

## Father McGivney's Cause promoted at the 51st IEC



Knights of Columbus joins the 51st International Eucharistic Congress Procession last January 29, 2016.

THE Cause for Beatification of Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney was promoted at the 51st International Eucharistic Congress in Cebu City last January 24 – 31, 2016.

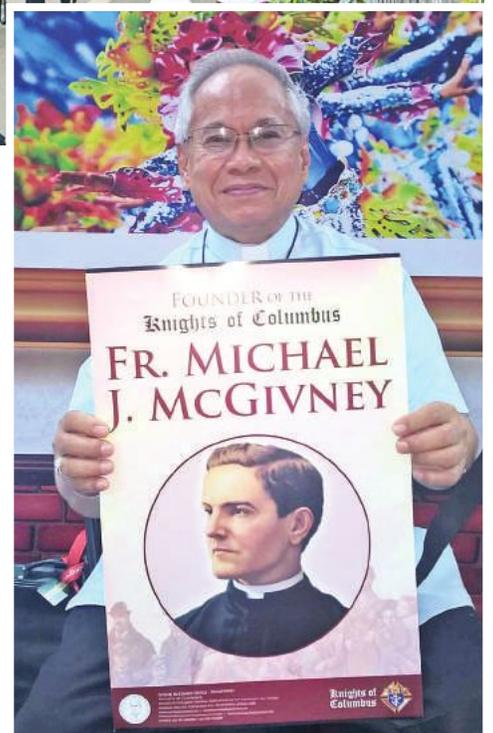
With the assistance of Areopagus Communications, Inc., Fr. McGivney prayer cards and newsletters were distributed to the delegates and media throughout the Congress. K of C delegates were also seen wearing Fr. McGivney shirts and holding Fr. McGivney posters in support of the Cause during the congress.

In addition, the icon of Fr. McGivney was constantly seen on the CBCP Monitor IEC Special Issue, a daily publication featuring the activities of the IEC, and 51st IEC Media Handbook, the companion guide of accredited media personnel, both local and international.

The KCFAPI delegation were led by Hilario G. Davide, Jr., KCFAPI Vice Chairman;

Alonso L. Tan, Supreme Director; Jose C. Reyes, Jr., KCFAPI President and Luzon North Deputy; Raoul A. Villanueva, KCFAPI Treasurer; Anthony P. Nazario, KCFAPI Trustee and Visayas Deputy; Reynaldo C. Trinidad, KCFAPI Trustee; and Ma. Theresa G. Curia, KCFAPI Executive Vice President; Vicente V. Ortega, KRDC Director; Rene V. Sarmiento, KCFC Vice Chairman; Danilo A. Sanchez, MACE Director; Rowena M. Diapolit, KCFAPI VP for Financial Reporting and Controls; Atty. Neil Jerome J. Rapatan, Legal Services Manager and Annie M. Nicolas, KCFAPI Executive Secretary. Several members of the Order were also sent as delegates by parishes.

The Eucharistic Congress is an international gathering of people that takes place every four years in different countries. It aims to promote awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in life and mission of the Catholic Church.



Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Cardinal Quevedo holds the promotional poster for the Cause for Beatification of the Venerable Servant of God Fr. Michael McGivney at the 51st IEC in Cebu City.



From the desk of Vice-Postulator

## BRIAN CAULFIELD



### The Church's High Standards

WHAT does holiness look like? How do we describe it? Think of Blessed Mother Teresa, soon to be canonized. Or St. John Paul II. Very different personalities and life experiences; very different ways of living out holiness; yet very much united in responding to God's grace.

Because holiness is not something we can hold in our hands, and different people may give different descriptions of it, the Church has set some objective measures for declaring a person holy, or a saint. The proof is in the miracle, an extraordinary work of God through the intercession of the candidate for sainthood. The Vatican sets a high standard of proof to protect the canonization process and the reputation of the Church. The last thing any of us want is to have a healing declared a miracle by the Church, and then have it called into question at a later date. When the Church declares a miracle, it must be sure that there is no medical or scientific explanation for the occurrence.

When the promoters of a sainthood cause come to the Vatican with a proposed miracle through the intercession of the candidate, the first reaction is: Prove it! They have a panel of objective medical experts who will carefully examine all of the evidence. And if they can't find an explanation for this healing, then the Vatican has a board of theologians to decide if the miracle was granted by God through the intercession of the sainthood candi-

date. Did everyone involved pray exclusively for the healing through that candidate? Or did someone pray mostly to an established saint.

