



St. Gabriel Council Council 13170

February 2006

January Recognitions

The **Family of the Month** for January is Joe and Eileen Sedlak for their ongoing support of the hospitality ministry by captaining a team and for their work in coordinating the appreciation dinner for Fr. Pat.

The **Knight of the Month** for January is John Joyce for his monthly work on coordinating, editing and distributing the council newsletter.

Congratulations!

Thom Casey

K of C Council Free Throw Contest Winners - Congratulations!

Age 10 Boy - Michael Whited, Jr.
Age 10 Girl - Kara Heuple

Age 11 Boy - Robert Moss
Age 11 Girl - Conor Leonard

Age 12 Boy - Cyril Fayorsey

Age 13 Boy - Alphonso Moore, Jr.

Age 14 Boy - Bobby Moorhead
Age 14 Girl - Katie Hinski

Spring Cleaning - No Foolin!

Our next **Adopt-a-Highway** clean up is scheduled for Saturday, April 1st, at 9:00 am. We'll meet in the church parking lot near the Bethia Road entrance. With the hands of many, the work will be light. 6-8 volunteers can walk and clean Bethia Road in about one hour. Come join us for some fun, fellowship and good work. Questions, call Rob Katzman at 639-3550. See you Saturday, April 1.

Fashion Show

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Ireton Council #6189 is hosting a Spring Fashion Show at their facility on Courthouse Road on Saturday, March 11, 2006. The show will begin at 11:30 AM and will include a style show, a luncheon, and door prizes. The fashions will be by Dillard's Department Store at Chesterfield Town Center. Tickets are \$12 and are available by calling Rick Brennan @ 748-3706 or PGK Greg Toler @ 233-1651. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Appuzo Appreciation Success!

Approximately 36 members attend the appreciation dinner for Fr. Pat. In recognition of his Italian ancestry, lasagna was served. (Okay, it's a stretch, work with me here!) Thom Casey and Rob Katzman issued our thank yous and appreciations. The consensus was that everyone had a great time.

One Man's Vision For Change

BY CURT SCHLEIER
FOR *INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY*

Father Michael McGivney was appalled at the widespread poverty he saw around him.

McGivney (1852-1890) was the pastor of a small parish in post-Civil War New Haven, Conn. It was a difficult period for Catholics, who because of broad-scale prejudice couldn't purchase land in the state without special permission. Also, they also had to pay taxes to support Connecticut's official religion, the Congregational Church.

Living conditions were so bad, many hard-working immigrants - most of them Catholic - died young of diseases they had no money to prevent or treat. Widows and children were left with no resources, and often whole families were wiped out.

Certainly, McGivney could've looked the other way - many, even among the clergy, did. After all, he was busy enough ministering to his congregation and trying to raise funds to eliminate the enormous debt incurred when his parish built their church.

But McGivney couldn't turn his back on suffering, whether the sufferers worshipped in his parish or passed him on the street.

It wasn't an easy task. He had to fight an entrenched bureaucracy that was leery of him and his motives. He knew he couldn't do it all alone. So McGivney founded a fraternal welfare society to provide sick benefits and low-cost life insurance for the Catholic poor.

Building on the principle that strong families were the foundation of the church, McGivney's organization spread across the nation to include millions and help millions more. It still exists. Today the Knights of Columbus number 1.7 million members who volunteer 61 million hours and raise \$130 million in aid annually. The organization also insures 1.2 million people.

While it sounds logical in hindsight, the organization was a radical concept for a priest at that time.

According to David Brinkley and Julie Fenster in "Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism," McGivney served the church at a unique time - many immigrants had been farmers or independent tradesmen in the old country, but found themselves working in factories and facing an identity crisis.

To compensate, some joined one of the dozens of secret fraternal societies that sprang up at the time, such as the Elks and the Moose. But because these organizations had rituals that were seen as anti-Catholic, they conflicted with the church.

