still break them into smaller cohorts or groups to maximize social distancing.

There will be less furniture in the classrooms, no area rugs and added hand sanitizing stations as well as signage for traffic flow reminders. Classrooms will have taped areas so students have a visual sense of their personal space. Lunch will be eaten in classrooms rather than in the cafeteria. And there will be an isolation room where students with possible COVID-19 symptoms can wait until their parents pick them up.

“We anticipate doing a lot more social and emotional learning, especially in the first few months through our religion classes,” Panzo adds. Students will be encouraged to “use their faith as a vessel to let them express how they are feeling and sort through all of their concerns and their anxieties, which they will definitely have from not being in school and then coming into a school that looks a lot different than what they’re used to.”



**ONLINE LEARNING LAST SPRING** — LEFT: Kelsea Tefoe, a student at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, participates in an online class through ZOOM from her home on March 18, the first day of remote learning last spring. RIGHT: From her dining room home office, Noemi Jalbert, head of the World Language Department at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, prepares to instruct students remotely in Spanish last spring.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. PAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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# God Wants Us to Meet With Him, *Every Day*



AUXILIARY BISHOP JUAN MIGUEL BETANCOURT is the ninth auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

**T**he need to encounter God is a foundational desire for all who believe in Jesus, since no one goes to the Father except through him. (cf. John 14:6) We were created to share in communion with our Heavenly Father. (cf. CCC 2205, 2565) That is why, when we sometimes cannot find God, when we experience something we could call spiritual silence, we might feel lost and confused, and even cut off from his love. Where is he? Why does God not talk to me? Have I done something that displeases him?

If we do not encounter God as frequently as we would like, we should not think he rejects us, or that he is hiding from us. We know God wants to meet with us every day. (cf. Ps 27:7-10; Jer 49:15) However, we should ask ourselves: Am I really looking for God? Am I seeking him in the right places?

Many times, “the silence of God” is a way to draw us closer to him. His silence can help us become strong in our faith and hope and, therefore, more capable of loving him in the presence of others. Reading his words in sacred Scripture is an excellent way to re-encounter God. (cf. Heb 4:12) The Bible is the written revelation of himself to us. (CCC 101, 124) The Gospels are an excellent reminder of how we can keep a strong communion with our Father.

Jesus spent much time in prayer, in dialogue with his Father. (Lk 5:16) He also reminded us to keep our conversation with our Father sincere and simple. (Mt 6:5-13) Jesus prayed

**“AS A DEER LONGS FOR FLOWING STREAMS, SO MY SOUL LONGS FOR YOU, O GOD. MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR GOD, FOR THE LIVING GOD. WHEN SHALL I COME AND BEHOLD THE FACE OF GOD?”**

— Psalms 42:1-2

with his disciples, taught us to pray and to encounter God in the community as well. (Mt 18:20, Col 3:16-17; 4:2)

Sometimes, we impose on ourselves “God’s silence” when we are not able to stop, look inside and realize that he is always with us. (Mt 11:28, 28:20) Taking some time to reflect on everything that God does for us and how his loving providence keeps us in his care is another way to find him.

Do we share our life enough so we can see God in others? (1 Jn 4:7-8, 18-21) Building new relationships and renewing old ones at home, school, work, church or in the neighborhood are ways we keep us close to God. (Jn 15:13) *Where there is love, God is there.*

Reading frequently God’s word, praying with attention and simplicity and engaging others in Christian charity will keep us in our Father’s presence as we show his Son’s love to others with our words and actions. ☪



Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt presents the candidates for ordination to the priesthood and transitional diaconate to Archbishop Leonard P. Blair in June.

## Dios Quiere que Nos Reunamos con Él Todos los Días

**L**a necesidad de encontrarnos con Dios es un deseo fundamental para todos los que creen en Jesús, ya que nadie llega al Padre sino por él (cf. Juan 14: 6). Fuimos creados para compartir en comunión con nuestro Padre Celestial (cf. CIC 2205, 2565). Es por eso que, cuando a veces no podemos “encontrar” a Dios, cuando experimentamos algo que podríamos llamar silencio espiritual, podemos sentirnos perdidos y confundidos, e incluso alejados de su amor. ¿Dónde está Dios? ¿Por qué Dios no me habla? ¿Habré hecho algo que le desagrada?

Si no encontramos a Dios con la frecuencia que quisiéramos, no deberíamos pensar que él nos rechaza o que se está escondiendo de nosotros. Sabemos que Dios quiere encontrarse con nosotros cada día (cf. Salmo 27: 7-10; Jeremías 49:15). Sin embargo, deberíamos preguntarnos: ¿Estoy buscando realmente a Dios? ¿Lo estoy buscando en los lugares apropiados?

Muchas veces el ‘silencio de Dios’ es una forma de acercarnos a él. Su silencio puede ayudarnos a fortalecer nuestra fe y esperanza y, por lo tanto, hacernos más capaces de amarlo en presencia de otros. Una excelente manera de reencontrarse con Dios es leyendo sus palabras en la Sagrada Escritura (cf. Hebreos 4:12). La Biblia es la revelación escrita de Él mismo hacia nosotros (CIC 101,124). Los Evangelios son un excelente recordatorio de cómo podemos mantener una comunión cercana con nuestro Padre.

Jesús pasó mucho tiempo en oración, en diálogo con su Padre (Lucas 5:16). También nos recordó de mantener sincera y simple nuestra conversación con nuestro Padre (Mateo 6:5-13). Jesús oró con sus discípulos, nos enseñó a orar y también a encontrarnos con Dios en la comunidad (Mateo 18:20, Colosenses 3: 16-17; 4:2).

A veces nos imponemos “el silencio de Dios” cuando no nos detenemos, miramos hacia adentro y nos damos cuenta de que él siempre está con nosotros (Mateo 11:28; 28:20). Otra forma de encontrarnos



con Dios es tomarnos un tiempo para reflexionar sobre todo lo que él hace por nosotros y cómo su providencia amorosa nos mantiene bajo su cuidado.

¿Compartimos nuestra vida lo suficiente para poder ver a Dios en los demás? (1 Juan 4:7-8; 18-21). Construyendo nuevas relaciones y renovando otras ya establecidas en el hogar, la escuela, el trabajo, la iglesia o el vecindario es otra forma de mantenernos cerca de Dios (Juan 15:13). *Donde hay amor, allí está Dios.*

Leer con frecuencia la palabra de Dios, orar con atención y sencillez, y encontrar a otros en la caridad cristiana nos mantendrá en la presencia de nuestro Padre al mostrar el amor de su Hijo a los demás con nuestras palabras y acciones. ☪



EL OBISPO AUXILIAR JUAN MIGUEL BETANCOURT es el noveno obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford.



El obispo auxiliar Juan Miguel Betancourt recibe una bendición del recién ordenado Padre Jaime Maldonado-Avilés.





PHOTO COURTESY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## Father Michael J. McGivney's intercession moves him closer to sainthood.

Story by KAREN A. AVITABILE

**M**ichelle and Daniel Schachle were excited to learn they were expecting their 13th child. They announced it to the rest of the family on Christmas Day 2014. An ultrasound on Dec. 31 revealed a chromosome problem. Further testing revealed a serious condition. Here are comments from the couple.

*"The doctor sat us down and showed us the diagnosis and said there was zero hope of him surviving. There really was no hope for him."*

This was the diagnosis Michelle and Daniel Schachle received on Feb. 25, 2015, for their unborn son, whose DNA test confirmed a chromosome abnormality when large amounts of fluid caused extreme swelling in the baby's tissues and organs, a condition known as fetal hydrops. Furthermore, the child also had Down syndrome. It would take a miracle to save this child.

*"The doctor said in 30 years, she'd never seen a child survive who had hydrops."*

Already parents to 12 children, the Schachles, of Dickson, Tenn., were frightened and did not know what to do. The doctor tried reassuring them that they should not feel guilty about terminating the pregnancy. The condition could cause complications, even death, for the mother, if she carried the child full term. They were told inducing labor would be the best option.

*"I was terrified of having a stillbirth and I would get sick and have 12 other children to take care of. I did struggle with having a baby die inside of you. I was very afraid."*

Instead, the Schachles, who are devoutly Catholic and had worked with the Tennessee Right to Life, did not take the advice of their doctor and decided they would not abort their child.

