



Council Works

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Fr. Robert E. Nudd Council No. 7369, Chantilly, Virginia
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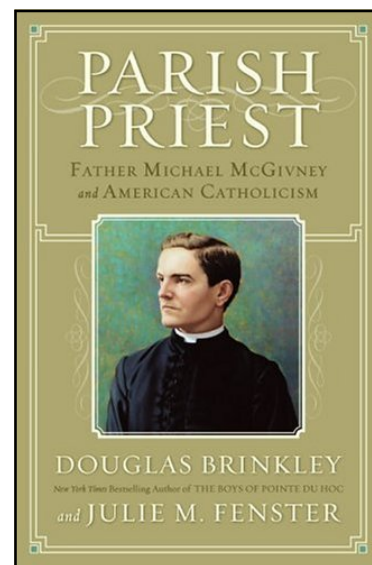
“Parish Priest” Book Highlighting the Life of Father McGivney to Be Released January 10

Parish Priest -- Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism, a new biography on the Order's founder, is now available for purchase online at Amazon.com. Written by best-selling author Douglas Brinkley and Julie M. Fenster, the book is a fascinating account of Father McGivney's world and the people who influenced him and came to know his greatness. *Parish Priest* will be available in bookstores on Jan. 10. Here is an excerpt from the new book:

Like any Catholic church, St. Mary's attracted all kinds of people, but in New Haven, it had something of a corner on the energetic and ambitious set. In part, that may have been a result of its setting: an imposing stone structure, almost like an unofficial cathedral for the city, it sat on Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven's most prestigious street. For all of its timeless stonework and hints of English Gothic architecture, St. Mary's was the newest Catholic church in town, dedicated in 1874. By then, New Haven counted five parishes, but none was quite like St. Mary's. The building itself satisfied something deep within local Catholic leaders like Edward Downes, but for those in his children's generation, there was an even more appealing glow. They knew that inside, they had a friend, which is the quality that makes any church come to life.

In Father Michael McGivney, the youthful parishioners of St. Mary's looked to a priest who could be one of them, not merely because he loved a good laugh as much as anyone else or a snappy play in baseball even more, but because he knew what it was to be “first generation” or “second generation.” He knew what it was to look for and find a place as both an American and a Roman Catholic. All of his parishioners were trying to do that same thing, along one course or another. Some, like Josephine Downes, would eventually follow him into a life in the Church. Others wanted to move forward amid the fast pace of life in America without falling out of step with the daily relevance of their religion. In either case, Father McGivney's strong belief lay with the strength of the family. He was fascinated by the power derived there — not through need, but on the contrary, through being needed. The parents for each other and for the children, the children for one another and for the parents, too: obligations fulfilled. Therein lay the potential in aspects practical and spiritual. That was McGivney's philosophy and it was already absolute within him when he was only in his 20s. Fortunately, his personal style was not nearly so staunch. Marked by laughter and empathy, his charm lay in the ability to align himself with people of any age group.

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In Memoriam



Brother Art Hebert, a third-degree member and the Council's Inside Guard, passed away on January 2, 2006. Please pray for the repose of Art's soul and the consolation of his family.



The Grand Knight's Message...

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has had a safe and happy Christmas season. We are now half way through the Columbian year, but there is so much left to do. I am pleased by all the work we have done over the last six months. None of our events can be run by one person. I thank everyone who has come out to help this year and encourage you to stay active. If you have not been out to help with an event, make a New Year's resolution to do so!

The first order of business for the New Year is to begin the search for a new Financial Secretary. As you may be aware, the Financial Secretary is appointed by the Grand Knight and Trustees to a three-year term. Brother Jim Copio will be finishing his second term at the end of March. After talking with Jim, he has decided that he would like to step down so that he can take on other challenges within our Council. There are not enough words to describe how grateful I am for the job Jim has done over the last six years. Jim plans to stay active and has offered to train his successor. If any brother would like to be considered for this important position, please come talk to myself, or any of the Trustees.

On January 14, we will be hosting our parish priests and deacons for our annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner. This year, the dinner will be held in the Parish Rectory. Brother Paul St. Laurent has offered to coordinate this event and will need help cooking and cleaning up. Please join us in showing our appreciation to these men for all that they do for our church and us.

We will be hosting a Parish Breakfast on January 29. As usual, cooks should report beginning at 5:30 a.m., and the clean up crew beginning at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served following the 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Masses.

We are an active Council. I know for myself, as I am sure it is the same for all of you, we are constantly on the go with family, work, church activities and other organizations vying for our attention. As we go about our daily activities we should make every effort to feed our souls. Take time during the day to build up your spiritual life by praying, reading from the Scriptures, studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church or reading on the lives of the Saints. As we build the Kingdom, let us not neglect our own spiritual development.

Vivat Jesus!