So when McGivney broached the idea of a fraternal society - although it was exclusively for Catholics and would focus on charity - the idea wasn't immediately well received by the church hierarchy.

Nevertheless, he refused to give up. While he hounded church leaders - in a gracious way, writing countless polite letters - he gave what he could to the poor in his parish. His reputation for devotion and steady service stood him in good stead. His stick-to-it, straightforward approach convinced church leaders "that any project he originated must be beneficial for Catholics or it could not have come from him," said Brinkley and Fenster.

Building Teamwork

Once he got the green light from the church, McGivney made sure he had a support structure. He formed a committee of prominent local leaders to oversee this new organization and give it stature.

Getting the committee's busy members to work together, and quickly, wasn't easy. To gain their cooperation, he tailored his work style to fit individuals.

"He knew when to be stern and when to ease off, when to press his own views and when to stand aside," wrote Brinkley and Fenster.

To increase their cohesion as a group, McGivney pitched right in to lead by example. "No chore was too much trouble, no reading too dull - and no acquaintance immune from his enthusiasm for the idea," Brinkley and Fenster wrote.

Before he made a new move, his first step was research. He checked to see what other societies were doing, because if there already was "a Catholic organization similar to the one he envisioned, then there would be no need to start from scratch."

There wasn't. He culled the good ideas from other organizations and fit them into his own. In early 1882, the committee voted to name the organization the Knights of Columbus - "Knights" to show their fealty to Roman Catholicism, and "Columbus" in honor of the European discoverer of the New World to show their

American patriotism. Shortly thereafter, the group received a charter from Connecticut.

It was slow going early on, but McGivney kept going as confident as ever of success. He regularly did mailings to other churches in the diocese describing benefits of membership (\$5 a week for up to 13 weeks, with possible additional payments if the member remained ill) and talked up the organization to nearly everyone he encountered.

While members of the founding committee got into arguments about picayune subjects - the colors of their uniforms, for example - McGivney kept himself focused on the organization's goal, working single-handedly when necessary. "Father McGivney's role was to keep the founders from losing sight of the horizon," Brinkley and Fenster wrote.

Focus On The Positive

No matter how slowly membership built, he kept an optimistic attitude and urged others to do the same. "Our beginning is extremely slow, but I think when our by-laws are distributed we will advance more rapidly," he wrote to a despairing founding committee member.

The idea eventually caught on. But McGivney refused to bask in his accomplishment. "In 1884, with the order flourishing and the opportunity for immense influence lying well within his grasp, Father McGivney declined to allow himself to be re-elected as secretary of the Supreme Council," the authors wrote. Instead, he re-devoted himself to parish duties, noting that he had much work to do there.

