



## **The Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney Honoris**

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# **AUTUMN BULLETIN 2023**

## **The 9 things people find benefit us as Knights of Columbus.**

So you spent years in the council waiting for someone to ask what you want but no one did. We get so distracted with small desires and big obstacles, pursuing some of what mattered while holding back in countless ways. We attached more to burdens than possibilities. Feeling stuck sometimes as a member, you are not alone and understanding human experience as to where you fit in or what you can do within our order can take forever and down many roads, but there are things people can do to get more out of your membership and benefit from your council — forget everything else.

### **1. To like and to be liked**

To like and to be liked what you do can be abstract and it can be concrete. Saying the words “I love this”, or “I like working with these guys.” It’s about showing up and being with people or allowing them to help us. Family, friends, neighbours or people from your church....to like and be needed, is a solid foundation for you each day. But even when we have these relationships, we can get so familiar with them that we forget to notice. Allow for some enchantment and fondness. What’s small can still matter. We can reach out to our brothers and build a bond.

### **2. To be understood**

When people’s opinions of us clash with how we want to be seen, we feel alienated and isolated, to be understood by others, we must first understand ourselves. Think of our logo and council name, this makes us who you are, both internally and in what you show the world. Wherever you go, whatever you do, there’s a thread of continuity. Never stop thinking about what it means to be member of a council. It’s a lifelong pursuit. The many books, conversations with others or things to watch can help you in what it means to you in a council.

### **3. To have power**

To master something, a task or art or hobby or cooking means to have power over it, it makes it yours and you find confidence in yourself. Within a council, you will have that unique talent to own a project, to be a part of a program that makes it work. Embrace flexibility and moderation. Power isn’t about control over others; it is about authenticity and authority. Stepping into your own can be your way of taking responsibility for choices that can be successful in a council.

### **4. To have (and give) attention**

More and more, noticing how others help you feel less wounded or left out. By really seeing people you will feel less deprived. Our council is full of people who can bring and add benefits to our membership.

**Web site: <http://www.michaeljmcgivneyhonoris.ca>**

To feel more fulfilled, make a point of concentrating on an activity or topic that matters to someone and to those members who take the time working a council program.

## **5. To have freedom**

Adjust the terms and conditions of your commitments to your council. As a council working with our priest it can give us the freedom to do and grow ourselves and our parish community. We can take on a project and make it important to our parish, to our community and for each other.

## **6. To create**

If you insist, you can have creative moments every day just by observing and being curious. Express yourself imperfectly. Change your point of view about an issue. Take in something new and let out something personal. Experience something fresh. Find creative ways in using the power of prayer. It can benefit you as a member and others who you work on a project with.

## **7. To Belong**

At times, you might feel alienated and at odds. If you can feel comfortable in being all that you are, you can experience belonging with more ease, even with delight at times. It's about being secure in all that you are in a council activity, even the awkward, clumsy, oddball moments — especially those moments. If you're just trying to fit in, you will miss out on truly belonging.

## **8. To win**

We do well in so many ways. "I'm delighted with myself." With my council programs we did brilliantly. "Well done to us, to me. I see that we are skilled at doing this, and our council has done an excellent job." Be happy with what you do well. It will feel like a win." Consider what "winning" means to you. The definition changes and the rules vary. Honour your successes, however small. The Knights of Columbus are sometimes the parish best kept secret.

## **9. To connect**

If you're carrying frustration with a program or person and it becomes a source of pain, it takes courage to open up about it and be vulnerable with someone. Working with the executive of the council you can fix what does not work and move forward in any council program. When you feel safe and comfortable, revealing something can bring you to a place of acceptance with what the council programs are and members who participate in programs.

We form connections by creating trust and opening ourselves up, you will find acceptance and purpose and doing so we benefit from our membership in ways that you may not know now. You will feel that you belong, helpful, needed and happy with your brother Knights.

Council Life...you got this and it will work well for you.

Vivat Jesus!

Submitted by Brother Bill Country, PGK, FDD.

For prayers to Blessed Michael McGivney and other prayers visit the The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Honoris, Ottawa, Ontario website <http://www.michaeljmcgivneyhonoris.ca> .