

## From Your Pastor

### God Bless Our Knights of Columbus

Today at the 11:15 AM Mass we are blessed to have our Knights of Columbus, Brighton Council #121, among us. They are here with us to pray at their annual Mass for the deceased members of their Order.



#### **Who are the Knights of Columbus?**

The Knights of Columbus is a lay, Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization. Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to all men eighteen years of age or older

who are practicing Catholics and are in communion with the Holy See. Knights of Columbus commit themselves to abide by the Commandments of God and the precepts and tenets of the Catholic Church. They also commit themselves in a special way to the protection of human life from conception to natural death, the defense of marriage and family life, and the support of vocations to the ministerial priesthood.

**The Beginnings of the Knights of Columbus.** On October 2, 1881, Father Michael J. McGivney of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut brought together a group of laymen with whom he discussed his dream for a Catholic fraternal benefit society. It not only would assist widows and orphans of deceased members through its life insurance program, but also would boost members' sense of pride in their Catholic religion, then frequently challenged in the anti-Catholic climate of 19th-century America. Father McGivney and his associates met several more times over the next several months to continue planning, and the new organization was formally launched in early February 1882.

The officers of the new Catholic organization chose the name Knights of Columbus to honor Christopher Columbus, the Catholic discoverer of America. The word "knights" is also significant. It was chosen to highlight the knightly qualities of spirituality and service to church that are embodied in the Knights of Columbus. The Order has evolved into a service organization with a strong family orientation. By the

end of 1897 the Order was thoroughly rooted in New England, along the upper Atlantic seaboard and into Canada. Within the next eight years it branched out from Quebec to California, and from Florida to Washington State. The Knights of Columbus remains headquartered in New Haven, but is now present with nearly 12,000 Councils in the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, and several other countries. The Order has been called "the strong right arm of the Church," and has been praised by popes, presidents and other world leaders, for support of the Church, programs of evangelization and Catholic education, civic involvement and aid to those in need.



#### **Father Michael J. McGivney**

was a 29-year-old assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., when he founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882. Father McGivney's holiness, devotion to priestly ministry and work to protect family life has been a

powerful spiritual influence for Knights of Columbus, their family members and a growing number of other Catholics. He died in 1890 at 38 years of age.

Father McGivney's cause for canonization was opened in 1997 by then Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin of Hartford, Conn. The diocesan phase of the cause has been completed. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican is currently reviewing Father McGivney's life and works and investigating two reported miracles attributed to his intercession.

**Let us join our Knights of Columbus in praying for their beloved deceased.**

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.*

*May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful  
departed, through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. Amen*



God bless each of you.

*Mrs. Fay*