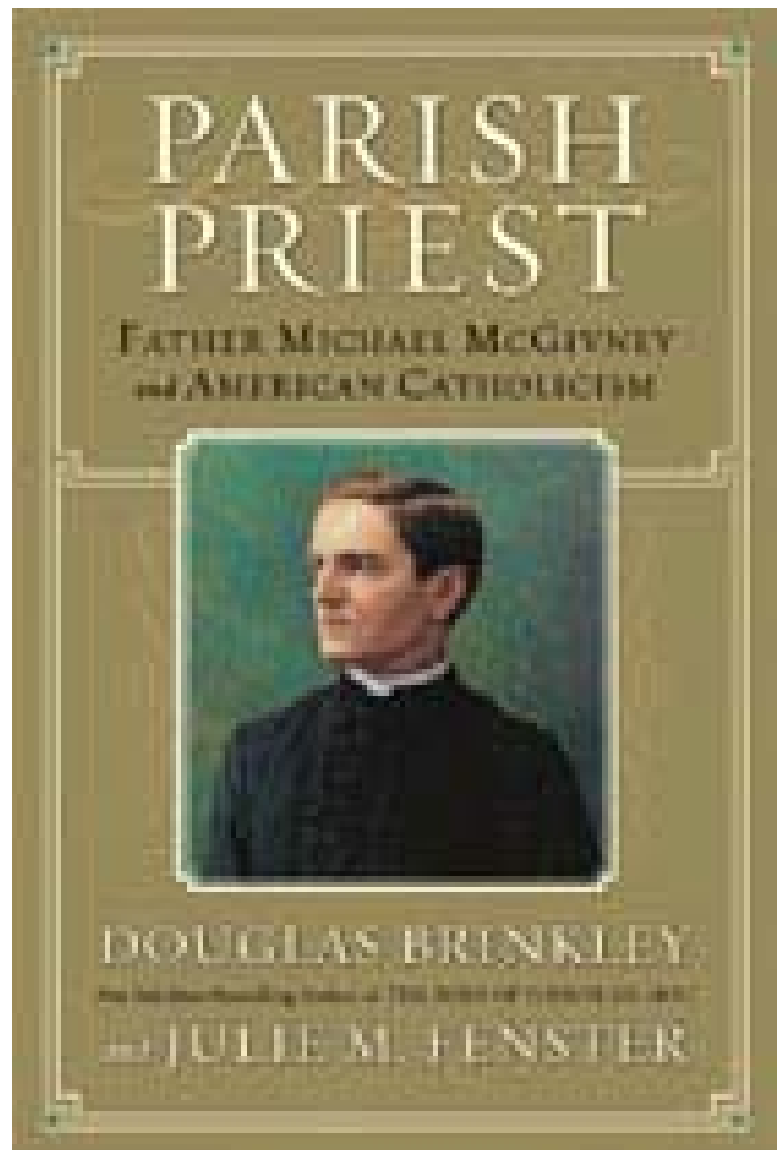
McGivney's ultimate success with the Knights was little surprise to those who knew him and his background. Following his ordination, McGivney became curate of St. Mary's, the first Catholic parish in New Haven. It was a difficult assignment. The parish pastor was ill, and his duties were often left to the new priest. The church was heavily in debt and was located in a Protestant area where it wasn't welcome. An article about St. Mary's in The New York Times in 1879 carried the headline, "How an Aristocratic Avenue Was Blemished by a Roman Catholic Edifice."

From the moment McGivney arrived, he demonstrated a can-do attitude. One of the biggest problems facing members of his church was high levels of alcoholism. Total Abstinence League groups already existed, but largely languished.

He soon became involved. The TAL sponsored a series of plays to raise money and attract new members. McGivney directed the productions and showed his willingness to try something new by casting women in the female roles. The production was a huge success - more than 1,800 people attended on opening night - and it raised big funds for the church.

No matter what he undertook, he gave it his all. Still, McGivney loved his work. "The only thing he liked better than working with them . . . was standing back and watching them work together."

(Click cover below to order)



2006 Knights of Columbus Scholarship Program

The St. Gabriel Knights of Columbus have increased their annual Scholarship Fund for the second consecutive year to \$3,000. The increase is largely attributable to the generosity of the brothers, parishioners, friends and sponsors who continue to enthusiastically support our annual Casino Night. Scholarship forms can be found at the hospitality table.

This year's essay question is: John Paul II served as Pope of the Catholic Church for nearly 27 years. In your opinion, what was his most significant accomplishment while serving as the leader of our church and what effect if any, did it have on your faith?

Please remember that the following criteria apply for eligibility to be considered:

Applicants must be registered members of St. Gabriel parish.

Must be graduating high school in June 2006 and attending a post secondary institution in the fall of 2006.

Scholarship form must be completed by applicant and their parents or guardian and received no later than April 30, 2006.

The application must include a completed essay question.

A child of a St. Gabriel Knight of Columbus, either living or deceased is also eligible.

The trustees of the St. Gabriel Knights of Columbus will decide the winners.

More than one applicant may receive a scholarship and the total amount awarded will be \$3,000.