A.J. Zadrozny

CouncilWorks is the official newsletter of:

**Knights of Columbus
Fr. Nudd Council No. 7369
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Chantilly, VA 20153-0165**

CouncilWorks is published monthly for members of Fr. Nudd Council. Opinions expressed are solely those of the individual contributors. Names, telephone numbers, street addresses, e-mail addresses in this publication are strictly for Knights of Columbus purposes only.

Members are invited to submit articles to the editor for publication in the next issue no later than the 20th of each month. Articles may be on a variety of topics: upcoming events, council related, personal experience, religious, etc., and must be in PC compatible format. Send articles to councilworks@fathernudd.org.

In order to receive periodic important notices relative to council activities via e-mail, send your e-mail address to: www.fathernudd.org/newsletter.shtml.

Send all address or telephone number changes to the Financial Secretary.

In the event of illness, death, or special need, please contact one of the following members (contact info. on page 5):

Grand Knight
Financial Secretary
Fraternal Director
Fraternal Benefits Counselor (Insurance)

Visit the council web site at:
www.fathernudd.org



From the Pen of the Worthy Chaplain...



Dear Brother Knights,

We have celebrated the birth of the Child Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. May the love and peace that He brings to all mankind be in each of your hearts this Christmas Season.

The priests and deacons again thank you for all your help with the Christmas Day Masses, either as Lecturers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, members of the Choir, or in any other capacity you may have assisted.

Although we are still in the Christmas Season of the Church, the new calendar year is now upon us. January brings with it the cold winter weather. Please remember to dress warmly and drive safely. Many of our school children are still on vacation for the next few weeks.

January also brings with it the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. I know that many of you will be actively participating in the activities of that day, either as marshals or marchers. I encourage all of you that can possibly do so, to give some of your time and energy by marching with us this year. There is no more important cause than protecting the unborn, our brother and sisters, all children of our Blessed Mother. If you are not able to participate this year, please spend a few extra moments in prayer for an end to abortion.

The priests and deacons of the parish wish you and your families a Blessed New Year.

Again, thank you for all of your hard work. May God bless each and every one of you and your families.

Fr. Weymes

Knights of Columbus International Golf Tournament This June In Pennsylvania

Information and registration letters have been mailed to all golfers on the mailing list provided by last year's International Knights of Columbus Amateur Golf Committee. Knights planning to attend the 2006 tournament in Lake Harmony, Pa., June 14-16, are asked to return registration forms promptly. Pre-tournament events begin June 12.

First-time participants and those who have not received registration information are directed to the tournament Web page (<http://www.kofc7141.org/KCIAGT.htm>), which will allow you to print out registration forms and mail through the postal service. The Web site provides information about registration, tours, the ladies' luncheon, ladies' golfing, the Wednesday golf scramble, advertising, directions, and merchandise on sale.

Knights planning to attend the tournament should make their own hotel reservations through Split Rock Resort (1-800-255-7625). Make sure you mention that you are with the Knights of Columbus. When making reservations for more than one room by credit card, the card presented will be charged the registration deposit for each of the rooms reserved by that credit card number. Room registration is separate from registration for the tournament and events. All registrations must be received no later than April 15 and made payable in U.S. funds to the KCIAGT Golf Committee.



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As Father McGivney came to know each of the Downses — a process that admittedly took some time — he formed a particular friendship with Edward Downes Jr., the stationer's son, who was also planning to serve the Church. A natural scholar, Edward Jr. was a student at St. Charles College near Ellicott City, Md., which he entered in 1876 at the age of 16.

The Downses had built their position, along with their wealth, over the course of almost fifty years after Michael and Bridget Downes arrived in New Haven in 1832. It only took a single day for it all to unravel. With the death of Edward Sr., the extent of the Downses' financial reversal became a matter of public record. But that was not the worst of it. Edward Sr. didn't leave any money. In the winter of 1882, Catherine slowly tried to get over grieving for her husband — but the weight of all that confronted her family was even more overwhelming. As each day dawned, she had to face the fact that she didn't know who would provide for her children and stepchildren, and save the future for them. In fact, the County of New Haven in its official capacity wondered the same thing. When a family had no source of income, the Probate Court had the right to assign the children to public institutions. The Probate Court demanded proof from families like the Downses that children left fatherless would not become vagrants. Catherine Downes was unable to provide that assurance. Edward Jr. had no choice but to quit the seminary. He returned home to run the news counter.

During January, Edward Jr. made a convincing case that, young as he was, he could manage the store and provide for his widowed stepmother and the youngest of the children. The court turned its attention to the three teenaged boys: Alfred, 19; George, 17, and Joseph, 14. With no money available for education or apprenticeships, the judge ruled that guardians had to be found for each of them or else the court would intervene. The guardian had to be a person of good character, someone acceptable to the court. There were plenty of people who fit that description in the upstanding city of New Haven, most of them old friends of Edward Downes Sr. The guardian had to take full responsibility for the actions and well-being of the ward. That narrowed the list of volunteers considerably, even in regard to the well-reared Downes teenagers. A teenager could be a volatile entity in any era and in any family.

