



## The Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney Honoris

Saint Patrick Basilica  
281 Nepean Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
K1R 5G2



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# SUMMER BULLETIN 2021

### Are You an Agitator?

A State Deputy once said in a meeting, that he referred to the Knights as agitators. Yes, agitators!

Today, we often think of an agitator in negative terms, but think of it as or it used to be “a centre post that sits in a washing machine and gets the dirt out”. That’s not a bad thing. We could use a whole lot more of that today.

As Knights, we have been a centre post in our church for years. We have been a bulwark for the defence of the Christian cause. Nothing wrong with that... that’s very good. But perhaps it is time we not only defend but become confronters and challengers and counter-actors – agitators. What would Father McGivney say about that?

The Knights of the Medieval Ages had a great spirit of chivalry and early in their history they went out into the countryside and practiced this philosophy – rescuing damsels, going on quests, and whatnot. Ever wonder why they died out? Several reasons, but mostly it was because they stopped being agitators. They built castles, great forts, motes, and stayed behind them – they took on a defensive mindset rather than a progressive or assertive mindset. Since they were no longer involved in the world, the world simply went around them.

We Knights should consider being more progressive and more assertive. George Bernard Shaw, about a hundred years ago, said that one doesn't make progress by standing on guard but by speaking up.

There’s a long list of challenges that our society faces and lots of opportunities for us to get well informed, so where do we begin? It’s tempting to want to start with issues like embryonic stem cell research, abortion, same-sex marriages, religious freedom, etc. And of course, there are more loud voices on the internet looking for our attention and a lot of us buy into their points of view. However, we need to start with a more fundamental concept. Our basic need, as given to us by Father McGivney is to get aggressive and progressive about asking men to join the Order and to sign up for the McGivney Guild. It’s difficult, if not impossible to promote our core values (charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism) if we haven’t approached our fellow Catholics and offered them a way to practice these values. Being an agitator begins with asking. It begins with doing. It begins with putting into practice what our values stand for and not nodding that someone else will do that.

Knights are getting more progressive and aggressive when it comes to membership...not... but they should be..... E- membership is not the only means to build our council membership.

The top reasons any State Membership Director’s Report lists for members leaving the Order also gives strong indications that we need to be more assertive and pro-active about retaining members, about communication, about involvement, about leading by example, and showing others, what it means to be a Knight and what Father McGivney’s vision of our Catholic society stands for.

Our world needs the Knights – more dedicated Catholic men of principle. Knowing who we are and getting well informed takes a lot of energy, but remember that feeling you had when you asked a man to join and he said yes? Well, you can feel that way again. Remember how taking part in a program made you feel good about being with others and that fraternity. The one time slogan of our order in Ontario was Together each achieves more...TEAM it still makes sense.

Ask another to TASTE and See... The Goodness of the K of C.

Blessed Michael J. McGivney, Intercede for us.

Visit the Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney Honoris Ottawa website: <http://www.michaeljmcgivneyhonoris.ca>

Bill Country, P.G.K. F.D.D.

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