The awarding of these scholarships is the largest single donation we make each year. We can think of no greater investment than assisting the future of our Church and Community. None of this could be accomplished without the generous help of our fellow parishioners, friends, and sponsors who so generously support the annual Casino Night. Thank you. Please contact Rob Katzman @ 639-3550 with any scholarship related questions.

**DON'T FORGET OUR NEW DATE FOR
THE 2006 CASINO NIGHT -
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21st**

Seminarian Support

For the 3rd year in a row our Council is awarding 2 \$500 Scholarships to Seminarians. Brother Bill Hennesey contacted the Director of Vocations, Fr. Mike Reninger in early Jan. It turns out that one of our past award winners, Robert Switalski, has a paying job! He is doing a 14 month internship @ a parish in Norfolk. Since he is pulling down the big dollars from the Diocese, he does not need



our help this year. But Fr. Mike has another worthy candidate who resides right here in Chesterfield County, Brian Capuano. Both David Cupps and Brian are studying @ St. Mary's in Baltimore and our Grand Knight, Thom Casey has sent them their checks along with a nice note. Please keep in my mind that our \$1000 donation only costs the Council \$800. Supreme Council has a rebate program that returns \$100 for every \$500 donation to Seminarians.

SUPPORT VITAL SAFETY-NET SERVICES

Please Support Budget Items 301 #2h and 32 #2h

"All members of the human family (regardless of national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences) have basic human rights, including the right to life and to those things necessary to the proper development of life. Members of society share a common responsibility for guaranteeing the rights of all those who are defenseless and marginalized -- born and unborn, young and elderly, native and immigrant, working and on welfare . . . [F]ollowers of Christ are called to respond to the needs of all of their brothers and sisters, especially those with the greatest needs. Faithful Citizenship in Virginia, Virginia Catholic Conference (2005).

An initial version of the state budget for the next two fiscal years is currently being reviewed by the House Appropriations Committee, which is permitted to amend it before it is debated by the full House of Delegates. The Virginia Catholic Conference supports budget amendments that would provide enhanced funding for prenatal care to low-income women and for indigent-defense services.

Prenatal Care. Under Virginia's FAMIS Moms program, pregnant women at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level qualify for full prenatal care. [The poverty level is only \$16,090 a year for a family of three.] However, all children in Virginia are covered through FAMIS up to 200 percent of the poverty level. This difference in-eligibility thresholds means many babies do not receive adequate health care until after they are born. The Virginia Catholic Conference supports a budget amendment (Item 301 #2h, sponsored by Delegate Morgan) that would make an addi-

tional \$4 million available to expand prenatal care under the FAMIS Moms program to all pregnant women up to 200 percent of the poverty level.

Indigent Defense. An in-depth study of Virginia's indigent defense system found that Virginia ranks 50th in the country for its compensation to court-appointed counsel. Within the past decade, there have been no significant increases in indigent-defense funding in Virginia. More funding for compensation to court-appointed counsel would contribute to better representation and fairer trials for low-income individuals. Therefore, the Conference supports a budget amendment (Item 32 #2h, sponsored by Delegate Kilgore) to provide an additional \$3.8 million in fiscal-year 2007 and an additional \$7.5 million in fiscal 2008 for fees for court-appointed counsel representing indigent clients.

Although your representative in the Virginia House of Delegates is not a member of the House Appropriations Committee (which will decide over the next several days whether to include these important provisions in the budget it sends to the House floor), you are urged to contact Delegate Phillip Hamilton and Delegate Beverly Sherwood, who chair the subcommittees that will be primarily involved in considering these two items.

PLEASE CLICK "TAKE ACTION," SCROLL DOWN, AND SEND A MESSAGE TO DELEGATES HAMILTON AND SHERWOOD TODAY!

