



FR. MICHAEL

MCGIVNEY

Curriculum

LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CLASSROOMS

BIOGRAPHY

Fr. Michael McGivney was born to Irish immigrant parents, Patrick and Mary (Lynch) McGivney. He was the eldest of 13 children, six of whom died in infancy or childhood. His father worked as a molder in a Waterbury, Connecticut, brass mill. Michael attended the local Waterbury district school but left at 13 to work in the spoon-making department of one of the brass mills. In 1868, at the age of 16, he entered the Séminaire de Saint-Hyacinthe in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada.

He continued his studies at Our Lady of Angels Seminary, near Niagara Falls, New York, (1871–1872) and at the Jesuits' St. Mary's College, in Montreal, Quebec. He had to leave the seminary, returning home to help finish raising his siblings after the death of his father, in June 1873. McGivney later resumed his studies at St. Mary's Seminary, in Baltimore, Maryland; he was ordained a priest on December 22, 1877, by Archbishop James Gibbons at the Baltimore Cathedral of the Assumption. From his own experience, McGivney recognized the devastating effect on immigrant families of the untimely death of the father and wage earner. Many Catholics were still struggling to assimilate into the American economy. On March 29, 1882, while an assistant pastor at Saint Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, with a small group of parishioners, as a mutual aid society, to provide financial assistance, in the event of the men's deaths, to their widows and orphans. The organization developed as a fraternal society, and its motto was "Unity and Charity." McGivney was also known for his tireless work among his parishioners. McGivney spent seven years at St. Mary's, then became pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston in 1884. He died from pneumonia at the age of 38 in Thomaston on the eve of the Assumption in 1890.

Fr. McGivney was declared "Venerable" by Pope Benedict XVI for a life of heroic virtue, and will be beatified on October 31, 2020. The miracle approved by Pope Francis for McGivney's beatification was the miraculous healing and birth of Michael Schachle, a resident in the Diocese of Nashville.

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*Worksheet adapted from "Look to Him and Be Radiant"
(<https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2013/04/the-making-of-saint.html>)



DIOCESE OF
NASHVILLE
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

FR. MCGIVNEY WORD SEARCH

(Words can go forwards, backwards, up, down, and diagonal!)

A	D	S	O	L	J	K	Y	B	E	T	C	P
F	I	C	R	Z	P	N	S	I	E	W	C	R
A	O	V	H	S	Q	I	J	L	W	B	O	I
T	C	Q	Z	A	W	G	I	L	O	E	B	E
H	E	A	W	I	R	H	X	P	W	N	O	S
E	S	X	B	N	R	T	A	P	L	G	U	T
R	E	M	D	T	P	S	F	T	E	K	S	V
B	L	E	S	S	E	D	X	O	H	P	R	I
G	E	Q	W	V	B	I	W	X	R	F	N	Z
S	U	B	M	U	L	O	C	Q	V	D	E	A

Word Bank

**FATHER
DIOCESE
HARTFORD
KNIGHTS
COLUMBUS
SAINT
BLESSED
PRIEST**

UNITY



CHARITY

HOW IS SOMEONE

Canonized?

STEP ONE → AT LEAST 5 YEARS AFTER THEIR DEATH, THE BISHOP IN THE DIOCESE IN WHICH THE PERSON DIED OPENS THEIR CAUSE FOR SAINTHOOD. THEY ARE THEN CALLED "SERVANT OF GOD."

