



Blessed McGivney and His Brothers

New stained-glass window in Trumbull honors 10 saints and blessed.

Story by KAREN A. AVITABILE | Photos by AARON JOSEPH

A Trumbull priest with a connection to Blessed Michael J. McGivney and his two brothers has installed a new stained-glass window depicting the Connecticut priest, who is on his way to becoming a saint.

“I find it a real source of encouragement that a Connecticut priest is now a Blessed and, one day, God willing, will be a saint,” says Father Joseph A. Marcello, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. “I hope that will be a source of strength and encouragement to all priests in Connecticut and in our country, and I hope it will inspire new priestly vocations as well.”

Father Marcello recently dedicated the window in St. Catherine of Siena Parish. The artwork depicts five women and five men, including Blessed McGivney, who have lived in more recent times and have lived lives of heroic, exemplary faithfulness to God.

“I FEEL VERY BLESSED TO KNOW THAT THE LIFE OF MY OWN FAMILY WAS IMPACTED IN THIS WAY BY THE MCGIVNEY FAMILY.”

— Father Joseph A. Marcello, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull

◀ The new window installed at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull was fabricated by Rohlf’s Stained & Leaded Glass Studio of Mount Vernon, N.Y., in consultation with the parish. The project lead was Greg Rohlf.

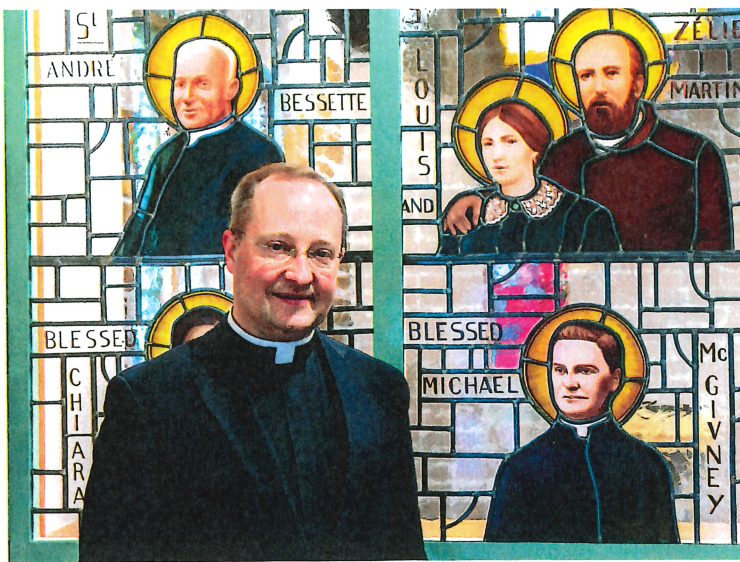
The McGivney connection in Trumbull is also tied in with Monsignors Patrick and John McGivney, younger brothers of Blessed McGivney, who both served successively as pastors of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bridgeport, which

at the time was part of the Diocese of Hartford: Monsignor Patrick during the 1920s and Monsignor John in the 1930s until his death in 1939. St. Charles, the mother parish, contained all the territory of what is now St. Catherine of Siena Parish, established on Feb. 11, 1955.

Monsignor John McGivney is also near and dear to Father Marcello’s heart. The monsignor married Father Marcello’s grandparents, Leonard and Genevieve Marcello, on May 30, 1938, at St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

“My grandfather died before I was born but I do remember my grandmother a few times mentioning Monsignor McGivney to me when she reminisced about her wedding,” Father Marcello says. “She always mentioned his name in the context that he was the brother of the founder of the Knights of Columbus.”

When Father Marcello was ordained in May 2003, his grandmother gave him a chalice and arranged that underneath it would be fastened with her wedding ring and his late grandfather’s. Monsignor John McGivney blessed those rings on their wedding day. “I used that chalice at her funeral in 2011, and I’ve used it at family weddings and first holy Communion,” he says. “... And whenever I use that chalice, and look at the rings when I elevate the chalice, it reminds me that love is stronger than death.”



▲ Father Joseph A. Marcello, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, stands in front of a new stained-glass window he commissioned. He says of the design of the window, “Seeing only images of people who lived so long ago and in states of life far removed from our own might give us the mistaken impression that becoming a saint, actually becoming a saint, is not really meant for you or me. In this window, we see people who look a little more like us.”



◀ This chalice, given to Father Joseph A. Marcello by his grandmother, fastened her wedding ring and her late husband’s wedding ring, which had been blessed on their wedding day by Monsignor John McGivney, a younger brother of Blessed Michael J. McGivney.



BLESSED MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY FEAST DAY

The first feast day for Blessed Michael J. McGivney has been declared as Aug. 13, between his birth on Aug. 12, 1852, and his death on Aug. 14, 1890. On the feast day, St. Catherine of Siena Parish will pray the Litany of Blessed McGivney and display a first-class relic of the blessed that was presented to the parish by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus on March 19. The relic is a piece of a bone from Blessed McGivney.

