

THE RICHARD REPORT

The Newsletter of the Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild

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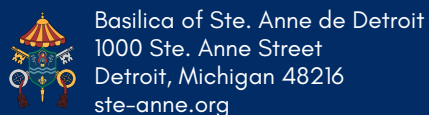
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GREETINGS FROM THE GUILD

Fr. Richard Walks With Us in Life and Death, Winter and Spring

Father Gabriel Richard and the Detroit motto go together like a hand in a glove: "We hope for better things; it will arise from the ashes."

Father Richard came up with the city's motto after all of Detroit burned to the ground in 1805, and he promised our city would rise again and be born again like Christ himself. And so it was: better than any imagined. The city would rise and fall – and rise again – many times.

Such transformations sum up his legacy and the healing mission of the Church itself: We are born, we are broken—and then we are changed, reborn, renewed—transformed by God's Grace.

The cycle repeats itself in his story and in our own stories.

Every fall, we remember the dead and the dying and then look to the new life and the new hope to come, a new Christmas, a new start of a new year, a new chance to become closer to becoming the souls we were born to be.

Look at the gray skies of Michigan as we move from fall to winter. The plants and activity go dormant. The Basilica rings out the names of the honored dead.

But Christianity means we know there is more to the story, that eternal life begins when earthly life ends, that the dead leaves cover the buried seeds of the new life set to spring to life in the new spring.

For a saint, the new work only begins with death. At the last meeting of the Father Gabriel Richard Guild, we reviewed how often his remains—all true relics of this holy leader and father of our state and city—have moved.

He helped construct and served at the 1818 Stone Church, which was finished in 1828. When he died during the 1832 cholera outbreak, he was buried there with many others in a mass grave for a few years to ensure a virulent disease did not spread.

Later, around 1834, his remains were moved to an individual grave in the parish cemetery. When that graveyard property was sold in 1886 and the current Ste. Anne's structure was built, everyone in the parish cemetery was relocated except for Father Richard. He was initially buried under the new Church altar and was later moved when the chapel was renovated in 1976.

Around 1960, there was another fight over his remains. People trying to save the old Detroit City Hall (that was demolished the following year) wanted his relics to be preserved along with that building.

They continued to honor him and his legacy, seeing him as the living symbol of Detroit itself: A soul who escaped a war-torn Old World, who brought together multiple nations here in this New World, and who became a saint ministering to the neediest souls dying in an epidemic.

Joseph Serwach
Vice President, Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild

Noël Français au Détroit

On December 2, Rendez-vous Detroit and the Father Gabriel Richard Guild joined efforts to bring a little French Christmas spirit and lots of Ste. Anne's history to the Basilica. More than 100 visitors enjoyed the historical reenactments portraying various events in parish history. The Guild's Bob Wayner played the role of Ste. Anne's architect in the 1880s and Joe Boggs was cast as Fr. Frederic Baraga giving the eulogy at Fr. Richard's funeral in 1832.



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.

Basilica Anniversary Mass January 27

6pm Confessions

7pm Mass

Join us to celebrate the anniversary of the granting of the title Basilica by Pope Francis to Ste. Anne de Detroit.

Anyone attending Mass and Confession will receive a plenary indulgence.

1000 Ste. Anne Street, Detroit

ste-anne.org/events

Honoring Fr. Richard on the Day of the Dead

The Day of the Dead is a beautiful Mexican custom celebrated on November 2, All Souls Day, that honors our loved ones who have passed away. The Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit had a large community Ofrenda (Day of the Dead altar) in the main church, and 14 more Ofrendas in the Fr. Gabriel Richard Chapel set up by individual parish members or groups. The FGR Guild sponsored an Ofrenda for Fr. Richard on his tomb in the chapel. His many accomplishments and virtues were highlighted.

A special addition to the Ofrenda was the art work submitted this year in the First Annual Fr. Richard Art Contest.





FR. GABRIEL RICHARD ART CONTEST

**WIN \$1,000
FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR SCHOOL**

The Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild is holding an art contest for Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Students are invited to submit artistic renderings of Fr. Richard depicting a specific event from his life, such as his flight from France during the French Revolution, the Great Fire of 1805, the War of 1812, the Labadie legal case, the cholera epidemic and many more.

Artwork must be two-dimensional and able to be displayed on a easel.

The deadline for submissions is April 8, 2024. Winners will be announced by May 17, 2024.

The winning students in each age group will each receive a \$1,000 cash prize. The winning students' schools will also receive a \$1,000 cash prize. Prizes are courtesy of contest sponsor Concorde Financial. Artwork will be displayed at the Annual Exhibit on Fr. Gabriel Richard at the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit in September 2024.

- High school (9-12th grade)
- Middle school (5th-8th grade)
- Elementary (K-4th grade)

Submissions should be sent to the attention of Kristen Andree at the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit, 1000 Ste. Anne Street, Detroit, Michigan 48216.

- Artwork must be two-dimensional and able to be displayed on a easel. The deadline for submissions is April 8, 2024.
- Artwork submissions must include a completed entry form attached to the piece. Incomplete entries form will not be eligible for winning.
- Winners will be announced by May 17, 2024.
- There will be a reception for participants and their families with artwork on display at the Basilica of Ste. Anne Fr. Gabriel Richard Chapel on September 15, 2024.

There is no cost to enter. Shipping and postage costs must be paid by the contestant or school. Artwork may also be dropped off when the parish office is open. Artwork will not be returned as the Guild would like to archive these renditions as evidence of growing awareness and devotion to Fr. Richard.

Please contact Kristen Andree with questions at Kristen.Andree@SteAnneDetroit.org or 313-496-1701 x14. More details and the entry form are at ste-anne.org/father-gabriel-richard.