*"I just kept remembering her saying there just was no hope. I was a little bit angry with the doctor because, as a dad, I was supposed to protect our child."*

Within 48 hours, the Schachles, who already had a devotion to Knights of Columbus founder Father Michael J. McGivney and were members of the Father McGivney Guild to support the cause for his sainthood, turned to him for help. They began praying to him and engaged all their family, friends and Knights of Columbus members to pray to Father McGivney to intercede with God to save their son. At the time, the couple knew Father McGivney needed a miracle attributed to his intercession — they had been saying the canonization prayer for years — and decided then to name the baby Michael (instead of Ben, which had been planned) if he was saved.

*"He's (Father McGivney) answered prayers for us before but nothing like this. He was our St. Anthony. We came to understand he loved our family."*

A month later, the Schachles continued to pray, pray, pray and said the Rosary at all stops during a Knights of Columbus incentive-sponsored pilgrimage to Rome, Spain and the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. Daniel, a member of the Knights since 1994, is the general agent for the Knights' insurance program in three states. He was also Grand Knight of Council 8083 at his home parish, St. Mary Church, in Savannah, Tenn.

*"I think we were hoping on this trip that God would help Michael. We felt God was healing us during this journey. ... We felt he was revealing his will to us."*

Four days after returning home, Michelle went back to the doctor's office for another ultrasound and learned that the fluid buildup visible on the last ultrasound had disappeared. Although their baby was not healed of Down syndrome, the parents said they were blessed and only wanted the hydrops cured. They felt that having a Down syndrome child would be a great addition to their family.

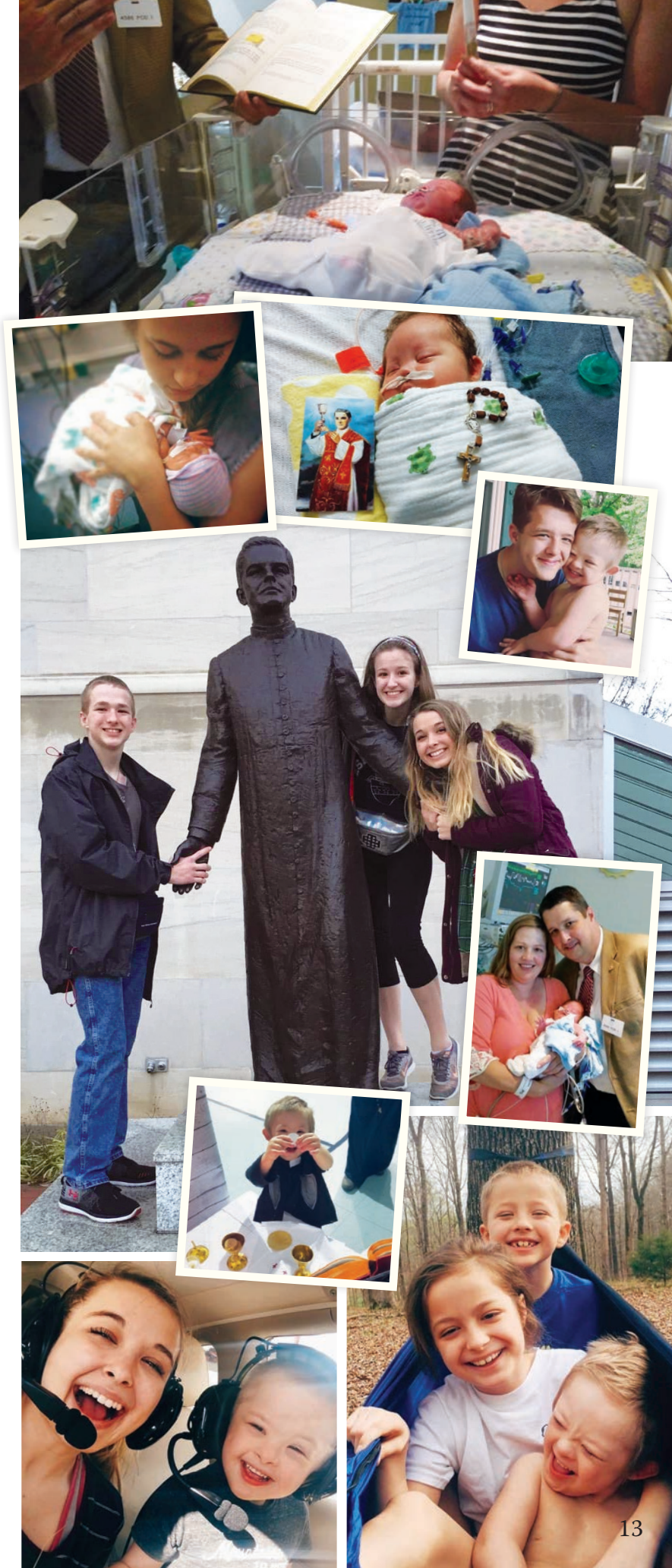
*"We see ourselves as the beneficiaries of millions of prayers. We were given the grace to handle it in the right way."*

The baby, Michael McGivney Schachle, was born on May 15, 2015, more than two months premature and only weighing three pounds. Like many babies born with Down syndrome, he had a heart condition, which required surgery, and spent 71 days in the hospital. Six months later, Michael nearly died because of a respiratory illness and remained in the hospital another six weeks.

*"We are amazed at God's mercy. It was undeniable how this was all set up by God."*

Today, Michael, called Mikey for short, is a healthy, high-functioning 5-year-old boy who is loved by his whole family. He is very cute, but his parents say "he can't be trusted." He is home-schooled at the family's home, intentionally named Father McGivney Academy, and adored by his siblings.

*"He's the family mascot. He's the best thing that ever happened to us. We thank God for his mercy and for the gift of our son we can hold every day." ☺*



Photos Courtesy of the SCHACHLE FAMILY



# McGIVNEY CAUSE MILESTONES



## I. Cause Opens

Dec. 18, 1997 – Father McGivney's Cause for Sainthood officially opened in Hartford by Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin. Father McGivney is given the title "Servant of God."



## 2. Diocesan Review Completed

March 6, 2000 – Closing of diocesan investigation into Father McGivney's life, holiness and virtues.



## 3. Positio Submitted to Rome

Summer 2002 – A 1,000-page document (Positio) laying out the case for Father McGivney's cause is presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican.



## 9. Pope Francis Praises Father McGivney's Vision

Feb. 2020 – Pope Francis tells the K of C Board of Directors that the Order has been faithful "to the vision of your founder, Venerable Michael McGivney, who was inspired by the principles of Christian charity and fraternity to assist those most in need." Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori presents Pope Francis with a copy of *Parish Priest* in Italian.



## 8. Miracle Investigated

Sept. 2017 – Results of an investigation into a possible miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney is sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

## 7. Pope Benedict XVI Cites 'Exemplary American Priest'

April 2008 – During his visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, Pope Benedict XVI cited the "remarkable accomplishment of that exemplary American priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus."



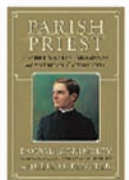
## 4. John Paul II Commends K of C and Founder

Oct. 2003 – In a message to the Knights of Columbus, St. John Paul II praised the Order and its founder: "In fidelity to the vision of Father McGivney, may you continue to seek new ways of being a leaven of the Gospel in the world and a spiritual force for the renewal of the Church in holiness, unity and truth."



## 5. Biography Published

July 2006 – *Parish Priest: Father McGivney and American Catholicism*, a biography by historians Douglas Brinkley and Julie Fenster, is published by William Morrow/Harper Collins.



## 6. Declared Venerable

March 15, 2008 – Confirming Father McGivney's heroic virtue, Pope Benedict XVI declared him a "Venerable Servant of God." The decree states, in part, "Concerning the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love both toward God and neighbor... they existed to a heroic degree in the Servant of God Michael McGivney, Diocesan Priest and Founder of the Fraternal Order the Knights of Columbus."