These are high standards for any sainthood cause to meet. There will always be setbacks and disappointments. The Church is careful and thorough because the cause is so important for the faith's reputation, and the spiritual good of faithful. We are dealing with the things of God and of heaven! Let's err on the side of caution.

As Vice Postulator of the Cause of Venerable Father Michael McGivney, I hear often from people devoted to him. They tell me about some extraordinary event that happened immediately after they prayed for his help. In most of these cases, it is quite clear that Father McGivney has interceded, but I have to ask if some proof can be obtained. How do we prove that a child returned to the Church because of Father McGivney, or this person got a job through the Venerable Servant of God? Even many physical healings cannot be proven to be miraculous if there was even a small amount of medical intervention.

I tell people: Yes, it was a miracle, but not the kind that can be proven to the Church's high standards.

So let us continue our prayers to Father McGivney, especially in serious medical cases. God is the one who performs miracles, and we trust that he will grant a sure and provable one soon through his servant Father McGivney.



### The K of C at the 51st IEC

THE members of the Knights of Columbus representing the four State jurisdictions of the Philippines were in full force during the recently-held 51st International Eucharistic Congress in Cebu City. Most noticeable were hundreds of honor guards that prominently led the grand procession of all the participants of the Congress coming from 71 countries and from over a million locals.

But more than this, it was the Supreme Office of the Knights of Columbus that made possible a good media coverage of this international event. These were the major media platforms assisted by KC Supreme: the satellite uplink that beamed the event to 4 local channels and 13 international TV networks; the daily publication of a special issue of the CBCP Monitor that was distributed to the participants at the start of the daily sessions; the fielding of 15 professional journalists that covered that event; the audio and video streaming of daily catecheses and reflections; and the superb social media content management that garnered 120 million impressions from the opening mass to the *statio orbis* using the #EucharistPH hashtag.

And still more than these was the active participation of the members of the Order with their families who intently listened to all the conferences of the International Eucharistic Congress. The theological reflections and pastoral directions in the conferences, catechesis and homilies threaded along the path of dialogue with culture, with the poor and even with the prevailing socio-political realities throughout the world. This perspective is so close to the very foundations of the Knights of Columbus where its founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, did not just settle to see the Eucharist as a mere religious devotion, but one that bears fruit in the concern for the needy.

After the Congress, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the PHilippines issued a statement, titled 'Being Eucharistic in Life and Deeds', that challenged everyone to make our love for the Eucharist manifest even in the way we conduct politics, such as in the forthcoming national elections. Together with KCFAPI, this is what the members of the Knights of Columbus in the Philippines are working on today: voters' education, collaboration with election watchdogs such as PPCRV and social media reportage, among others.

# Knights support Eucharistic congress in the Philippines



Brother Knights wearing McGivney T-shirts and carrying posters for posting at the vicinity of the 51st IEC in Cebu City.

ONE year after Pope Francis made his historic visit to the Philippines in January 2015, the Asian nation hosting another major Vatican hosted with the 51st International Eucharistic Congress in Cebu City.

The Knights of Columbus has more than 350,000 members in the predominantly Catholic country, where the Order began operations in 1905. Hundreds of Knights served as delegates to the congress and many others were key figures in the Masses, presentations, processions and publicity for the weeklong event, Jan. 24-31.

In addition, the Supreme Council was a major sponsor of the congress, providing funding for the satellite uplink to broadcast the proceedings worldwide, and for the publication of a daily newspaper and other media materials that were provided free to all participants.

Bringing together some 15,000 official delegates from around the world, the Interna-



The promotional ad of Fr. McGivney was placed at the back cover of the Media Handbook that was distributed to all the media persons covering the 51st IEC. This handbook was also displayed at the media accreditation corner.

tional Eucharistic Congress featured presentations by members of the hierarchy and leading theologians, catechetical sessions for various age groups, youth rallies, visits to local parishes, and charitable outreach to the poor, the imprisoned and those still suffering from the devastating effects of Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the central region of the Philippine archipelago in November 2013.

