



PRAYER VIGIL FOR PRIESTS
ON THE EVE OF THE
BEATIFICATION
OF THE
VENERABLE SERVANT OF GOD
MICHAEL MCGIVNEY



His Excellency
Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford
Presider

Friday, October 30, 2020
7:00-9:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Church
New Haven

Opening Hymn

Be Thou My Vision



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart,
2. Be thou my wis - dom and thou my true word;
3. Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight;
4. Rich - es I need not, nor man's emp - ty praise;
5. Great God of hea - ven, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
be thou my ar - mour, be thou my true might;
thou my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heav'n's joys, O bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, by day and by night,
thou my great Fa - ther, and I thy true son,
thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my strong tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pre - sence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
raise thou me hea - ven - ward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.
High King of Hea - ven, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

Welcome Remarks

Most Rev. Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford

Opening Prayer

FIRST LESSON: FATHER McGIVNEY AS PARISH PRIEST OF ACTION AND COURAGE

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3a

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God, to comfort all who mourn; to place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes, to give them oil of gladness in place of mourning, a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.

The word of the Lord.

R/ Thanks be to God.

Reading

New Haven Daily Palladium

August 28, 1882

Father McGivney was responsible for ministering to inmates in the city jail. One inmate was 21-year-old Chip Smith, who — while drunk — shot and killed a police officer. Smith was convicted for first-degree murder and sentenced to be hanged. Father McGivney ministered to him daily, and, on the day of Smith's execution, the priest was filled with sorrow.

Just before he died, Smith comforted him:

“Father, your saintly ministrations have enabled me to meet death without a tremor. Do not fear for me, I must not break down now.”

**A High Mass at the Jail for the benefit
of the young man who has but four days to live
– His mother and sisters present –
Father McGivney's remarks**

As Chip Smith passed through the workshop at the jail yesterday morning to take his seat before the altar at the further end, he walked with a cheerful, elastic step, and the expression on his face gave no indication that he feared the fate to which he is doomed, nor that as the day of his execution draws near the shadow of the gallows brings terror to him. ...

Although the public had been informed that the attendance from outside the jail would be limited to the members of the choir of St. John's R.C. church who were to sing, people began to gather in the office of the jail as early as half past seven o'clock and at eight o'clock between fifty and seventy five were in waiting. Sheriff Byxbee arranged with Father McGivney, Smith's spiritual advisor, that the priest should have control of the attendance and the latter had advised the publication of the ruling that the number of persons admitted should be limited as stated above. Nevertheless, nearly everybody waiting was provided with a pass issued by Father McGivney and was admitted. From the time the prison door was opened to admit them, until half past eight, when the mass began, the visitors continued to arrive, a few at a time, until, including the choir, there were about 150 present.

The Mass was a high mass celebrated by Father McGivney with the assistance of the choir, which volunteered its services. ... None were more attentive to the service than was Smith [who had but four days to live]. He seemed entirely wrapped up in the office of the mass and to have neither his eyes nor ears for ought else; to him alone Father McGivney administered the sacrament.

At the conclusion of the mass Father McGivney turned to the congregation and in a voice broken with emotion, said: "Our gathering this morning is on a very solemn occasion. The service has been held expressly for the benefit of one individual. Under the circumstances I shall say but a very few words and detain you but a moment or two, that more time may be devoted to that one of whom I have spoken. I am requested by Mr. Smith to ask pardon for all faults he may have had and all offences he may have committed, and at his request I ask for the prayers of all of you, that when next Friday comes he may die a holy death. In saying that he does not care to live longer I am using his words. This resignation on his part shows that he is prepared for what is to come in a few days. I trust that all of you will offer up fervent prayer to the throne of grace that God will strengthen and prepare us to perform that awful duty which we shall be called upon to perform before this time next Sunday. To me this duty comes almost [as] a crushing weight. If I could consistently with my duty be far away from here next Friday I should escape perhaps the most trying ordeal of my life, but this sad duty is placed in my way by providence and must be fulfilled. If we receive your prayers, Mr. Smith and I shall be sustained by the supreme power in the hour of our great trial. I once again ask forgiveness for all the wrong-doing of which he has been guilty. He forgives all from the bottom of his heart, and I ask you for the aid of your prayers that he may be fully prepared for a happy death."

The services were thus closed. ... The sheriff added that hereafter Chip [Smith] will have no visitors excepting those bringing written permission from [Father McGivney].

Reflection

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Donnelly
Pastor, Sacred Heart Church
Southbury, Connecticut

Motet

Miserere mei Deus
William Byrd (1543-1623)

Miserere mei Deus
secundum magnam misericordiam tuam;
Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum
dele iniquitatem meam.

Have mercy on me, God,
according to your great kindness;
and because of your loving mercy,
blot out my guilt.

Prayer

SECOND LESSON: FATHER MCGIVNEY AS MODEL OF CO-RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 5:1-4

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved: I exhort the presbyters among you, as a fellow presbyter and witness to the sufferings of Christ and one who has a share in the glory to be revealed. Tend the flock of God in your midst, overseeing it not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

The word of the Lord.

