



## The Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney Honoris

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# CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2023

## The Gift of Giving

We all have read the classic book "A Christmas Carol" or seen the movie, we all know the story, we know the ending, and of course the message. So why was Ebenezer Scrooge so unhappy? Most of us believe (if we are honest enough to admit it) that happiness comes through getting. If only I can get a new (pick one) house, car, job, promotion, or relationship, I will be happy. But, Ebenezer Scrooge was unhappy not because of a failure to get but to give and this I think overall may be the most important message of Christmas.

I can still see our children as they would open Christmas presents and the thrill they would have, I guess it can be said that as a child the chief joy in life, especially at Christmas time, was getting something. Remember the dismay we would have as parents when, two days after Christmas, our children were more interested in building a fort from discarded boxes than playing with the toys they had housed –but it was worth it. Words simply cannot describe the joy we received watching our kids open gifts on Christmas morning... mind you the ritual that often began before 6:00 a.m. when we finally gave in to incessant and insistent little voices at our bedside informing us that Santa Claus had indeed arrived.

I could go on, but each of us can call to mind a picture of a joyful child on Christmas morning. It is a delight surpassed only by that of their parents. But I don't need to illustrate the principle any further; we all have our memories. All of us should know that our best joys come through giving. And yet we forget; don't we? Maybe it's all those commercials that convince us we really can't be satisfied unless we buy the new and improved version of some product (translation: happiness comes through getting).

Christmas is a good time of year to remind ourselves of the truth. The most important message of Christmas is that of joyous giving. It's the message of our seasonal classics like "A Christmas Carol" and "It's A Wonderful Life." and, more importantly, it's the message of that first Christmas. For the baby in Bethlehem's manger was a gift, a present from a loving heavenly Father to his lost and hurting children, a gift the Bible says brought "good tidings of great joy" to giver and receiver alike.

What are your opportunities to give with joy? These are your best chances of happiness this time of year.

We Knights of Columbus can give, can change, can be a difference not only at Christmas but at all times during the year. The gift of our time, our energy, our support, to one another, our order, and our church... it is the value of our membership that we can share and build in the image of Christ especially this time of year. To each of our fellow brothers and their families who give so much, and continue to share their lives for so many, a Happy, Holy, and Special Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We know and we understand what Father McGivney, our founder wanted us to be...by being a gift of our giving.

Submitted by Brother Bill Country, PGK, FDD

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For prayers to Father McGivney visit The Blessed Michael J McGivney Honoris website  
<http://www.michaeljmcgivneyhonoris.ca> .