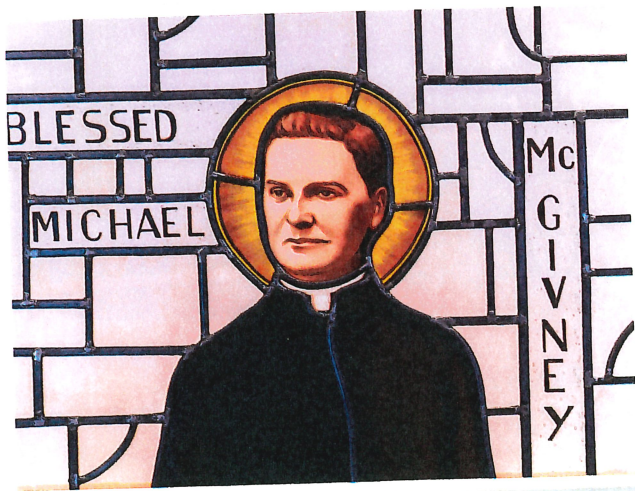
◀ A first-class relic, a piece of bone from Blessed Michael J. McGivney, was a gift to St. Catherine of Siena Parish from the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. The relic will be displayed on Blessed McGivney’s feast day, which has been designated as Aug. 13.

HONORING BLESSEDS, SAINTS

The idea for the new window developed after Father Marcello had a conversation with parish Deacon Patrick Toole on the day St. John Henry Newman was canonized. Both men, who say St. John Henry Newman was influential in their lives, originally wanted the window to be devoted solely to him. But the space for the windows was too big for just one person to be the focus, so it was expanded to include a total of 10 saints and blesseds.

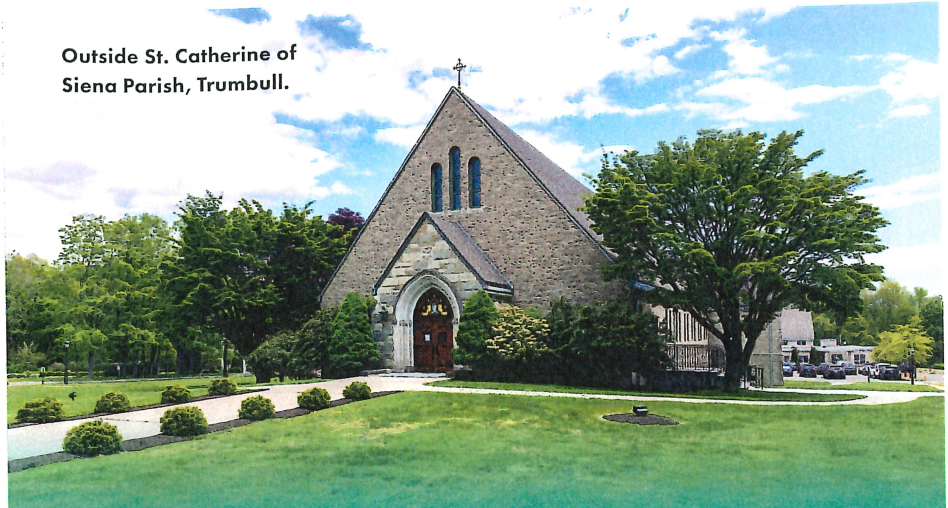
“Father McGivney was a natural choice, because he was a Connecticut priest, and the McGivneys have such strong connections to our parish,” Father Marcello says. “The image is based on his beatification portrait, which itself is based on a photograph of him. In the window, Blessed Michael McGivney is portrayed in a simple black cassock, which to me speaks of his priestly dedication, and his humble, faithful service to the Lord and to the Church.”

The new window is located behind the baptismal font in the church. “The window serves to highlight the important truth that through the sacrament of baptism comes the vocation to holiness in all the various states of life in the Church: marriage, single life, priesthood and consecrated life,” Father Marcello says.



An image of Blessed Michael J. McGivney is displayed in a new stained-glass window at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. The image is based on his beatification portrait, which itself was developed from a photograph of him.

Outside St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull.



SEE THE NEW WINDOW

The new window at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 220 Shelton Road, in the Nichols area of Trumbull, can be viewed during daily Mass Mondays through Thursdays, 7:30 a.m.; Friday morning rosary, 7:30 a.m.; private prayer, Mondays through Fridays between 8:15 a.m. and 1 p.m.; reconciliation and adoration of the blessed sacrament on Tuesdays, 6 to 8 p.m.; Mass on Saturdays, 4 and 7:15 p.m.; and Sundays, 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m. For more information, call 203.377.3133 or visit stcathtrumbull.com.

He adds, “So we intentionally chose saints and blesseds to represent the married state (Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin and St. Gianna Beretta Molla), the priesthood (St. John Henry Newman and Blessed McGivney), the consecrated life (St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Andre Bessette and St. Teresa of Calcutta) and the lay state (Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Blessed Chiara Luce Badano).”

Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, are depicted in the center of the window. They are the first married couple in history to be canonized together. St. Teresa of Calcutta, who saw the worst of human suffering and experienced extended periods of interior darkness herself, carried on Jesus’ words and never tired of saying: “Never let anything so fill you with sorrow that you forget the joy of Christ risen.”

St. Gianna Beretta Molla was a wife, mother and doctor; St. Andre Bessette was a religious brother; Blessed Chiara Luce Badano was a young lay woman; St. John Henry Newman was a priest and theologian; St. Josephine Bakhita was a religious sister; and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati was a young lay man. ☪

PRAYER — Pray the Litany of Blessed Michael J. McGivney online at <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/events/father-mcgivney-beatification/mcgivney-litany-card11118.pdf>.