Among the featured speak-

ers were Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, who has been a member of the Knights since his days as a Columbian Squire; Cardinal Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato, state chaplain of Mindanao; and Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, chaplain of the New York State Council.

The congress opened with the arrival of Pope Francis' personal envoy to the event, Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon, Myanmar, who offered Mass for tens of thousands of people at

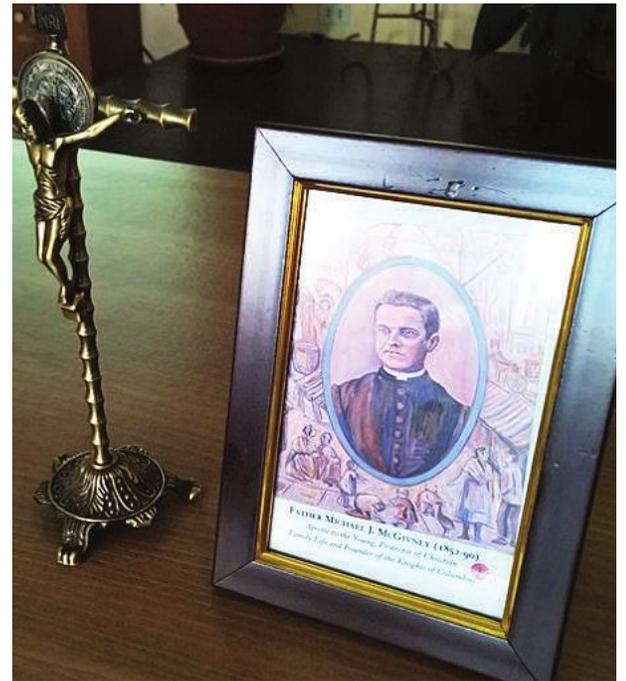
Cebu's Independence Plaza.

Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma, a Knight for nearly 40 years, welcomed Cardinal Bo at the start of Mass and announced the theme of the congress: "Christ in You, Our Hope of Glory," taken from the first chapter of St. Paul's epistle to the Colossians.

Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles, producer of the popular "Catholicism" series that aired on U.S. public television stations, spoke Jan. 26 on "The Eucharist: Celebration of the Paschal Mystery." Remarking on the vibrant faith of the Filipino people, Bishop Barron said that the nation can serve as an example of cultural engagement and evangelization. Although the culture in many other countries is against the values of sacrifice and self-giving, he said, people can be brought back to God through the Eucharist, and in that way a culture can slowly change. (<http://www.kofc.org>)



# Relic of Venerable Fr. McGivney visits the sick



The relic card of Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney was present at the Lenten Retreat on the Year of Mercy of Knights of Columbus - Our Lady of Grace Council # 5617 held at the Sisters of St John the Baptist Retreat House, Tagaytay City

A PIECE of the burial cassock of the Servant of God, Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney has been visiting the sick of a parish in northern Metro Manila. Thanks to the initiative of the local Knights of Columbus Council.

Our Lady of Grace Council 5617 of the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Grace Park, Caloocan City has organized the visitation of the relic of Fr. McGivney to sick parishioners coinciding with the observance of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

"This is our way of doing acts of mercy for the sick," said SK Rico Santero, Grand Knight of the Council. He credits their district deputy for bringing the relic to the

Council and for promoting the cause of canonization of the Founder.

"We pray the prayer for the cause of canonization of Fr. McGivney every time we have someone sick, be it a brother Knight or their relative. We also give out the prayer cards to the families of the sick," he said. He credits their District Deputy, SK Rommel Lopez, of District K02, Diocese of Kalookan for entrusting the relic to their care and for promoting the cause of Fr. McGivney.

Lopez, who is a member of the Fr. McGivney Guild, said he shared the relic of the Founder hoping and praying that a miracle needed to advance the cause of beatification of Fr. McGivney "would be

granted by the grace of God."

"I always believed that as sons of Fr. McGivney, it is our duty and privilege to promote his cause, to make his work known. Because after all we, the Knights, are his legacy and gift to the Church," he said.

The mother of 4th degree Knight Jester Cunanan has the relic ever since it visited her a month ago. He says his mom, who is suffering from an undisclosed ailment feels better "praying and kissing the relic". "She wants it with her all the time," Cunanan said.

Santero said the relic stays in the home of the sick who requested it until a new request for visitation is received by the Council.

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