Stories by KAREN A. AVITABILE

# Who is Father McGivney?

The eldest of 13 children, Father Michael J. McGivney was born on Aug. 12, 1852, to Patrick and Mary Lynch McGivney in Waterbury, who had emigrated from separate towns in Ireland during the 19th-century wave of Irish immigration. Six of their children died in infancy or childhood.

The young Michael attended Waterbury schools but left school at age 13 in order to work in a local spoon-making department of a brass mill. His father was a molder in a Waterbury brass mill. At age 16, Michael, who had been thinking about the priesthood, left the factory to pursue seminary studies at

the College of St. Hyacinthe in Quebec. He later studied at Our Lady of Angels Seminary in Niagara Falls, N.Y., and then the Jesuit-run St. Mary's College in Montreal.

In 1873, upon the death of his father, he returned to Waterbury and stayed with his family for a time. He later entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md., on a scholarship, where he completed his priestly studies. He was ordained on Dec. 22, 1877, and, a few days later, said his first Mass at Immaculate Conception Church (now the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church) in Waterbury in the presence of his mother.

His first assignment was assistant pastor at St. Mary's Parish in New Haven, the city's first parish. He served here from 1877 to 1884 and founded the Knights of Columbus with a small group of

Catholic men in the basement.

In 1884, he became pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston and its mission parish, Immaculate Conception Church in Terryville. Today, both churches are part of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish.

On Aug. 14, 1890, two days after his 38th birthday, Father McGivney fell ill during an influenza epidemic and died of pneumonia. Studies indicate that the pandemic may have been caused by a coronavirus.

Upon his death, Father McGivney was buried in the old St. Joseph Cemetery in Waterbury in his family's plot. People from around Connecticut attended his funeral. On March 29, 1982, 100 years after Father McGivney formed the Knights of Columbus, his mortal remains were reinterred to a polished granite sarcophagus at the rear nave of St. Mary's Church in New Haven.

## Prayer for the Canonization of Father McGivney

*God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. 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 your venerable servant Father Michael J. 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. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.)*

FOUNDING VISION BY ANTONELLA CAPPUCCIO/PHOTO COURTESY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## The Cause for Sainthood

For Brian Caulfield of the Knights of Columbus, serving as vice postulator for Venerable Father Michael McGivney's cause for sainthood since January 2012 has "enriched his faith."

"I feel Father McGivney is really a friend I can turn to" he says. "I feel he's someone with me."

Residing in Wallingford and a member of Most Holy Trinity Parish, Caulfield interviewed the Schachles regarding the intercession of Father McGivney. Furthermore, he has reviewed reports of answered favors by people who prayed for Father McGivney's intercession before God. Many of these are recorded on the Father McGivney Guild website, [fathermcgivney.org](http://fathermcgivney.org).

Two possible miracles in the past had been investigated by the Vatican but were not approved.

The cause for sainthood was opened by the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997. In 2008, Father McGivney was declared a Venerable Servant of

God by Pope Benedict XVI.

This past May 27, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree of the Congregation of the Causes of Saints recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney. The pope's action means that he can be declared "Blessed," the step prior to sainthood. Father McGivney's beatification Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford has been set for Oct. 31. Another miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession will be required for his canonization as a saint.

Caulfield regularly reviews [fathermcgivney.org](http://fathermcgivney.org) for possible miracles. If a person does not have a computer and wants to report a possible miracle, call 203.752.4087.



## Launching an International Lay Movement

As curate of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Father McGivney realized men were leaving the faith and joining secret societies and came up with the idea to establish a lay, fraternal organization dedicated to helping men and their families with spiritual and temporal needs: to strengthen religious faith and to provide for the financial needs of families overwhelmed by illness or the death of the breadwinner, which often meant children being taken away from their mother.

The order's primary objective was to dissuade Catholics from joining secret societies. He gathered a small group of men in the basement of St. Mary's Church and established the organization on March 29, 1882.

Today, the Knights of Columbus is made up of nearly two million members worldwide. The Knights' international headquarters in New Haven consists of four towers that symbolize the order's worldwide principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Father McGivney's desire to ensure the practice of Catholicism would not diminish influenced his two younger brothers, Patrick and John, to follow in his footsteps to become priests and to serve the Knights as supreme chaplains.



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

## THE STORY CONTINUES ...

The Father McGivney story continues in the *October Transcript*. Hear from priests in the Archdiocese of Hartford who have a special devotion to Father McGivney and how they keep his spirit alive.



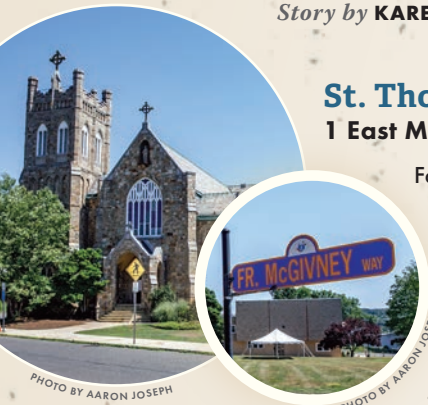
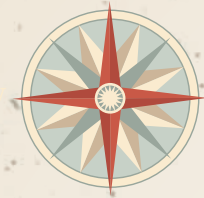
## JOIN THE FATHER MCGIVNEY GUILD

To register for a free membership in the Father McGivney Guild, visit [fathermcgivney.org](http://fathermcgivney.org) and click on "About the Guild" at the top of the page. The Guild publishes a quarterly newsletter and offers a weekly Mass for the intentions of members.



# Follow in the Footsteps of Father McGivney

Story by KAREN A. AVITABILE



## St. Thomas Church 1 East Main St., Thomaston

Father McGivney served as pastor of St. Thomas Church, now part of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Thomaston. A Father McGivney Way sign stands in front of the Church.



## Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Formerly Church of the Immaculate Conception  
74 West Main St., Waterbury

This was Father McGivney's native parish. He was baptized, confirmed and received elementary training in the parish. He also said his first Mass here after his ordination in Baltimore, Md., where he completed his priestly studies in St. Mary's Seminary. Inside the rectory is an official statue of Father McGivney presented to Monsignor John J. Bevins, pastor from 1991 to 2014, on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on May 15, 2008.



## Statue of Father McGivney

Downtown Waterbury, at the intersection of Grand and Meadow streets

This monumental bronze statue stands high upon a granite pedestal and depicts Father McGivney holding a copy of the Gospels in his left arm as he lifts his right hand toward heaven. The four polished sides of the pedestal exemplify a principle of the Knights of Columbus: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. It was erected in 1957.



## Knights Of Columbus International Headquarters 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven

Outside the order's headquarters, a tableau of three bronze statues captures the vision and mission of the founder. Father McGivney, referred to as the protector of Christian family life, is shown welcoming a widow and her children. The 23-story headquarters and four exterior towers symbolize the Knights' principles: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

## St. John Fisher Seminary 894 Newfield Ave., Stamford

A stained-glass window depicting Father McGivney was dedicated in 2009 at St. John Fisher Seminary.



## Wooden Stairs to St. Thomas Cemetery 55 Altair Ave., Thomaston

Father McGivney would use a horse and buggy to travel to St. Thomas Cemetery and then climb concrete stairs to enter, since the Altair Avenue entrance did not exist then. Father McGivney would have buried many people in the cemetery. One of those people was Father Eugene Gaffney, the first pastor of St. Thomas Church, whom Father McGivney took over for. The two priests were friends. In the past, Father James Sullivan, rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury, and Knights cleared the stairs. To access them, go to the southern end of the cemetery and look for the Dennis Murphy stone with the Knights of Columbus logo on it. Then, continue heading south toward the woods. To drive to the stairs, take Pleasant Street before Railroad Avenue Annex. Today, Father Sullivan, who maintains the stairs, climbs them once a week to think about Father McGivney.



## Railroad Museum of New England 242 East Main St., Thomaston

This Victorian train station was built in 1881 by the Naugatuck Railroad to serve the Thomaston community. Presumably, Father McGivney would have taken the train to other parts of Connecticut. The station is also adjacent to the original location of St. Thomas Church, where Father McGivney served. The church, torn down in 1967 because it was too small to serve the community, was rebuilt in its current location. A marker showing the exact spot of the church is located somewhere in the wooded area.



