

THE RICHARD REPORT

The Newsletter of the Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild

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GREETINGS FROM THE GUILD

Since 1835 the state motto of Michigan has been "Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice." Translated from Latin into English it reads "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look around you." This motto speaks to the natural beauty here in Michigan, especially along our Great Lakes coastlines in the summer.

It's been noted by many that God must be an artist due to the incredible landscapes that abound not just here in the United States but throughout the world. Indeed, when we encounter the natural beauty around us with a sense of the Divine our appreciation of the Divine Creator blossoms.

Yet, we must remember that nature itself is not God's greatest masterpiece. The human person is. Every single soul we encounter throughout our daily experience is truly an original, unrepeatable masterpiece that God the Father cherishes more than anything else. How do we know that? He sent His only beloved Son into our fallen world to die a degrading, unimaginable death, binding up the evil one and atoning for our sins in the process. God did this because He so cherishes each and every beautiful individual he created, infinitely more than the earth he made for us.

I was reminded somewhat of this reality when judging the recent Father Gabriel Richard art contest and subsequently delivering awards to our first place winners in each division. While myself and other Guild members were sifting through the many entries, we were amazed at the incredibly diverse and beautiful renditions of Fr. Richard submitted by over two hundred students.

A few weeks later Kristen Andree and I hopped into her car and embarked on a criss-crossing journey throughout the Archdiocese to present certificates to the winning artists. Our first leg of the trip was an hour long drive northeast to Marine City. The rural landscape was picturesque and the Church, where we would present the certificate, had a commanding waterfront view of the St. Clair River.

We entered the Church with winning artwork in hand and awaited the invitation to congratulate the student in front of all of her peers. When we announced that Madelyn Demura had won the art contest at the high school level, the freshman timidly left her pew, graciously accepted the certificate, and took several photos with us.

Upon speaking with her after the official presentation, it was evident that Madelyn was a beautiful, humble soul. As we continued on and met Jack Bishop and Julia Hernandez at their respective schools, I was equally amazed with these young artists' natural grace and maturity. Putting aside the beauty of their personal artwork, God's handiwork in creating their beautiful souls greatly surpasses any piece of art, even if it were submitted by Van Gogh!

In analyzing his life, I think it is clear Fr. Richard understood this Divine reality. Regardless of the natural beauty surrounding him and his own incredible abilities and accomplishments, nothing was more beautiful than the Creator Himself and the people He created. He would devote his life to serving them.

So as we bask in the natural beauty of a Michigan summer, let us pray that we can develop an even greater appreciation and love for the Divine Creator and His greatest masterpieces, our fellow neighbors.

Joe Boggs
President, Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild

The Words of Fr. Richard to his nephew Jos. Richard Guerin

It is with singular pleasure that I received and read your letter of last February. I am responding today, the feast of St. Francis Xavier, a beautiful name that I designated for Charles, hoping that he might one day, under the protection of such a great saint, perhaps become a zealous missionary in America. I pray that God may give him success in his studies and good morals; I ask the same thing for you all.

I thank you for the details you have related of your brothers and sisters. That is all interesting to me! Emily is quite happy, she has chosen the better portion, and it will not be taken from her; I hope that in an advanced age, she will progress in wisdom, piety, prudence, and modesty.

The first time that I wrote to you, I expected you to tell me as much about the two others, to which you will translate this text: Vana est pulchritudo. Mulier timens Dominum ipsa laudabitur. May they never forget that modesty and shame are the most beautiful adornment! May the cross of the Savior be the mirror that they consult each day, to remove all the defects of their soul. And to work unceasingly to adorn it with the violet of humility, the lily of chastity, and the beautiful rose of divine love; may they be pleased to cultivate these beautiful flowers in their heart, which will become an agreeable garden, where the celestial Spouse of our souls will be pleased to come and dwell by his grace and by the most holy communications, if they work to become so worthy.

*Fr. Gabriel Richard
December, 1826*

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual FGR Guild Exhibit

Fr. Richard Under Fire
The Trials of Fr. Richard

September 13 - October 1
Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit

School Art Contest



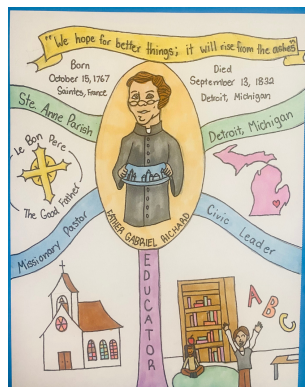
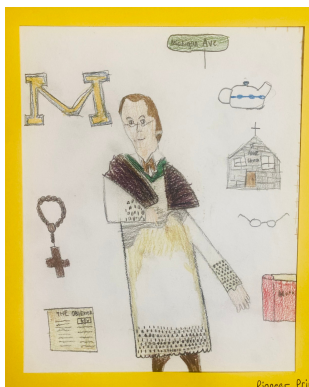
Congratulations to the winners of the Fr. Gabriel Richard Art Contest! Winners in each of the three age groups hail from Shrine Catholic Grade School, Guardian Angels Catholic School and Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School. Each winner and school received a \$1,000 prize courtesy of Concorde Financial Group. We are so proud of these young artists!

The contest was created by Joe Boggs, president of the Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild, and his colleagues in the Guild. The goal of the contest was to help incentivize young people to learn about Fr. Richard and to promote the Cause for Sainthood.

Students were invited to submit artistic renderings of Fr. Richard depicting his image, an event from his life, or a general aspect of his life.

The Guild received more than 200 submissions. Most came from schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The judges received so many beautiful pieces that, in addition to the first place winners pictured at left, 19 students also received Honorable Mention awards.

The artwork will be on display at the annual Fr. Gabriel Richard Exhibit at the Basilica of Ste. Anne this fall.





Save the Dates & Register!



Prayer



Penance



Pilgrimage to
Historic Ste. Anne
de Detroit

4th Annual

Rise From The Ashes Pilgrimage

Friday, July 21st - Sunday, July 23rd

**Walk the entire 38-miles from Monroe to the
Motor City or walk just 1 day, or 1 hour!**

SCAN ME



Register Now!

<https://rise-from-the-ashes.ticketleap.com/rfta2023/>

For more information contact Joe Boggs @
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