

THE RICHARD REPORT

The Newsletter of the Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Guild Members,

"We hope for better things; it shall rise from the ashes."

As readers likely know, Fr. Richard coined that now famous phrase following the fire that decimated the city of Detroit in 1805. In what seemed like a hopeless situation, Ste. Anne's priest preached a message of hope that inspired a generation to rebuild, anticipating the future blessings that God would bestow upon them if they kept the faith.

The newly formed Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild also draws upon this motto as inspiration.

Undoubtedly, Fr. Richard led an incredibly virtuous life. He accomplished numerous remarkable feats that individuals today could only hope to complete in a dozen lifetimes. Fr. Richard is memorialized with stained glass windows, statues, and even has a few local schools named after him. His bodily remains have been entombed in a place of honor at the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit.

Yet, it has been almost 200 years since Fr. Richard's death. Local Catholics have largely lost their connection to this holy servant priest who did so much to preserve the faith for future generations. By the grace of God, our mission as a Guild is to renew prayerful devotion to Fr. Richard and promote his virtuous life as a shining example of what it means to be Christian during these confusing times in which we find ourselves.

In recent months, the Guild has been hard at work trying to spread the word about Fr. Richard's inspiring life and witness. This past July, over a dozen pilgrims participated in the second annual "Rise from the Ashes" penitential pilgrimage that concluded with a visit to Fr. Richard's tomb. In September, a special exhibit entitled "Fr. Gabriel Richard: Missionary, Educator, Civic Leader" showcased the many talents and servant leadership of "Le Bon Pere." Rare artifacts and letters related to the life of Fr. Richard were brought out for the occasion. To cap off the exhibit, the Guild invited Fr. George Kooran and Br. Richard Merling of the Father Solanus Casey Guild to share their experiences promoting the life of Fr. Solanus and the growth of their Guild. Brother Merling emphasized that more people should be praying particularly for the intercession of Fr. Richard. See page 3 for photos.

As a Guild, we know we are still at the beginning phases of this unique journey but we are hopeful! Please consider joining us as we plan future activities that promote Fr. Richard's life and legacy. And if your schedule does not allow for this level of involvement, please pray for the intercession of Fr. Richard!

Joe Boggs
President, Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild



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THE AMAZING JOURNEY TO SAINTHOOD OF FATHER GABRIEL RICHARD IN 1821

By Gail Moreau-DesHarnais

Two hundred years ago when there were no cars or planes – simply boats of various types, horses, carriages, and “feet” – Father Gabriel Richard undertook an amazing journey that lasted about 10 months.

4-31 July 1821 – left Détroit for Mackinac Island

4-16 August 1821 – on Mackinac Island where he baptized 47 people and rehabilitated three marriages

17 August 1821 – left Mackinac Island and went down the eastern coast of Michigan on Lake Michigan, with a significant stop in the area of present-day Ludington, Michigan, where he placed a cross on the spot where Père Marquette was believed to have died in 1675

Circa 17 September 1821 – reached Chicago where he said Mass in the house of Jean Baptiste Beaubien and preached to the American soldiers in Fort Dearborn

4 October 1821 at 8 a.m. – reached the Portage des Sioux, Missouri, and stayed with Father Charles Acquaroni, a Vincentian / Lazarist. Visited Sister Rose Philippine Duchesne at her Convent of the Sacred Heart in Florissant, Missouri. Sister Duchesne was canonized on 1 October 2000.

5 October 1821 – reached Saint Louis in the evening and stayed with Bishop DuBourg, a Sulpician

12 October 1821 – left Saint Louis with Bishop DuBourg and went to the Seminary of Barrens for the ordination of subdeacons, deacons, and priests

15 October 1821 – his 54th birthday

31 October 1821 – reached Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, where he drafted his last will and testament, in which he mentioned Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, S.S., the Apostle of the Alleghenies, who is under consideration for canonization and currently has the title of Servant of God

1-2 November 1821 – was in Kaskaskia with Father Pierre Desmoulins

3 November 1821 – left Kaskaskia for Vincennes, Indiana. He was thrown by his horse but was able to reach Vincennes where he rested for a few weeks.

18 November 1821 – baptized two children in Vincennes, Indiana

25 November 1821 – preached a sermon in Vincennes, Indiana

Left Vincennes, Indiana, and went to Bardstown, Kentucky, where he remained for two months. Bishop Flaget, a Sulpician, and Father Charles Nercinckx, who is a candidate for sainthood, were there.

13 January 1822 – consecration of Bishop Edward Fenwick, a Dominican; Father Richard participated in the ceremony

In this time period Father Richard met Father Antoine Ganilh and Francis Vincent Badin, also Sulpicians.

31 March 1822 – left Bardstown and went to Gallipolis, Ohio

6 April 1822 – in Cincinnati where Bishop Fenwick ordained Father Francis Vincent Badin

9 April 1822 – left Cincinnati and crossed the forests and cities of Ohio on his way to Michigan, preaching to Americans along the way

28 April 1822 – reached River Raisin where he installed Father Ganilh in the parish

9 July 1822 – His name and signature were again present in the parish register of Ste. Anne de Détroit.

His journey exemplified the virtues of love of church, love of people, fortitude, and justice, some of the virtues needed to become a saint.

The full version of this article will appear in Michigan's Habitant Heritage in 2022. Gail Moreau-DesHarnais is a member of the Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild.

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.

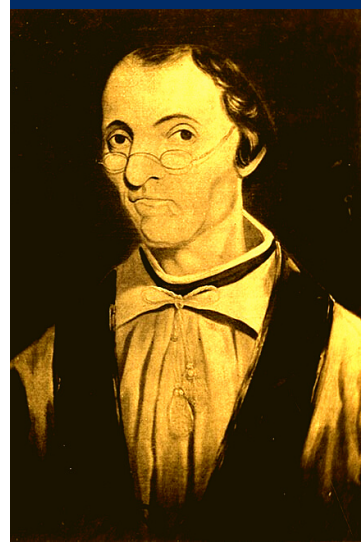
Membership is just \$10 per year.

Visit ste-anne.org to join.

Please tell a friend.



@fgrguild



SUMMER & FALL WITH FR. RICHARD



Rise from the Ashes Pilgrimage



FGR items for sale at the Ste. Anne gift shop



FGR's Path to Sainthood



Rise from the Ashes Pilgrimage



Joe Boggs with Fr. Kooran and Br. Merling



Rise from the Ashes Pilgrimage



Celebrating Mass with FGR's Chalice



Students from Gabriel Richard High School attend Mass and the Annual Exhibit