THOMASTON TERRYVILLE

WATERBURY

## Father Michael J. McGivney Memorial Boulevard Street sign on Grand Street, Waterbury

It was renamed Father Michael J. McGivney Boulevard in 2004.



NEW HAVEN

## Railroad Hill Road 135 feet from Washington Street, Waterbury

This area was the homestead of the McGivney family. It is listed on the 1922 city zoning maps. Holy Land can be seen in the background and a power station is located to the left. The old homestead is now surrounded by industry in the area.



## Father Michael J. McGivney Cancer Center 2080 Whitney Ave., Hamden

Donated by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, a heroic-size statue of Father McGivney stands in the front of the center. It was sculpted by Stanley Bleifeld.

## Knights of Columbus Museum 1 State St., New Haven

Father McGivney Gallery inside the Knights of Columbus Museum traces the priest's early life in Waterbury, his call to the priesthood, his parish work at St. Mary's Church and his death while pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston. The adjacent reliquary room contains his vesture, the cassock he was buried in and other artifacts. It was recently announced the museum will be the site of the new Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center.



## Immaculate Conception Church

Now part of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish  
170 Main St., Terryville

When Father McGivney was pastor of St. Thomas Parish in Thomaston, he also cared for the Immaculate Conception Mission in Terryville, 3.5 miles from St. Thomas. It was a taxing horse-and-buggy commute to celebrate Mass on Sundays, but he did it every week. A panel on the altar, far left, features Father McGivney. There is also another painting of Father McGivney in the church, similar to the one that hangs in St. Thomas Church.



## Old St. Joseph Cemetery Hamilton Avenue and Silver Street, Waterbury

Father McGivney was buried here for 92 years, until 1982 when he was moved to St. Mary's Church. Headstones for his parents, Patrick and Mary, two brothers (died in 1928 and 1939) who were priests and succeeded Father McGivney as Knights Supreme Chaplains, three sisters and an infant brother still remain. The Knights of Columbus placed a dedication footstone here for Father McGivney. The cemetery was established in 1859.



NORWICH

## Sacred Heart Church 57 West Town St., Norwich

Father McGivney is memorialized at Sacred Heart Church, where his face is featured on a blue-green diamond background at the center of one of the doors, with the Knights of Columbus emblem located at the center of the adjacent door.

## St. Mary's Church 5 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven

Father McGivney served as parochial vicar at St. Mary's Church from 1877 to 1884. In 1882, he established the Knights of Columbus in the basement church hall. One hundred years later, on March 29, 1982, the centennial founding of the Knights of Columbus, the re-entombment of Father McGivney was performed in St. Mary's Church. His remains were placed in a sealed, double bronze coffin within a polished granite sarcophagus at the rear of the Church. People from around the world visit St. Mary's to see Father McGivney's tomb and to pay tribute to the priest.





# A Saint Among Us



**FATHER MICHAEL CASEY**  
is the director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

The Archdiocese of Hartford was uniquely blessed this past spring with the announcement that one of our priests, Father Michael McGivney, will be beatified. This is another step along the way toward his canonization, at which point he will be “raised to the altars” as an example for universal veneration among the Christian people. A saint, and from our own diocese.

In the first chapter of John’s Gospel when Phillip tells his friend Nathanael about Jesus, Nathanael responds, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Maybe there have been those who have said, “Can anything good come from Waterbury?” Well, one of the soon to be newest Blessed of the Church certainly did. This brings home for us the reality that saints are not meant to come from somewhere else. They come from right here. They don’t belong to far-off lands any more than they belong in the midst of our families and communities.

As a priest, Father McGivney gave himself tirelessly to the service of God’s people. In particular, through his founding of the Knights of Columbus, he sought to provide for the Christian formation of local men and the material support of widows and orphans. This is the very call of Jesus Christ, which this simple parish priest did in the way most readily apparent to him in his pastoral circumstance.

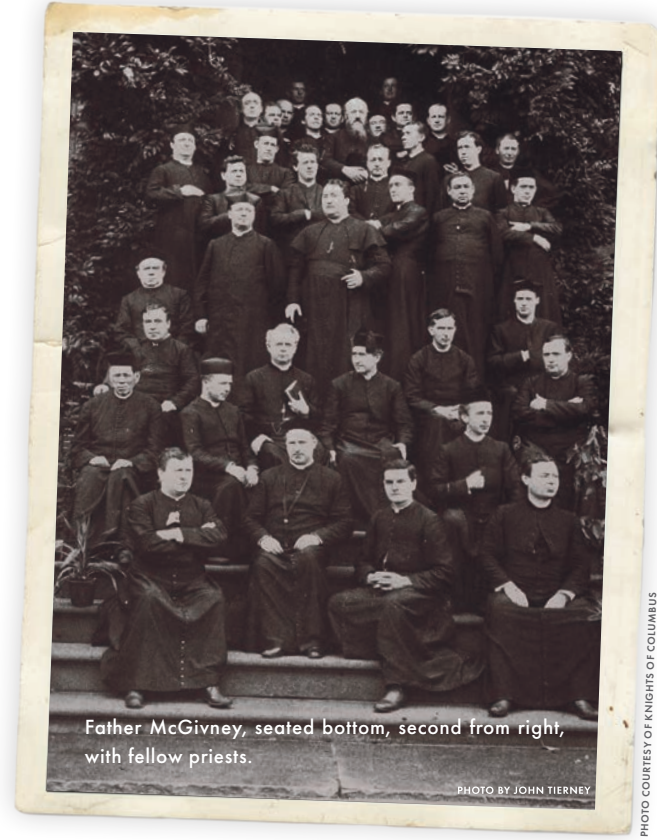
Today’s priests may not be called to found international organizations, nor may they one day be raised to such



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

**MEET THE SEMINARIANS —**  
Get to know the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Hartford who discuss their faith lives, what inspired them to answer God’s call, which saints they look to when in need and much more by visiting [youtube.com/archdioceseofhartfordct](https://www.youtube.com/archdioceseofhartfordct).

**ARE YOU DISCERNING A CALL TO THE PRIESTHOOD, RELIGIOUS LIFE OR THE DIACONATE?** If you think God may be calling you, do not be afraid. Visit [archdioceseofhartford.org/vocations](https://www.archdioceseofhartford.org/vocations) or contact the Office of Vocations, 860.761.7456, to learn more.



Father McGivney, seated bottom, second from right, with fellow priests.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

honors as will shortly be given to Father McGivney. But the call to holiness and apostolate is not less present. This young man said yes to the call of God that so many before and after have similarly heard and responded to. He became another Christ in the time and place in which he lived.

When a young man today hears and courageously answers God’s call, he likewise gives himself to serve as the hands, feet and voice of Christ today. He agrees to bring Christ to the people of 21<sup>st</sup>-century Connecticut, the same way Father McGivney brought him to the people of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Connecticut.

From Waterbury has come a future Blessed and, God willing, a saint. Father McGivney is a sign for us that God’s call is present among our own families and cities and within our own parishes and schools. Saints come from here, not from somewhere else. Following Father McGivney’s example, we pray that many, many more young men may say yes to God’s call and become *Alter Christus*, other Christs, for the world today. ☪

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# A Day Filled with Joy

Photos by AARON JOSEPH

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair ordained our newest priest — Father Jaime Maldonado-Avilés — on June 27 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, during a Mass attended by family and clergy from around the archdiocese. On the same day, Matthew Collins and Joseph MacNeill were ordained to the order of deacons by the archbishop.

“We pray with all our hearts and souls that they will always be good clergy after the heart of Christ, and that God will continue to bless us with many more fine priests and deacons,” Archbishop Blair said.



▶ Newly ordained Deacon Matthew Collins, Father Jaime Maldonado-Avilés and Deacon Joseph MacNeill pause for a photo with Archbishop Leonard P. Blair before taking time to celebrate with family.

▶ Deacon Joseph MacNeill embraces Archbishop Leonard P. Blair after being ordained to the transitional diaconate.



▶ Deacon Matthew Collins embraces Archbishop Leonard P. Blair after being ordained to the transitional diaconate. Deacons Matthew and Joseph will continue their theological studies as they prepare for ordination to the priesthood in 2021. Meanwhile, Deacon MacNeill has been appointed deacon at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, West Simsbury. Deacon Matthew Collins has been appointed deacon at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Manchester.