R/ Thanks be to God.

Reading

The Columbiad

June 1900

Rev. Joseph G. Daley

This article, which appeared in the forerunner to Columbia magazine, is an account of the personality of Father McGivney and testimony to the high esteem in which he was held, offered by one of the earliest witnesses to the virtue of Father McGivney's life.

The Personality of Father McGivney Founder of the Knights of Columbus

In the annals of the priesthood of New England no name deserves brighter honor than that of Father Michael Joseph McGivney. His short life of thirty-eight years, closing in the summer of 1890, was yet rich in every sacerdotal virtue — the love of souls of the true alter Christus, the childlike piety of the Cure d'Ars, the zeal of Vincent de Paul for works of mercy, the unfatigued optimism of the associates of Ozanam — these traits, so precious in the sight of man and heaven, were clearly mirrored: in the soul of that good, simple, honest priest of Connecticut. His special vocation it was — and a high and reserved vocation too — to develop Catholic manhood, to bind into one conspicuous solidarity all the elements that make for the strength of character and so, indeed, to bring out that solidity of character — in other words, that Catholicity — prominently in its strength before the world. Thanks to his labors, the Society of the Knights of Columbus was organized in 1882. Its purpose was to create among Catholic laymen a confraternity which, while not being a religious society in the strict sense of the word, exacted of its members certain religious qualifications, that is to say, the open profession of the Catholic faith and filial submission to the Church in all matters of doctrine, discipline, and morals. The effect of the society of the Knights of Columbus has since been extraordinary; the Catholic layman had been brought to realize the preciousness of his birthright as a son of the Church; and Catholic citizenship, so long decried, so long pointed out as a menace to the country's institutions, has become indeed synonymous now with uprightness, piety, intelligence and social strength. The Knights of Columbus, by attracting to their ranks such integrity of moral principle, such elevation of mind and such loftiness of character, have dissipated the olden prejudices and caused the Catholic name to be everywhere honored.

I remember meeting Father McGivney at New Haven in 1883, the year after the first incorporation of the Knights... he was a man of extreme grace of manner in any society, but without any airs... I saw him but once; and yet I remember this pale, beautiful face as if I saw it only yesterday; it was "a priest's face," and that explains everything, it was a face of wonderful repose; there was nothing harsh in that countenance although there was everything that was strong; there was nothing sordid, nothing mercenary, nothing of the politician, nothing of the axe-grinder. Guile and ambition were as far from him as from heaven. To meet him was at once to trust him; children actually loved him; and the very old people of his neighborhood ... 'called him a positive saint and meant it. At the city jail wardens still hand down anecdotes of what Fr. McGivney said and did during visits which he paid the prisoners. ... A blind, aged man used to live by charity, but who was not a Catholic, went every Sunday to Mass at St. Mary's to hear "that voice." Non-Catholics found in Fr. McGivney a soul of immense sympathy which invited them strongly toward investigating the religious truths his lips proclaimed. ...

Rev. Richard Foley of Brooklyn, N.Y., who was a close seminary chum of Fr. McGivney, told me recently that the three points of character most noted in Fr. McGivney were his sense of orderliness, his depth of piety, and his fund of good humor. His taste for order was indeed remarkable. During his stay at Baltimore, the Sulpicians would not be content with anyone else for the post of Sacristan. His good humor too was often apparent; for everywhere that he is spoken of, his happy words, his genial utterances, weighing more than nuggets of gold, are still remembered, and still measured up. His piety too has been referred to. That piety crystallized itself in his immense charity. ...

He died without leaving any pecuniary debts; but he died also without owning a dollar: and the reason of it was that in his heart of charity he had given his last dollar away.

Reflection

Rev. Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P.
Director of the Father McGivney Guild
Vice Postulator of the Cause for Canonization

Hymn

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
arr. Virgil Thomson (1896-1989)

My Shepherd will supply my need;
the God of love supreme;
In pastures green you make me feed
beside the living stream.
You bring my wand'ring spirit back when I
forsake your ways;
And lead me for your mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death,
your presence is my stay;
One word of your supporting breath drives
all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise!
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come,
No more a stranger nor a guest;
but like a child at home.

Prayer

THIRD LESSON: FATHER McGIVNEY'S INTERCESSION

Gospel

John 4:43-54

∇ The Lord be with you.

R And with your spirit.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

R Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time Jesus left [Samaria] for Galilee. For Jesus himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his native place. When he came into Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, since they had seen all he had done in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves had gone to the feast.

Then he returned to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. Now there was a royal official whose son was ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, who was near death. Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." The royal official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus said to him, "You may go; your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and left. While the man was on his way back, his slaves met him and told him that his boy would live. He asked them when he began to recover. They told him, "The fever left him yesterday, about one in the afternoon." The father realized that just at that time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live," and he and his whole household came to believe. Now this was the second sign Jesus did when he came to Galilee from Judea.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Testimony

Daniel Schachle, PGK
Knights of Columbus General Agent
Father of Miracle Child Michael McGivney Schachle

Motet

I Have Longed for Thy Saving Health
William Byrd (1543-1623)

I have longed for thy saving health, O Lord:
and in thy law is my delight.
O let my soul live, and it shall praise thee:
and thy judgements shall help me.

