

First, I'd like to say I really don't know what's expected for a "lecture's reflection", since I don't recall ever hearing one. That said, with Columbus Day approaching I was wondering why Fr. McGivney chose the name Knights of Columbus. Knights is a no brainer; a knight is one who serves; a sovereign or in our case the Church. But why Columbus? Why would an American Priest born of Irish Immigrants in New Haven chose Columbus to name his organization after?

The only explanation I found was on the KofC web site and I quote "It was also no coincidence that certain immigrant groups — Irish, Italians, Hispanics, and other Catholics — that felt marginalized in a still WASP-dominated United States identified themselves with a universally admired historical figure who also happened to have been Italian, to have sailed for Spain, and to have brought Catholic Christianity to the Western Hemisphere. Columbus could be presented as legitimating their presence at a time when anti-Catholicism and anti-immigrant nativism were quite common. "

So, we all know Father McGivney is on his way to Sainthood:

On March 15, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI declared him as Venerable.

On October 31, 2020, a Beatification Mass of Michael McGivney was celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford at Pope Frances request. Which is why he now holds the title of Blessed.

But did you know when he becomes a Saint, he will be the first American born male to receive the title. I did find out there were 3 American born females raised to Sainthood, the first I that came to mind was Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton we see her name on schools all over the place. That's because she started the country's parochial school system. The other two I needed to look up. The second was Saint Katharine Drexel who helped the oppressed Native Americans and African Americans in the Southwestern United States. Then we have Saint Kateri Tekakwitha she was a native American of the Mohawk tribe in upstate New York. She Moved and started a missionary in Montreal.

I hope that provides something that you can reflect on.

<https://catholicreadings.org/saints-born-in-the-united-states-of-america/>