▶ The ordination Mass has just begun for, left to right, Joseph MacNeill, Matthew Collins and Jaime Maldonado-Avilés.



▶ Father Jaime Maldonado-Avilés blesses a family outside of St. Anthony Church, New Haven, after he just celebrated his first Mass as a priest.

▶ Jaime Maldonado-Avilés kneels in reflection.



▶ Newly ordained, left to right: Deacon Matthew Collins, Father Jaime Maldonado-Avilés and Deacon Joseph MacNeill.

▶ Congratulating Deacon Matthew Collins is Monsignor Thomas Ginty.

▶ Father Jaime Maldonado-Avilés incenses the altar at St. Anthony Church in New Haven to begin his first Mass as a newly ordained priest. He has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Manchester, in addition to his appointment as priest chaplain in the campus ministry program at East Catholic High School, Manchester.



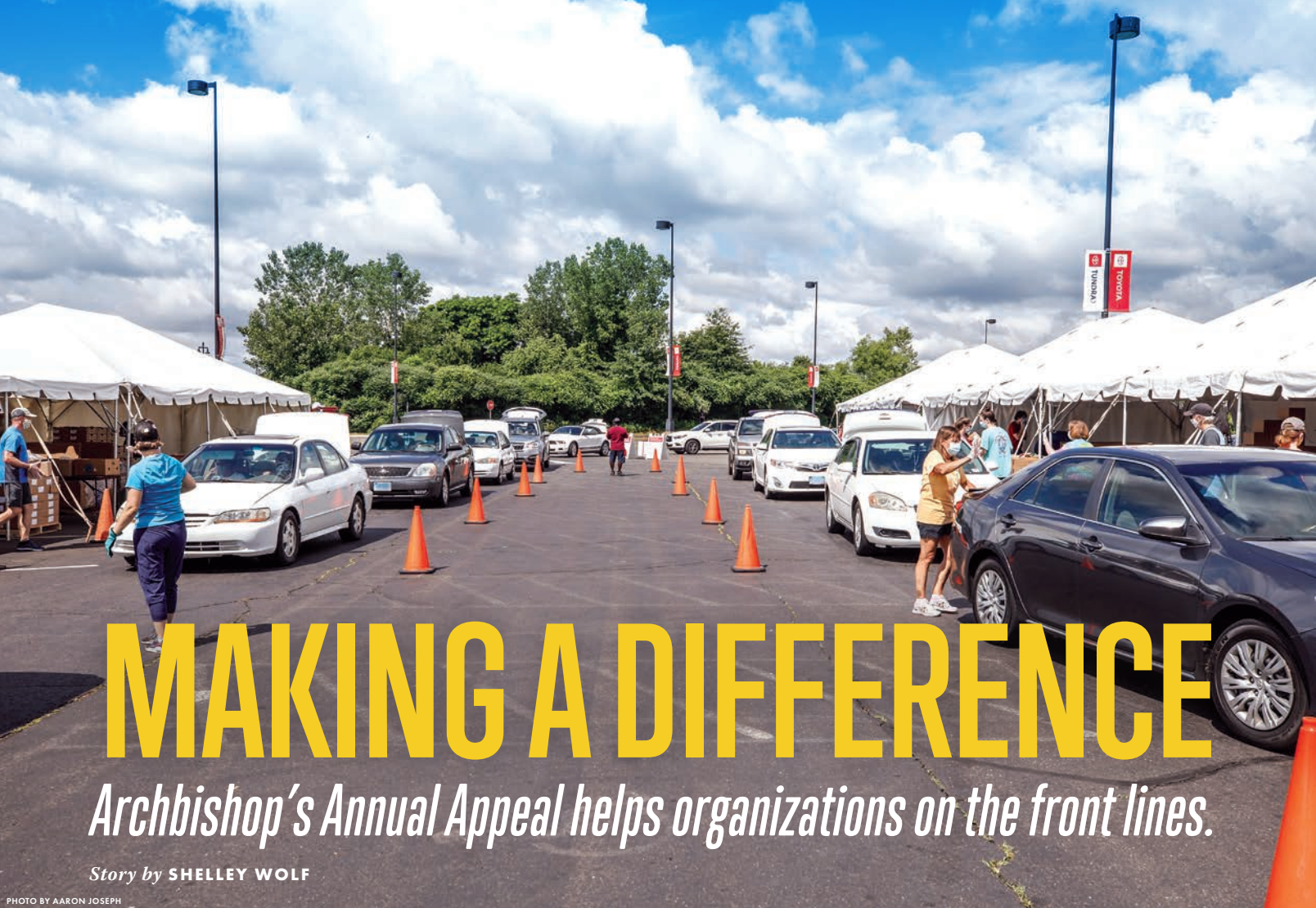
▶ Joseph MacNeill, Matthew Collins and Jaime Maldonado-Avilés are prostrate together during the recitation of the Litany of Saints.

▶ Father Jaime Maldonado-Avilés poses for a picture with his family and Archbishop Leonard P. Blair after being ordained.



▶ WATCH A VIDEO OF THE ORDINATION MASS AT [YOUTUBE.COM/ARCHDIOCESEOFHARTFORDCT](https://www.youtube.com/archdioceseofhartfordct)





# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps organizations on the front lines.*

Story by **SHELLEY WOLF**

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Foodshare set up a drive-thru distribution site at Rentschler Field in East Hartford to give out bags of food.

**T**he coronavirus pandemic has made life more challenging for the neediest people, and has driven many unemployed families to seek assistance for the first time. In response, charitable organizations that benefit from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are on the front lines serving more people than ever before by providing the basic necessities of food and shelter to God's people.

One of those organizations, Foodshare, began a drive-thru distribution site at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. "When the unemployment began, we saw a big increase in demand," says Al Marino, corporate and community giving manager at Foodshare. "We knew we had to do something more."

Foodshare received permission to use Rentschler Field as a drive-thru distribution site. "As soon as we made the announcement, the floodgates opened,"

Marino says. "There was a huge demand but the community also responded with donations."

Before COVID-19, Foodshare was already supplying food to its 270 partner programs, such as food pantries, and at multiple mobile Foodshare sites. But most of the organization's food had been donated by retailers, and now the food supply was breaking down.

Volunteers, typically retirees and corporate employees, also followed stay-at-

home orders. "So we had to be able to buy food to be able to fill the need," Marino says, adding that the employees worked overtime, aided by temp workers in the warehouse.

In the first seven weeks, Foodshare saw 53,000 cars at Rentschler Field and gave away 1.5 million pounds of food. At its peak, the food bank provided food to more than 2,500 households. It also continued to supply food to its partner pantries and meal programs, though some did close temporarily and are now reopened.

Foodshare receives donations from many sources, including from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. "It really helps greatly," Marino says. "Every bit helps, small and large. It ensures that people who've come to rely on us for food for their families can count on us."

## HOME DELIVERIES

Guilford Interfaith Volunteers, which serves seniors and those with special needs, has also adapted its services. The group partners with the town of Guilford, supplying volunteers for Meals on Wheels, Friendly Visiting, Guilford Food Bank and Charlie's Closet used medical equipment. All were affected by the pandemic.

"When the senior center closed, the first selectman reached out to us," Marta Slattery, director of Guilford Interfaith Volunteers, says. "We knew more people would need food delivered to their homes."

Guilford Interfaith was delivering 2,100 meals a month through Meals on Wheels; it added another 1,000 meals in response to the senior center closure and pandemic. To discourage in-person contact, the 95 current volunteers drop off meals into coolers outside clients' doors, ring the bell and wave.

Though many volunteers are seniors, most stayed on to help and 150 newcomers called. "It has been really heartwarming," Slattery says. "The town has rallied together. The seniors feel cherished and protected."

To replace social interaction, Guilford Interfaith expanded its Friendly Visiting program to do wellness checks by phone, checking in on 300 seniors. It also partnered with the town to create Guilford Cares, a grocery shopping service for the elderly. Guilford Food Bank is still going, with senior volunteers staying safely in back putting together orders.

Slattery acknowledged help from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. "We are very thankful for the support," she says. "We've had to give out more meals but haven't had to worry about the funding. We do feel blessed that we've been able to help."

