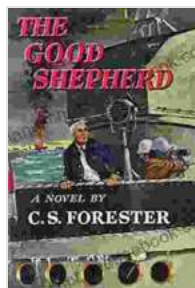


# The Good Shepherd Forester: A Detailed Look at the Life and Ministry of Reverend Michael J. McGivney



## The Good Shepherd by C S Forester

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.5 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 618 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 233 pages
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Reverend Michael J. McGivney (1852-1890) was a Catholic priest and the founder of the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal organization dedicated to charity, unity, and patriotism. His life and ministry were marked by his unwavering faith, compassion for the marginalized, and tireless work in building up the Catholic community.

## Early Life and Vocation

Michael McGivney was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, on August 12, 1852. His parents, Patrick and Mary, were devout Irish immigrants who instilled in him a deep love for God and a strong sense of community. From an early age, Michael displayed a remarkable intelligence and piety, and he expressed a desire to serve as a priest.

In 1868, McGivney entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. During his years of study, he excelled in his academics and became known for his humility, kindness, and dedication to his faith. He was ordained to the priesthood on December 22, 1877, and returned to his hometown to serve as an assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church.

## **Founding the Knights of Columbus**

In the late 19th century, the United States was experiencing a surge of immigration, and many Catholic families were struggling to adapt to their new surroundings. Father McGivney recognized the need for a fraternal organization that could provide support and protection for Catholic men and their families.

On March 29, 1882, Father McGivney gathered a group of men at St. Mary's Church and founded the Knights of Columbus. The organization's mission was to provide mutual aid in times of sickness, disability, and death, as well as to promote Catholic values and principles.

The Knights of Columbus quickly grew in popularity, and within a few years, councils were established throughout the United States and Canada. Father McGivney served as the organization's first Supreme Chaplain, providing spiritual guidance and inspiration to its members.

## **Spiritual and Temporal Works**

In addition to his work with the Knights of Columbus, Father McGivney was a tireless pastor and community leader. He was deeply involved in parish life, visiting the sick, comforting the bereaved, and teaching the faith. He also established a number of charitable organizations, such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the St. Mary's Home for the Aged.

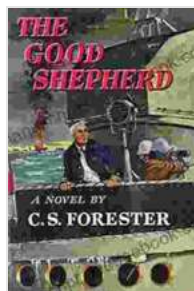
Father McGivney was known for his unwavering compassion for the poor and marginalized. He often visited the sick and needy in their homes, bringing them food, clothing, and spiritual comfort. He also advocated for social justice issues, such as fair wages for workers and better housing for the poor.

## Legacy and Canonization

Father Michael J. McGivney died of pneumonia on August 14, 1890, at the age of 38. His untimely death was a great loss to the Catholic community, but his legacy continued to live on. The Knights of Columbus grew into a global fraternal organization with over 2 million members, and it continues to be a major force in Catholic charity and community building.

In 2008, Father McGivney was declared a Venerable by the Catholic Church, and in 2020, he was beatified, the final step before canonization. His feast day is celebrated on August 13.

Reverend Michael J. McGivney was a man of extraordinary faith, compassion, and dedication. Through his life and ministry, he inspired countless others to live lives of service and charity. His legacy continues to inspire and guide the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic community to this day.



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