Finally, the guardian had to put up a bond of more than \$1,000. That pretty well emptied the list of potential guardians for the Downes teens, although relatives eventually banded together in order to vouch for the two younger ones, George and Joseph. On Feb. 2, 1882, New Haven's Probate Court accepted \$2,500 for each of them in the form of a bond from their new guardians. That left Alfred. The court set a price of \$1,500 on the privilege of becoming his guardian. His hearing was set for Feb. 6.

For all of the powerful connections that the Downses had in New Haven, in business circles, in politics, and in the leadership of the local Irish-American community, no one came forward. Edward Sr.'s many old friends disappeared, claiming that either they didn't have time or they hadn't the money to spare.

On the sixth, a Monday, people all over New Haven were complaining. They were also digging out, after winter storms over the weekend had made a particularly messy job of leaving a foot of snow on the ground. The trains were backed up, and even the steamboats taking passengers back and forth to New York City were running late. More to the point for New Haven residents with business downtown, the sidewalks were still piled with snow, as landlords, running late, too, neglected to shovel their sections.

Only the New Haven Probate Court was running on time. Edward Jr. was there, in place of Catherine, who was in confinement, expecting her baby within two months. His younger brother Alfred answered a series of questions posed by the judge. Then the judge asked the court if anyone was present to enter into a guardianship for Alfred Downes. Alfred looked back at the gallery.

Michael McGivney stood up, a slightly built man with a smooth complexion made rosy by the brisk winter air. For some of the older people present, it was a surprise even to see a Catholic priest in a government building. Until Father McGivney's generation, priests tended to remain on church property as much as possible, in emphasis of the greater glories to be found there. By the bustling 1880s, as the situation became less proscribed, priests did venture out regularly, whether or not they were on church business. Nonetheless, even the most worldly among them stopped short of actually seeking out a role in any other institution.

For Father McGivney, however, the New Haven Probate Court was exactly the right place for a parish priest on that February morning. A family was at stake. And so, when the judge asked whether anyone present would act as guardian for Alfred Downes, McGivney rose to his feet. If others in the court turned to stare at the youthful priest in his long black cassock, that couldn't be helped. McGivney was no revolutionary, enjoying change for its own sake. Quite the opposite, in fact. But he was a man of action, born with an unrelenting sense of compassion, embraced by an entirely practical turn of mind.

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December Knight of the Month

Our Knight of the Month truly went above and beyond the call of duty in December. Due to a schedule mix up, two back-to-back shifts at our Christmas tree stand were left with no one scheduled to work. Brother Mike Bartos took it upon himself to man both shifts, and in that six-hour time, sold 40 trees! For all his efforts, I am happy to name **Brother Mike Bartos** our December Knight of the Month.

December Family of the Month

The December Family of the Month is awarded to **the family of Art, Dora, Carl and Alberta Hebert** for finding strength and Christ's presence in time of need.

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Father McGivney didn't have \$1,500 for the bond, but he did have the trust of a retired grocer named Patrick McKiernan. With the judge's approval, McKiernan acted as surety, guaranteeing that if Father McGivney reneged on the guardianship, he would pay the "penal sum" of \$1,500. A bond was signed to that effect. Alfred had a guardian who believed in his future, in place of his late father.

Father McGivney left the Probate Court well satisfied at the outcome of the Downes case, but not at the prevalence of the same problem throughout the community and even the nation. Even though he was only a young man, he was filled with a lifetime of anger and frustration at the sense of doom that settled over nearly every family that lost its wage earner. Long before, he had watched firsthand, when it fell over his own family. On the afternoon of Feb. 6, he was more determined than ever that what had happened to the Downes family need not happen to anyone else.

As Father McGivney walked home across the Green, dodging the snowdrifts along with everyone else, he prepared in his mind for a crucial meeting that evening at St. Mary's, a meeting that would extend the sense of family within the laity of the Catholic Church. It would be a turning point, if he could carry his point with the men invited to be there. All of them were Catholics and most were men of action, ambitious for success. If they weren't rich yet, they would be quick to point out that they also weren't finished trying, just yet. In any case, they were busy men, which meant that they could get things done, if they wanted to badly enough. Of course, it also meant that they could say no in a dozen different ways or — even more ominously — say "maybe" in just one. Father McGivney knew all of that. But it was the echoing uncertainty of the afternoon session in Probate Court that made him walk a little faster.

FR. NUDD COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2005-2006 COLUMBIAN YEAR

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



<i>January 2006</i>							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3	4 7:30 PM Council Meeting	5	6	7 8:00 AM Nativity Scene Takedown	
8	9	10	11 7:30 PM Director's Meeting	12	13	14	
15 Coffee and Donuts After Morning Masses	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	17	18 7:30 PM Rosary and Council Meeting	19	20	21	
22	23 MARCH FOR LIFE	24	25 7:30 PM Degree Team Meeting	26	27	28	
29 Parish Breakfast After Morning Masses	30	31					