## TO-GO CONTAINERS AND LUNCH BAGS

The Community Kitchen of Torrington has also seen an increase in demand for its soup kitchen services, along with new and different clientele.

"Once the unemployment kicked in, our numbers dropped and then started going up again," Lisa Hageman, executive director, says. Some of the seniors who previously enjoyed the social support were replaced by the unemployed, local businessmen and the undocumented. Of



Archbishop Leonard P. Blair presents a check to Bob Donahue, president of the board, and Carol Marra, vice president, both of Guilford Interfaith Volunteers, during a dinner last fall.

## There's Still Time to Give

Because of COVID-19, the Archbishop's Annual Appeal has provided more financial support to local charities this year. This past May, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair responded to the emergency situation created by the pandemic by allocating and disbursing \$322,000 to 91 community-based organizations. These groups provide direct assistance through soup kitchens, food pantries, food banks and shelters. This was in addition to the more than \$1 million that was already distributed in the fall of 2019 to more than 225 local organizations.

This year's campaign for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is still in progress with a goal of \$10 million in donations. There's still time to give. Make checks payable to: Archbishop's Annual Appeal, P.O. Box 28, Hartford, CT 06141-0028. For more information, visit [archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal](http://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal).



PHOTO COURTESY OF GUILFORD INTERFAITH VOLUNTEERS

Sherry Martini, an office volunteer at Guilford Interfaith Volunteers, answers the phone two days a week from a makeshift office in the breezeway.









# Helping Victims of Crime and Their Families

## Catholic Charities provides support, resources for trauma clients.

Story by JACK SHEEDY



**TO LEARN MORE** about Catholic Charities, call 1.888.405.1183 or visit [ccaoh.org](http://ccaoh.org).

of violence are usually our most marginalized and underserved population due to unaddressed mental health needs, disabilities and financial hardships. “I am part of this initiative because I believe in the power of individual empowerment and healing together as a community,” she says.

For case management, the bulk of what the jobs entail is to refer and advocate for the client to receive services that are existing in the community, Bridges says, adding, “For example, if the client comes in and they’re homeless, then we would assist them to get connected to a service that helps them with their homelessness.”

Both Bridges and Hyman have worked with trauma sufferers for many years. “Helping people get to the next place where they will be successful in life is the

reason why I got into social work in the first place,” says Bridges, who has been in social work about 20 years.

Says Hyman, “Part of what the trauma does is that when they go into an experience now, they think that they’re going through an experience that they had in the past that was traumatic. We try to have them recognize that

they’re OK right now, that what’s happening now is not directly happening to them but what their memory is triggering them to think.”

**Donations to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal represent about**

**10%**

**of revenue that Catholic Charities receives.**

VOCA is a 1984 federal act that provides grants to agencies like Catholic Charities to help victims of crime and their families. A contract with the Office of Victims Services enables Catholic Charities to provide psychotherapy and case management services to eligible clients, Bridges adds.

The program provides holistic supportive services for crime victims and offers advocacy, emotional support, help finding outside resources and more. “Trauma never really goes away,” Bridges says. “It’s an experience. It happens. You learn to manage.”

Esther Greene, former behavioral health clinical director, says VOCA services are necessary because victims

**V**ictims of crime are also victims of trauma, says Fred Hyman, a clinician with the Victims of Crime Act Case Management Program, now entering its second year as a service of Catholic Charities.

“Trauma is stored in the memory, and it’s stored in the body,” Hyman says. “Something in the current reality might trigger that memory, and then the emotional system takes over and hijacks the more rational parts. What we try to do is help them calm down the emotional part so that the rational part can kick in again and orient them to the current reality.”

The VOCA is related to the mission of Catholic Charities because its goal is to strengthen families and individuals and inspire people to achieve their fullest potential, Belinda Bridges, clinical director, says.

“So in terms of providing this service, the clients are coming to us because they need help,” she says. “We’re working to help them so they can reach their fullest potential. It’s just another way where we can continue to help the community.”

# The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation to Begin Awarding Grants for COVID-19 Relief as Forward with Faith Campaign Resumes

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

**The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation has been reviewing grant applications for its newly formed COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund and will award grants to parishes and ministries at the end of September.**

Since mid-March, The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation has partnered with the Archdiocese of Hartford to provide immediate fundraising and communications support to Catholic parishes, schools and ministries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Foundation’s relief efforts included the creation of an Emergency Response Fund that has raised more than \$500,000 in pledged commitments for the operational and emergency needs of parishes, schools and social service providers as of July.

“Thanks to the generous support we’ve received from our board, local corporations and foundations, and Catholic families across the Archdiocese in a matter of weeks, we can now begin distributing emergency grants to parishes and ministries with urgent needs,” says Bill McLean, acting executive director of The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation.

The Foundation’s website states that emergency grants – generally ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 – will be awarded based on demonstrated financial need and will support unexpected losses or emergency need for services relating to COVID-19.

“Timely, effective response is our objective,” says McLean. “While we have limited resources, we will do everything in our power to rapidly address the urgent needs of our parish communities.”

## FORWARD WITH FAITH

**As emergency grants begin flowing to needy parishes and ministries, the Foundation is also preparing to resume its first-ever Archdiocesan-wide capital campaign, Forward with Faith.**

Prior to mid-March, the campaign had raised more than \$20 million in pledged commitments that enabled the Foundation to distribute more than \$3 million in grants to Catholic parishes and schools; Catholic Charities; the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis; and other ministries.



Due to the pandemic, the Foundation has adapted the campaign plan to accommodate the parishes and ministries, including giving greater flexibility to parish leadership in identifying their local funding needs, making more frequent grant disbursements and employing virtual fundraising and communications strategies. Thanks in large part to direct support from Foundation personnel in the weeks following the COVID-19 outbreak, the majority of the 131 parishes are now livestreaming Masses and nearly every parish is now offering online giving for parishioners.

“These initiatives have significantly improved communications with parishioners and have positively influenced weekly offertory collections,” says Jim Smith, chairman of The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation. “While our priorities shifted abruptly over the near term toward emergency response efforts due to the health crisis, the longer-term needs of our parish communities are now greater than ever. We will continue to make the necessary strategic adjustments to our campaign plan so we may confidently move forward in close partnership with our parishes. Together, we will build on the strong foundation of support made possible by our generous supporters so we may continue making critical investments in the future vibrancy of our Church.”

**TO LEARN MORE** about the Emergency Response Fund and the **Forward with Faith** Campaign, visit [hartfordbishopsfoundation.org](http://hartfordbishopsfoundation.org).



# Feast of the Archangels, Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

**FEAST DAY: SEPT. 29**

If you have ever wondered which saint to pray to for speedy help, the three archangels cover all the bases. They each have their own specific role in Scripture: Michael guards, Gabriel lights and Raphael guides.

St. Michael, whose name means “Who is like God?,” is the heavenly leader who cast out the fallen angels in the war of heaven. His name is the foil to Lucifer’s sin of pride in making himself like God. Michael is mentioned as the “great prince” in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

St. Gabriel is most famously known in Scripture for announcing to the Virgin Mary that she would bear the Messiah. He also announces the birth of John the Baptist to Zachariah.

St. Raphael is named in the Book of Tobit, where he acted as a disguised guide and protector to Tobias and his family. His name means “God heals.”

## How well do you know the archangels?

1. Which angel is the patron saint of travelers and happy encounters?
2. Which angel is regarded highest of the angels?
3. Which angel is often depicted with a trumpet?

**Answers:** Based on his activities in the Book of Tobit and the Gospel of John, St. Raphael is considered the patron saint of travelers. Within the hierarchy of angels, St. Michael is the leader of God’s army. Many believe St. Gabriel’s horn will trumpet Judgment Day and the return of Christ.

## St. Raphael Parishioners Reflect on Patron Saint

Story by **SHELLEY WOLF** | Photos by **AARON JOSEPH**

Parishioners at St. Raphael Parish in Milford have a new but fervent dedication to their patron saint.

St. Raphael Parish in Milford was formed in 2017 with the merger of the former St. Gabriel and St. Ann parishes. Today, they exist as two worship sites but part of one parish, under the leadership of one pastor, Father John Brinsmade.

