



**The Pontifical University
of John Paul II
in Krakow**

**Msgr. Robert Tyrała, PhD Habilitatus, Associate Professor of UPJPII
Rector**

Cracow, 31 October 2020

The Beatification of Fr. Michael McGivney

**Prof. Carl Anderson
Supreme Knight of Columbus**

**Archbishop William Edward Lori
Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus**

**Szymon Czyszek
Representative of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus in Poland**

**Sławomir Wójtowicz
Grand Knight of John Paul II 14000 Knights of Columbus in Cracow**

The academic community of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow wish to join almost two million members of the Knights of Columbus to celebrate the beatification of Fr. Michael McGivney whose great service to God and to people is still continued. I am convinced that the beatification of this devout priest who laid the foundation for the biggest Catholic organization of men is a sign and a call for us, living in today's hectic world, to stop and ponder upon our faith and its implications.

It is striking that the miracle in the process recognized by the Holy See refers to healing the dangerously ill child in the mother's womb. It motivates us even more to protect the life of every human being since the moment of conception until natural death, not only in the USA but everywhere, also in Poland. The beatification of Michael McGivney is a powerful message of life protection. The newly beatified priest also teaches us how to genuinely care for a family, Christian values in the modern world and to approach each man with mercy.

I greatly entertain a hope that in the not-too-distant future we shall open a new council of the Knights of Columbus at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow. I strongly believe that the formation and activities of the Knights of Columbus, also in Poland, are of unquestionably immense importance for the future of our mother country, of the Church and of our university.

with fraternal greetings
and ensuring of joining in prayers during Fr. Michael McGivney's Beatification Mass