Reflection

Most Rev. William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore
Knights of Columbus Supreme Chaplain

Intercessions

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff is for the Cantor and the second is for the Assembly. Both staves use a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are quarter notes, and the lyrics are written below the notes.

Cantor:
O - re - mus ad Do - mi - num.

Assembly:
Te ro - ga - mus au - di nos.

For all prison chaplains, may Father McGivney's example and intercession inspire them to serve more faithfully as apostles of Christ's love and mercy. **R**

In French: For all prisoners of spiritual, emotional, and psychological captivity, may the merciful intercession of Father McGivney grant them liberation and peace. **R**

In Portuguese: For all confessors, may the example of Father McGivney lead them to greater mercy and compassion for sinners. **R**

In Vietnamese: For all catechists, religious, deacons, priests, and bishops, may the joyful witness of Father McGivney inspire them to teach and preach the faith with joy, courage and zeal. **R**

In Spanish: For all seminarians and those discerning a vocation to the priesthood, may the life and example of Father McGivney enflame within them the gifts of perseverance, fidelity and holiness. **R**

In Tagalog: For all parish priests, may they follow in the example of Father McGivney in their outreach to the young and old, the widow and orphan, and to families in need. **R**

In Polish: For all of the intentions of those here present, those watching from afar, and of all the pilgrims who will visit the tomb of Father McGivney, for a miracle that will lead to his canonization. **R**

Our Father

EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Incensation Motet

O Salutaris Hostia
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

*O salutaris hostia,
quae coeli pandis ostium:
bella premunt hostilia,
da robur, fer auxilium.
Uni trinoque Domino
sit sempiterna gloria:
qui vitam sine termino
nobis donet in patria. Amen.*

O Saving Victim, opening wide
the gate of heaven to us below!
our foes press on from every side:
your aid supply, your strength bestow.
To your great name be endless praise,
Immortal Godhead, One in Three
O grant us endless length of days
when our true native land we see. Amen.

Adoration

The Holy Eucharist

William H. Harris (1883-1973)

Text: Douglas J.L. Bean

Him holy, in him abide.
Eternal soul, in him you hide
All your sin on God laid bare,
Receiving life he longs to share.

Him holy, in him abide,
O Christian souls, his body live,
Who in him to Father make
The sacrifice of Incarnate.

Him holy, in him abide,
Heaven home in him alive.
Holy love one body make,
Joying souls new blessing wake.

Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee

Edward Cuthbert Bairstow (1874-1946)

Jesu, the very thought of thee
with sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see,
and in thy presence rest.

BENEDICTION

Incensation Motet

Tantum Ergo
Fernand Laloux (1911-1970)

*Tantum ergo Sacraméntum
venerémur cernui!
Et antiquum documéntum
novo cedat ritui!
Præstet fides suppleméntum
sénsuum deféctui.
Genitóri, Genitóque
laus et jubilátio,
salus, honor, virtus quoque
sit et benedíctio!
Procedénti ab utróque
compar sit laudátio! Amen.*

Come, adore this wondrous presence;
Bow to Christ, the source of grace!
Here is kept the ancient promise
of God's earthly dwelling place!
Sight is blind before God's glory,
faith alone may see his face.
Glory be to God the Father,
praise to his coequal Son,
adoration to the Spirit,
bond of love, in Godhead one!
Blest be God by all creation
joyously while ages run! Amen.

Acclamation

V You have given them bread from heaven.
R Containing all sweetness within it.

Prayer

Benediction

Divine Praises

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.

**May the heart of Jesus,
in the Most Blessed Sacrament,
be praised, adored, and loved
with grateful affection,
at every moment,
in all the tabernacles of the world,
even to the end of time. Amen.**

Reposition

Recessional

Holy God We Praise Thy Name

The musical score is written on four staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are arranged in two columns, with the first column corresponding to the first two staves and the second column to the last two staves. The score includes repeat signs at the end of the third and fourth staves.

1. Ho - ly God we praise thy Name, Lord of all, we
2. Ho - ly Fath - er, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spi - rit,
bow be - fore thee; all on earth thy scep - ter claim,
Three, we name thee, while in es - sence on - ly One,
all in heaven a - bove a - dore thee; in - fi - nite thy
un - div - i - ded God we claim thee; then, a - dor - ing,
vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is thy reign.
bend the knee and con - fess the my - ster - y.

Lectors

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Prior, St. Mary's Dominican Community
Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development

Reverend Jeffrey Romans
Pastor, St. Bridget of Sweden
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Reverend Jaime Maldonado-Avilés
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Reverend Alvin J. LeBlanc
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Reverend José A. Mercado
Reverend Nathaniel C. Labarda
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