This year, to honor the saint’s feast day, parishioners were asked to reflect on their new parish name and joined community as well as their connection to their patron saint. Here is just a sampling of their responses:

“We have retained a powerful, angelic presence, which was ours as the linked parishes of St. Ann and St Gabriel. We now have two saints in our corner,” says parishioner Ann Eden.

“There is something special to me personally about St. Raphael, ‘one of the seven angels who stand before the Glory of the

Lord.’ Isn’t that where we would all love to stand? And through his intercession that may be possible. St. Raphael, pray for us.”

“What does St Raphael mean to me?” asks Patricia Pavlucik. “Healing is not only physical, but mental, emotional, spiritual. Especially today, St. R’s help is most needed as our society goes through the pains of the effects of illness, distancing, political breakdowns and so many other things that have made conditions so difficult. St. Raphael, please help us to reconcile as a nation.”

Patricia Black comments, “As for our parish and the St. Raphael name, I feel we are there for others in many ways, and perhaps we could do more and bring people comfort, joy and prayers.”

“The journey for me being a member of St. Raphael Parish has not only greatly influenced my Catholic behavior but also my compassion for one another,” says Louis Servideo.



St. Gabriel Church is the second worship site of St. Raphael Parish, Milford.



St. Ann Church, dedicated in 1962, is part of St. Raphael Parish, Milford.



This stained-glass window in St. Ann Church shows Sts. Ann and Joachim presenting Mary in the Temple, fulfilling their promise to dedicate their long-awaited child to the Lord.

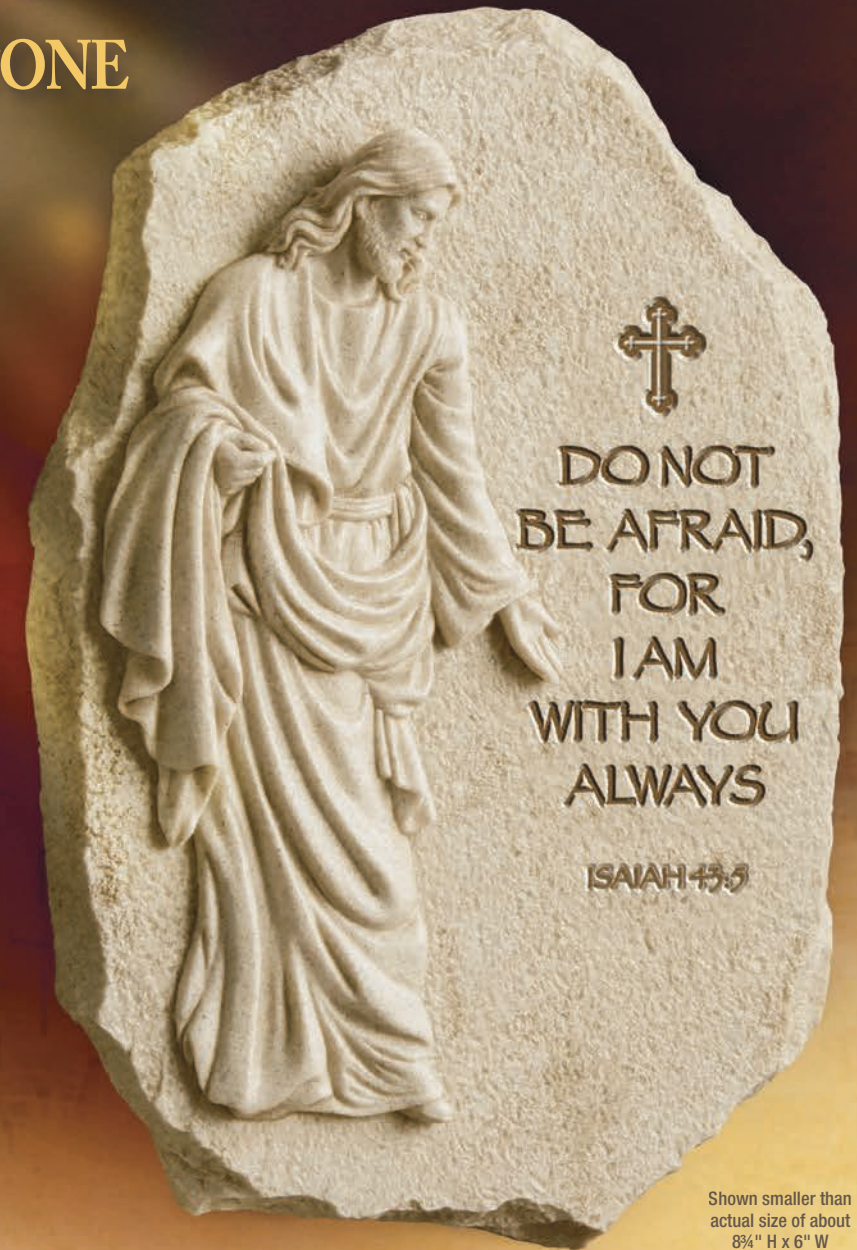
“I would say that I love that we are under his guidance as a parish family,” adds Rose Marie Marmolejo, “and pray that he watches over all of us, healing and caring for all within our families who are in need of his special protection.”

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SCRIPTURE BRING YOU  
HIS FAITHFUL PROMISE  
IN ENGRAVED LETTERING**

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# AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

## APPOINTMENTS

## OBITUARIES

Photos by AARON JOSEPH



**CORPUS CHRISTI** — St. Anthony Church in Prospect held a socially distanced parking lot service on Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The service consisted of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a parking lot procession (pictured here) and Benediction.



**STEUBENVILLE** — Typically during the summer, high school students travel to a regional site to participate in the Ohio-based Steubenville Youth Conferences. Due to the pandemic, the number of live conferences was reduced, with most parishes participating via livestream. St. Jeanne Jugan Parish in Enfield participated in one such conference livestreamed from Orlando, Fla. The youth and their adult leaders viewed and listened to the talks and sang the songs of praise to God that were streamed. At the time it was taking place in Orlando, Father John Golas, pastor, led his group in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction.



**FRASSATI** — Frassati New Haven, a young adult program sponsored by St. Mary Parish in New Haven, celebrated its patronal feast on July 4, the memorial of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. The event began with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at St. Joseph Church, followed by a COVID-safe light breakfast reception on the side lawn.



**BLESSING OF THE BIKES** — Priests in Waterbury, in collaboration with Knights of Columbus Bishop O'Reilly Assembly 101, sponsored a first-time blessing of the bikes atop Holy Land USA in June. Father John Mariano and Father John Lavorgna are pictured here blessing bikes of all shapes and sizes.



**OPENING MASSES** — LEFT: A screening team welcomes a fellow parishioner on the opening of Sunday Masses on the July 4 weekend at St. Justin-St. Michael Church, Hartford. RIGHT: Father Kingsley Ihejirika, pastor of St. Justin-St. Michael Church, offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He is assisted by Deacon Ramon Rosado. Though Sunday Masses have resumed in churches, many parishes, like St. Justin-St. Michael, are continuing to stream online.



**CHRISM MASS** — The high point of the ritual of blessing oils at a Chrism Mass is the consecration of the Chrism. On the left, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair is shown mixing oil with aromatic spices to make the Chrism. He is assisted by Father Matthew Gworek, Joseph MacNeill, Deacon Jaime Maldonado-Avilés (he was deacon before the ordination) and seminarian Colin Lane, with priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford looking on. On the right, Joseph MacNeill, Daniel Hackenjos and Matthew Collins are bottling one of the oils blessed by Archbishop Blair during the Chrism Mass to be used in the churches of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## THE ASIAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WORKSHOP

The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford continues its webinar series inspired by the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter against racism, "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love." On **Sept. 30**, 7 p.m., Father Joseph Cheah will present "The Asian-American Experience." Father Cheah is a professor of theology and religious studies at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford. This workshop will cover the historical background

of the Asian-American Catholic experience, distinguishing features of this community and xenophobia and anti-Asian racism in the time of COVID-19 crisis. Advance registration is required for all events and is available at [catholicsocialjustice.org](http://catholicsocialjustice.org).

