

THE RICHARD REPORT

The Newsletter of the Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Guild Message](#)

[The Words of FGR](#)

[Join the Guild](#)

[Special Basilica Masses](#)


[Jubilee of Hope](#)

[School Art Contest](#)

 @FGRguild

 FGRguild@SteAnneDetroit.org

 313.496.1701

 Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit
1000 Ste. Anne Street
Detroit, Michigan 48216
ste-anne.org

GREETINGS FROM THE GUILD

Dear Friends,

Division. Conflict. Anger.

Any of those three words could adequately describe the year 2024. But, in reality, can't these words describe our current culture for the past decade?

Without a doubt, many Americans have been sucked into a world of animosity. Our modern world conditions many to believe that anyone who is different from their dearly held identity or opposed to what they stand for must be an inherent enemy. Election seasons ramp up this belief and both news media and social media reinforce this mentality.

Fr. Gabriel Richard also lived in a time of great conflict and division. The War of 1812 ripped apart local communities and divided global powers into warring camps. The Great Fire of 1805 devastated homes and caused suffering among Detroit's residents. Territorial, city and parish politics constantly plagued Fr. Richard's pursuit of peace.

Despite all of this, Fr. Richard was an instrument of healing throughout his life. He attempted to bring peace among Native tribes in Michigan dealing with the impact of alcoholism and land settlement. He brought comfort to residents struggling during the War of 1812 and the 1832 cholera epidemic. Most famously, he provided words of encouragement and hope following the Great Fire.

In this era of identity politics and social media warriors it may be worth looking to Fr. Richard as an exemplar of conduct. And that's because he looked to Jesus as his own exemplar. As a follower of Christ, Fr. Richard became an instrument of healing because Jesus was and still is the ultimate healer. As we conclude the Christmas season, let us thank God for not just sending his healing servant Fr. Richard into the Detroit region but most importantly His Son, who heals all wounds and divisions.

Peace,

Joe Boggs
President
Fr. Gabriel Richard Guild

The Words of Fr. Richard

In this letter to the Archbishop of Baltimore, Fr. Richard puts aside religious differences and preaches the Gospel to Protestants in need of a pastor.

Detroit, October 8, 1807

Right Reverend Sir:

This letter is to have you advise me on a point of my present conduct that seems somewhat irregular in some respect. About at the end of August last, I have been invited by our Governor and some other gentlemen to try to preach in the English language. Although I was sensitive to my incapacity, as there is no English minister of any denomination, I thought it could be of some utility to take possession of the ground. In order to prevent any irreverence towards the B. Sacrament, I have found it proper to hold our English meeting not in our chapel, but in our Council-House. As there are many prejudices against our society, particularly among people of lower class or mechanics (N.B. in the whole town there are no more than two English persons of the Roman Catholic society). I found that it would be a great point if I could obtain only that they would be willing to hear me. For that reason, I have chosen for the subject of my Discourses to establish the General Principles of Christian Religion, that is to say the principles used in the discovery of truth, the several causes of our errors, the existence of God, the spirituality, immortality of our soul, Natural Religion and several evidences of the Christian religion in general; I avoided to make any other ceremony but a Discourse or familiar conference, to make an experiment that planning may take more than one year before I should enter into any discriminating point of the Cath. Faith. Every Sunday since the 30th August, I have met about twelve o'clock in the Council House for the above purpose. Last Monday, Mr. Marchaud, the Priest of the British side, advised me to write to you on this subject and to consult you as that matter of preaching seemed to him a little strange and it is to comply with his direction that I now pray you to direct me on this important affair; being ready to comply entirely with your orders.

Gabriel Richard

Special Basilica Masses

Various privileges of minor basilicas highlight their attachment to the Vatican. The most important of these is the plenary indulgence. Anyone attending Mass and Confession at the Basilica of Ste. Anne on certain dates will receive a plenary indulgence.

Confessions are at 6pm. Mass is at 7pm. Upcoming dates are:

- Date of the establishment of the diocese of Detroit by Pope Gregory XVI - March 8
- On the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles - June 29

We invite everyone to join us for these special Masses. More details are at ste-anne.org/basilica/special-basilica-masses.

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 of Ste. Anne Named Jubilee Pilgrimage Site

2025 is the Jubilee Holy Year, the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope."

Part of the Jubilee Year can include a pilgrimage to Rome. However, knowing that very few of us can travel to Rome to pass through the jubilee's Holy Doors in the Eternal City, Archbishop of Detroit Allen Vigneron has designated several pilgrimage sites throughout the Archdiocese, where the faithful will be able to pray the official prayer for Jubilee Year 2025 and unite themselves spiritually with all who will journey as pilgrims to Rome.

The Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit is one of these designated pilgrimage sites. Visitors are welcome to attend Mass or schedule a tour of the basilica. Please note that the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit is not open to walk-in visitors and the basilica is closed except during Mass.

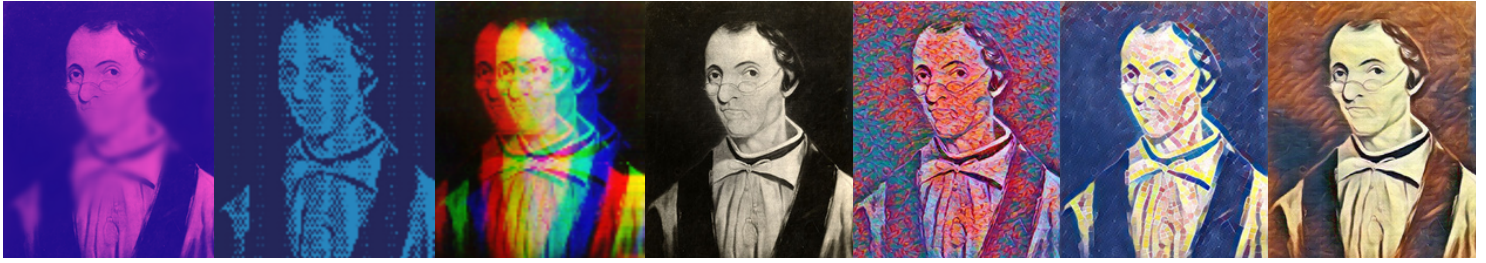
More information is at:

ste-anne.org/visit-us/jubilee-of-hope

aod.org/jubilee

uscbb.org/jubilee2025





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.

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 2025.

High school (9-12th grade) - Choose one of the following events to depict: Fr. Richard's promotion of Eucharistic Adoration after the 1805 fire and his holy hour with the Eucharist in the middle of the night; Fr. Richard providing the sacraments or ministry to various frontier churches; Fr. Richard's funeral or his entombment; Fr. Richard's meeting with Potawatomi Chieftain Pokagon ultimately resulting in the Potawatomi of southwest Michigan obtaining their own priest.

More information about these events:

- <https://www.detroitcatholic.com/news/at-200-years-old-st-joseph-in-erie-points-to-farming-roots-as-foundation-of-strong-faith>
- Frank Bury Woodford, Gabriel Richard: Frontier Ambassador. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1958)
- Sister M. Dolorita Mast, S.S.N.D., Always the Priest: The Life of Gabriel Richard, S.S. (Baltimore-Dublin: Helicon, 1965),
- <https://www.leaderpub.com/2017/03/03/pokagon-historian-shares-tribal-stories-in-museum-program/>

Middle school (5th-8th grade) - Choose one of the following events to depict: Fr. Gabriel missionary trips to Mackinac Island/spiritual endeavors with Native Americans there; Fr. Richard's term in Congress; Fr. Richard's activities during the War of 1812; Fr. Richard's climbing of scaffolding and fall as a teen in France.

More information about these events:

- <https://issuu.com/aod87/docs/det-spring22> pgs 40-43
- <https://www.detroitcatholic.com/news/fr-gabriel-richard-what-you-didnt-know-about-detroits-famed-second-founder>
- Frank Bury Woodford, Gabriel Richard: Frontier Ambassador. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1958).

Elementary (K-4th grade) - Choose one of the following events to depict: Fr. Richard's leadership after the 1805 fire; Fr. Richard's efforts to build Ste. Anne's stone church; Fr. Richard's efforts as an educator.

More information about these events:

- <https://www.detroitcatholic.com/news/fr-gabriel-richard-what-you-didnt-know-about-detroits-famed-second-founder>
- <https://issuu.com/aod87/docs/det-spring22> pgs 40-43

Submissions should be sent to the attention of Colleen Moore 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 4, 2025. Artwork submissions must include a completed entry form available at ste-anne.org/father-gabriel-richard. Incomplete entry forms will not be eligible for winning. Winners will be announced by May 2, 2025.

There will be a reception for participants and their families with artwork on display at the Basilica of Ste. Anne Fr. Gabriel Richard Chapel in September 2025.

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 Colleen Moore with questions at Colleen.Moore@steannedetroit.org. More details are at ste-anne.org/father-gabriel-richard.