

THE RICHARD REPORT

The Newsletter of the Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild

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WELCOME

On September 20, 2020, Archbishop of Detroit Allen Vigneron presided over a very special Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of Ste. Anne Church being named a minor basilica by Pope Francis. During the final remarks at the end of Mass, I announced, with permission of the Archbishop, that we are beginning the canonization process for Fr. Gabriel Richard.

The late Msgr. Edward J. Hickey longed for this day but did not live to see it. There was some talk about this effort when Fr. Richard's body was moved from underneath the main altar at the Basilica of Ste. Anne to the adjoining chapel, but nothing happened. So now is the time!

After doing some study on the life of the beloved former pastor of Ste. Anne, I believe that he should be recognized not just for his tremendous achievements but for his heroic life as a priest. He died ministering to his parishioners during the cholera epidemic and led a life service and holiness. Last fall, the Basilica of Ste. Anne had on display a letter from Fr. Garnier, the U.S. Provincial of the Sulpician Order. When Fr. Richard died Fr. Garnier wrote to the General Superior in Paris: "It would be impossible to recall all the good he did in this place, . . . a great number of people from all classes of society, from all sects, attended his funeral, and regretted his loss."

The path to canonization is an extensive six stage process. The first was to form the Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild, which I thank you for joining! Because of you, we will be able to teach the world about this great man, whom I believe is a saint, and in the process inspire people living today to grow closer to God and live according to His will.

Msgr. Chuck Kosanke
Rector
Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit



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FR. GABRIEL RICHARD GUILD BOARD



Joe Boggs, President

Joe is a resident of Monroe, Michigan and a parishioner at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. His interest in Fr. Richard began with a college paper he wrote on the Native American experience during the War of 1812. In his research he came across Fr. Richard's work with local tribes. Since then, he has written about FGR in the Detroit Catholic and organized "Rise From the Ashes," a walking pilgrimage that began in Monroe County - where Fr. Richard also served - and concluded at Ste. Anne.



Joe Serwach, Vice President

Joe learned about FGR when he was growing up in Grosse Pointe and later at the University of Michigan. One his favorite classes was called "the Past, Present and Future of the University of Michigan." He learned about Fr. Richard's role as the founder of U-M as well as his pivotal role in the history of Detroit, the state of Michigan and even in the U.S. Congress. As a journalist, author and writer who studied history he says he never encountered the story of anyone more worthy of sainthood than Gabriel Richard.



Kevin Madosky, Secretary

Kevin Madosky is a parishioner of the Basilica of Ste. Anne. He became interested in the life of Fr. Richard after translating his collected French correspondence from the AOD archives. He wrote a research paper Fr. Richard's moral virtues. This summer he is researching a master's thesis on Fr. Richard's spirituality and growth in faith. In 2020 he retired from Cass Tech High School, where he taught Spanish, French, and English. Kevin is the artist who drew the image of Fr. Richard on the cover of this newsletter.



Members of the Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild participated in the Basilica of Ste. Anne's Holy Rollin' event on June 13. More than 100 bike riders spend the day riding around Detroit to learn about Detroit. One stop was dedicated to Fr. Richard and the founding of the University of Michigan. Riders also visited his final resting place in the chapel at Ste. Anne at the end of their ride.

7.7.1792

Fr. Richard fled persecution of the French Revolution and was sent to America with a handful of other priests. After a few months of crossing, they arrived in Baltimore, Maryland. FGR wrote back to tell of his journey to his Sulpician superiors. This except of his letter dated July 7, 1792, is translated from the original French.

... at ten thirty in the morning, we were on the streets of Baltimore. We arrived at the Catholic Church singing the Kyrie. We were quite touched when we heard the organ and the chant from the road, which were quite different from the French chant, and from seeing God honored and his praises sung publicly and with more freedom in the midst of the heretic country, than in the very Christian kingdom. We rejoice here with great tranquility, we tolerated all the worship that were recognized, and we found many Protestant sects which had their temples, Methodists, Anglicans, Quaker presbyterians, etc. ... Here there are many Catholics, but as there are many French who are only here for their temporal business, we do not see that fervor that is perceived in other towns like Philadelphia. The harvest is more abundant than there are harvesters to collect it.

Annual FGR Exhibit at the Basilica of Ste. Anne

Sept 13 - 30
Hours and details to come.

Each year the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit hosts a special exhibit in the chapel when Fr. Richard is interred that showcases his artifacts and teaches visitors about the life of this great and holy man.

We welcome individuals, families, school groups and other organizations. Docent-led and self-guided tours are available. For more details email contact@steannedetroit.org.

Join the Guild

The purpose of the Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild is to:

- keep alive the inspiring memory of Fr. Richard;
- bring knowledge of his exemplary life to others;
- archive information about his life and work;
- provide prayer, support, and office services to the Cause.

Membership is just \$10 per year. Visit steanne.org/father-gabriel-richard to join. Please tell a friend.



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