



The Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney Honoris

Saint Patrick Basilica
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SUMMER BULLETIN

2026

A Statue for Study

June 12, was the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

When Father McGivney was pastor at St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, he spent little on church adornments, but in 1886, he did list among the parish expenses a “Statue of S.H., \$19.”

Recently, St. Thomas’ current pastor, Father Joseph Crowley, found a Sacred Heart statue in storage and mounted it on a pedestal outside Immaculate Conception Church in Terryville, which Father McGivney oversaw as a mission from 1886 until his death in 1890. This raised the question: Could this be the statue Father McGivney purchased some 140 years ago?

Initial investigations by the pastor and experts in religious items have found nothing to disqualify the statue. Its composition and design are consistent with such statues of the 1880s, and it shows the wear and tear of time.

Lacking further evidence, we cannot be sure of the statue’s origin and history, but it is nonetheless edifying to think that it may be the Sacred Heart piece ordered for the parish by Father McGivney

With that understanding, earlier this month Knights of Columbus Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori blessed the statue. In attendance were about 50 Knights of Columbus chaplains, who were participating in a pilgrimage called “In the Footsteps of Father McGivney.”

You can watch a video of that blessing below.

With Blessed Michael McGivney, let us pray: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

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Video: Historic Statue Blessed

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8ltZNMlp3e0> that may have been purchased by Father McGivney in 1886.