



Dear Friends,

As we continue to renew our Church in Fairfield County, I want to first thank you for your leadership, generosity, and friendship. Without your steadfast support, **we would not be in this springtime of renewal for the life of the Church.**

As we look forward to the task that lies ahead, it is my hope that I can continue to call upon your leadership, generosity, and friendship. For we are on a journey that will last a lifetime, and where **we will rise out of the darkness with the Lord Jesus at our side and bring new energy and commitment to preaching the Gospel, in word and witness.**

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Frank J. Caggiano

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano



Blessed Michael McGivney Initiative

Thank you again for your leadership, generosity, friendship, and commitment to the Diocese of Bridgeport.

We welcome your feedback and thoughts as we embark on this effort to secure commitments to the Blessed Michael McGivney Fund, which will benefit scholarships for seminarian formation.

Please know **your pace-setting investment in fostering, discerning, forming, and accompanying priestly vocations will inspire others** to support this critical need.

Ways to Give

When contemplating your level of sacrificial giving, please consider using the Pledge Plan. Pledging will allow a greater sacrifice by extending the payment of your gift through December 31, 2022.

CHECK | ONLINE GIVING | MATCHING GIFTS
TEXT TO GIVE | GIFTS OF SECURITIES
PLANNED GIFTS



Father Michael J. McGivney was a central figure in the growth of Catholicism in America. Born in Waterbury in 1852 and ordained in Baltimore in 1877, he was a priest based in New Haven and founded the Knights of Columbus.

On May 26, 2020, Pope Francis approved a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney. On Oct. 31 of that year, the Mass for Beatification was celebrated in Hartford. He is the third priest born in the US to be raised to this honor, and the first priest to be beatified who spent his whole priestly ministry in a US parish.

ANSWERING OUR CALL TO RENEWAL:

Fostering, Discerning, Forming,
& Accompanying Priestly Vocations



Diocese of Bridgeport





Answering Our Call to Renewal

As we emerge from an unprecedented time that has dramatically changed every aspect of life, **are we ready to go out in mission and witness to the Gospel in new and courageous ways?**

We need priests to echo the prophet and saints who have gone before us, willing to see the light through the darkness and willing to say to the Lord, "Here I am... Send me." (Is. 6:8)

Central to renewal of our Diocese is to attract and form young men who are called to a priestly vocation.

Fostering priestly vocations to achieve the growth in our seminarian community, both in numbers and in a diversity that reflects the composition of the faithful in the Diocese. We must cultivate a missionary attitude towards fostering vocations.



Fostering, Discerning, Forming, & Accompanying Priestly Vocations

There are currently **23 seminarians** training to become priests in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Seminarians are educated and discern their calling in preparation for the priesthood at **St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia** and **Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Stamford**. The major seminary program is at **St. Joseph's in Dunwoodie, Pope St. John XXIII in Weston, and The Pontifical North American College in Rome**.

We need to **expand opportunities for men who are discerning a priestly vocation**, especially in college and post-college. Educational costs for both minor and major seminary is approximately **\$50,000 per year**. Financial impediments should not stand in the way of young men willing to respond to their call to priesthood.

Priesthood in today's world requires **experience in many disciplines** and mentorship can offer background in some of these areas.

Projections show that the growth of our Vocation and **Seminary Programs** will require a minimum of **\$2,000,000** over the next five years in **additional philanthropic investment**.

Blessed Michael McGivney Initiative

Along with providing financial support, there are multiple opportunities to **engage in the accompaniment of the seminarians** of the Diocese of Bridgeport during their formation process:

- 1. GROUP GATHERINGS:** twice per year, sharing in prayer, fellowship, and a meal
- 2. ADDITIONAL GATHERINGS:** on at least one occasion while on summer assignments
- 3. SEMINARY PILGRIMAGES:** based on the seminary schedule and calendar
- 4. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:** e-mail updates 3 times per year and regular newsletter

Mentoring opportunities will also be pursued to supplement the development of our seminarians.

Fairfield County Catholic will offer regular updates on seminarian formation and vocations in the Diocese.

Please note, all proposed elements of the Blessed Michael McGivney Initiative are subject to the formation and educational demands of the seminarians and Safe Environment guidelines.