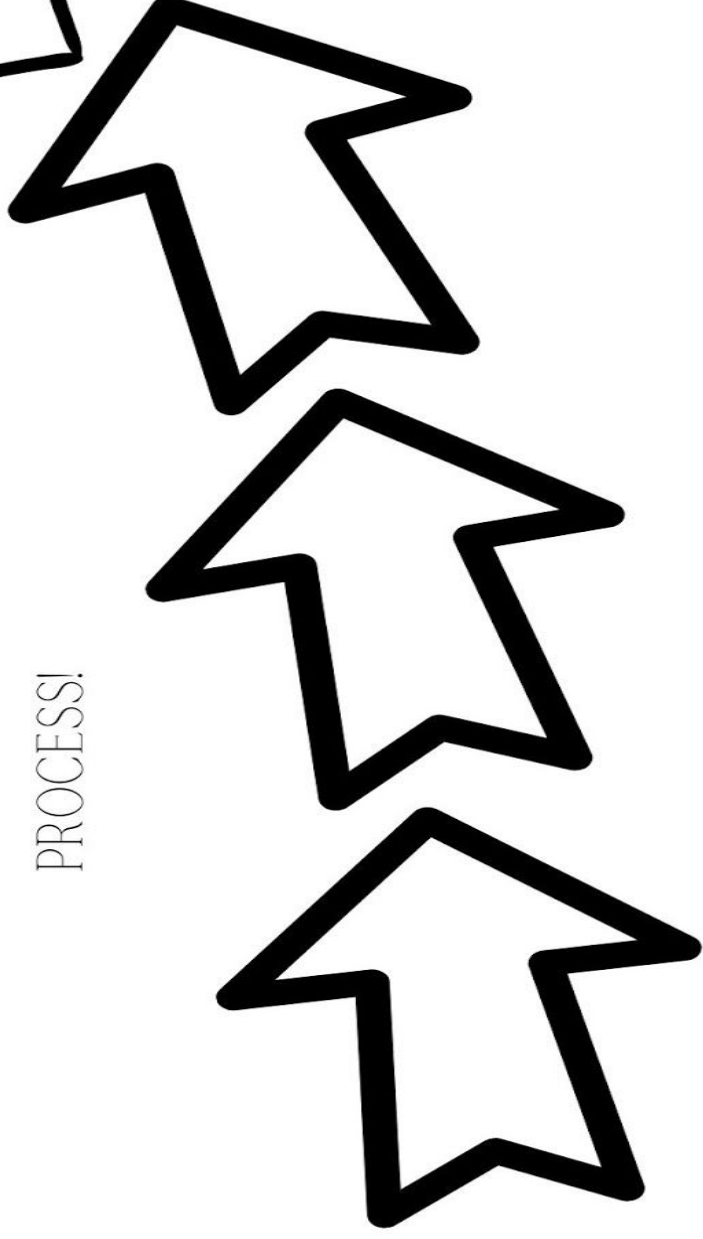
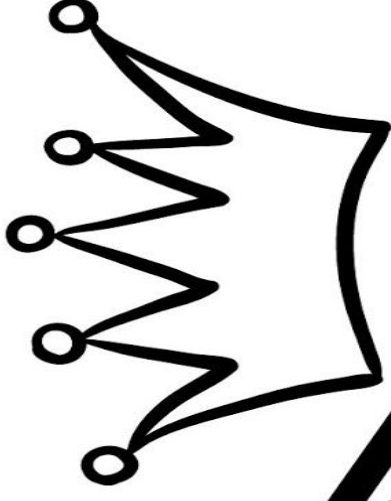
STEP TWO → ONCE RESOURCES AND TESTIMONIES HAVE BEEN GATHERED THAT THE SERVANT OF GOD LIVED A LIFE OF HEROIC VIRTUE, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE POPE, THEY ARE CALLED "VENERABLE."

STEP THREE → AFTER THE APPROVAL FROM THE POPE AND CONGREGATION FOR THE CAUSES OF THE SAINTS OF ONE MIRACLE ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR INTERCESSION, THE VENERABLE PERSON IS BEATIFIED AND EARNS THE TITLE "BLESSED."

STEP FOUR → AFTER A SECOND MIRACLE IS APPROVED, THE BEATIFIED PERSON IS THEN CANONIZED AND CALLED A "SAINT."

The Canonization Process

FILL OUT EACH OF THE ARROWS WITH
THE TITLE THAT IS GIVEN TO THE PERSON
AT EACH STEP OF THE CANONIZATION
PROCESS!



WHAT IS A LIFE OF

Heroic Virtue?

WHEN SOMEONE IS GOING THROUGH THE CANONIZATION PROCESS, THE CONGREGATION FOR THE CAUSES OF THE SAINTS EXAMINES THEIR LIFE AND DETERMINES IF THEY LIVED A LIFE OF HEROIC VIRTUE. NOT ONLY DID FR. MCGIVNEY LEAD A LIFE OF HEROIC VIRTUE, HE ENCOURAGED OTHERS--ESPECIALLY HIS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS--TO DO THE SAME.

WHICH VIRTUES ARE WE ESPECIALLY CALLED TO LIVE HEROICALLY?

COURAGE

PRUDENCE

TEMPERANCE

JUSTICE

FAITH

HOPE

LOVE

MAKE YOUR OWN VIRTUE SHIELD

FR. MCGIVNEY WANTED ALL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TO BE VIRTUOUS MEN. WHAT VIRTUE MATTERS MOST TO YOU? WRITE IT IN THE SHIELD AND DECORATE WHAT YOU THINK A TRUE KNIGHT'S SHIELD SHOULD LOOK LIKE!