## FRANCISCAN SPORTS BANQUET RESCHEDULED

The 35th annual Franciscan Sports Banquet and Silent Auction benefiting the Franciscan Life Center and Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care has been canceled for 2020. The next event will be **June 1, 2021**, at the Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville. All honorees are scheduled to return next year.

**The Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, S.T.D., has made the following appointments:**

■ **Rev. Mathieu Isaac**, parochial vicar, St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Manchester, appointed temporary administrator, St. Junipero Serra Parish, South Windsor, effective June 8, 2020.

■ **Rev. José R. Linares**, pastor, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, New Haven, appointed parochial vicar of St. Augustine Parish, Hartford, effective June 15, 2020.

■ **Rev. Hector G. Rangel**, parochial vicar, All Saints Parish, Waterbury, appointed administrator, Our Lady of Guadalupe, New Haven, effective June 15, 2020.

■ **Rev. Michael G. Whyte**, appointed vicar for Education, Evangelization and Catechesis of the Archdiocese of Hartford, effective June 15, 2020, in addition to duties as pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, West Simsbury.

■ **Very Rev. Steven R. Boguslawski**, appointed assistant chancellor of the Archdiocese of Hartford, effective, July 1, 2020, in addition to duties as vicar general and moderator of the curia.

■ **Most Rev. Juan-Miguel Betancourt, SEMV**, auxiliary bishop, appointed a vicar general of the Archdiocese of Hartford, effective July 6, 2020.

■ **Rev. John Gancarz**, appointed parochial vicar, St. John Bosco Parish, Branford, effective, July 15, 2020, in addition to his appointment as priest chaplain in the campus ministry program, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven.

■ **Rev. Eric M. Zuniga**, parochial vicar, St. John XXIII Parish, West Haven, appointed parochial vicar, All Saints/Todos los Santos Parish, Waterbury, effective July 15, 2020.

■ **Rev. Glen J. Dmytryszyn**, parochial vicar, St. John Bosco Parish, Branford, appointed parochial vicar, St. Gregory the Great Parish, Bristol, effective July 15, 2020, in addition to his appointment as priest chaplain in the campus ministry program, St. Paul High School, Bristol, and duties as director of the Pro-Life Ministry.

■ **Rev. Ricardo E. Borja**, parochial vicar, St. George Parish, Guilford, ap-

pointed parochial vicar of St. John XXIII Parish, West Haven, effective July 15, 2020, in addition to his appointment as priest chaplain in the campus ministry program, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven.

■ **Rev. Mr. Joseph MacNeill**, appointed deacon, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, West Simsbury, remaining in residence at the Pastoral Center, serving as a prefect under the direction of the Most Rev. Juan M. Betancourt, director of seminarians, effective July 15, 2020.

■ **Rev. Mr. Matthew C. Collins**, appointed deacon, St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Manchester, remaining in residence at the Pastoral Center, serving as a prefect under the direction of the Most Rev. Juan M. Betancourt, director of seminarians, effective July 15, 2020.

■ **Rev. Jaime Maldonado-Avilés**, newly ordained, appointed parochial vicar of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Manchester, effective July 15, 2020, in addition to his appointment as priest chaplain in the campus ministry program, East Catholic High School, Manchester.

■ **Rev. Dennis J. Vincenzo**, parochial vicar, the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury, appointed parochial vicar, St. George Parish, Guilford, effective Aug. 1, 2020.

■ **Rev. Frank J. Matera**, renewal of appointment as administrator, St. Mary's Parish, Simsbury, for an additional year, effective Aug. 22, 2020.

■ **Rev. Thomas Griffin-Smolenski, SJ**, assignment completed as parochial vicar, St. Gregory the Great Parish, Bristol, effective Aug. 31, 2020.

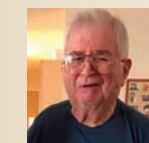
■ **Rev. Maurice J. Barry**, pastor, St. Gertrude Parish, Windsor, senior status, effective Sept. 1, 2020.

■ **Rev. Louis D. Cremonie**, chaplain, Manchester Memorial Hospital, in residence at North American Martyrs Parish, East Hartford, senior status, effective Sept. 13, 2020.

■ **Sister M. Clare Millea, ASCJ, JCD**, from assistant chancellor of the Archdiocese of Hartford to new assignment outside of the archdiocese.

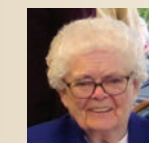
— REV. RYAN M. LERNER, CHANCELLOR, JULY 20, 2020

■ **Sister Mary Alexa Oleszczuk**, 95, a Felician sister for 77 years, died at Our Lady of the Angels Convent, Enfield, on March 30, 2020. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Sept. 27, 1924. Sister was accepted into Our Lady of the Angels Postulancy in Enfield in 1942 and professed perpetual vows in 1950. In preparation for the ministry of Catholic education, she received a bachelor of science in education from Fordham University in New York City. For more than 50 years, she taught in schools staffed by the Felician Sisters in New York and the New England states and Brazil. Her last parish assignment was at St. Joseph School, Rockville (Vernon).



■ **Deacon Gerald Poulin** died on April 11, 2020. He was born on May 8, 1937, and was ordained a deacon for the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1975. He moved away from Connecticut many years ago.

During his tenure at New Britain High School, he supported the football and track teams, as well as leading the French Club while teaching French and Latin.



■ **Sister Frances Tighe** (Sister Mary Carmella), 95, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, West Hartford, died at St. Mary Home in West Hartford on April 16, 2020. Born in Hartford, on March 28, 1925,

daughter of the late Thomas J. Tighe and Anna (Vaughan) Tighe, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on Feb. 20, 1948, and celebrated her profession of vows on Aug. 24, 1954.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree in education from Diocesan Sisters College, West Hartford, and a master of science degree in special education from Central Connecticut State University, New Britain. Sister taught for many years in the elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford, including 14 years at St. Joseph, Bristol, and six years at St. Francis Xavier, Waterbury. Her other assignments included her alma mater, Our Lady of Sorrows, Hartford. Her last years of formal teaching were spent at the Intensive Education Center, West Hartford.



■ **Deacon Dr. Anthony L. Dudzic** died on April 19, 2020, at his home. Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, on Oct. 18, 1930, to Katherine and Stanley Dudzic, he graduated from Villanova University and

Ottawa University Medical School. He practiced medicine as a psychiatrist for more than 40 years, living in Southbury, Weston, Vt., Scottsdale, Ariz., and Littleton, Co. He was ordained a deacon in 1978, and served the Church in three dioceses including St. Mary's parish in Littleton.



■ **Deacon Joseph Guzauckas**, 81, of Wethersfield, died on June 21, 2020. He was born and raised in New Britain and worked as an industrial salesman for many years. Later in life, he felt a calling to the diaconate and was ordained to the Archdiocese of Hartford in 2007. He served as Deacon "Joe" at Holy Spirit Church in Newington and was an honorary member in the 3rd and 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus.





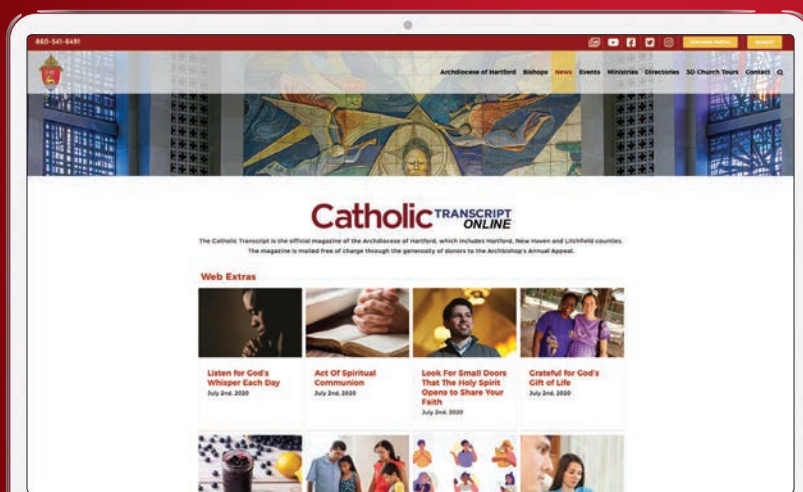
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