<<http://capwiz.com/vacatholic/utr/1/OHMFFMQHOW/ANWCFMQKCQ/623391671>>

...*Barbara Schaedel*
<Barbara_Schaedel@ccpsnet.net>

The Grand Knight

- First Degree Report – A first degree was held on February 2nd at 7 PM. Our newest Knights are: Paul St. Peter, Chester Parzych, John Ligon, & Tom Vanover. Please welcome these Brother Knights when you see them!
- KOVAR – Please set aside the dates of April 20-23 on your calendar – This is one of our bigger fund raisers and participation from all brother Knights is needed to make it a successful event. PGK Tom Loviza is coordinating this year's KOVAR drive. We are hoping to be in front of Wal-Mart in addition to Ukrops this year and of course in front of the church on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Please plan to take a one hour shift to hand out tootsie rolls and collect funds for the Mentally Retarded in Virginia.

Business Related to Spending – There will be a vote at the next general membership meeting in March (first Thursday at 7 PM at the church).

- **At the last general membership meeting membership entertained and passed a motion to approve up to \$1800 for materials to construct a wheelchair ramp for Brother Knight Glenn Harbula. Motion will be voted on at the next general membership meeting.**
- Golf Tournament – Joe Moss and Joe Poe will be working on the details. The officers suggest we look at May 1st. The event will be held at The Crossings Golf Course.
- Program Questionnaire – a questionnaire about council programs and activities will be made available to all Knights for input.
- St. Gabriel Council held it's annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition on Sunday, January 29th at Millwood School. Each child was presented with a certificate of participation. A boy and girl from each age group will be presented with a Council Champion certificate and an engraved plaque. Age group winners are eligible to participate in the District competition on Sunday,

February 19th from 1-3 PM at St. Edwards.
The State Free Throw Competition will be held on March 11th at Benedictine in Richmond.

- The state Knights of Columbus Bowling Tournament will be held April 1st and 2nd – see the state K of C web site for more info: <http://www.kofcva.org>
- There will be a Respect Life Mass with Bishop Loverde at Queen of Apostles at 8:00 AM followed by the rosary led by the Bishop at the abortion facility on South Whiting Street, Alexandria, VA. Date is Saturday, March 4th, 2006.
- We are considering hosting a Texas Hold 'em tournament in the spring. We will be getting more information from a council that has held this type of tournament. We are interested in knowing if you (or your friends) would be interested in this type of social activity/fundraiser. Please let Thom Casey know via E-mail if you have an interest.
- Within the next week please submit to Thom Casey your nominations for Young Man of the Year, Young Woman of the Year, Knight of the Year and Family of the Year.



Letter from the Supreme Knight, forwarded by Michael J. Lazzuri, the State Deputy

Dear State Deputy:

Last night, we received some very exciting news regarding *Parish Priest*, Douglas Brinkley's new biography of our founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney.

The New York Times, which compiles the most closely-watched list of best-selling books in America, ranks *Parish Priest* at number 20 in its most recent survey. That's just short of the top 15 list that appears in The New York Times Book Review section of the Sunday paper each week. The book is now officially a best seller, but we need an all-out effort to get it over the top, and we need your help right now.

Getting into that top 15 list makes all the difference in the world. Books that make the NYT top 15 are automatically carried in book stores everywhere, including airports, train stations, grocery stores. Book stores such as Barnes & Noble offer best-seller discounts and special promotion for books that make the list.

Here's the bottom line: we're very close to putting *Parish Priest* in That exclusive category. If *Parish Priest* makes it into the top 15, the story of Father McGivney and the Knights of Columbus will achieve a public profile unprecedented in the history of the Order.

I ask you to do all you can in the next few days to encourage every Brother Knight to make a trip to his local book store to buy a copy of *Parish Priest*. Get in touch with every District Deputy, and ask them to get in touch with every Grand Knight. Ask them to pass the word by phone, e-mail, and in person.

Let's put *Parish Priest* over the top! The benefits for Father McGivney's cause for sainthood, for the image of the Order, and for recruitment are tremendous. Please get the word out as soon as you possibly can.

Fraternally,

Carl A. Anderson