

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 2026.

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

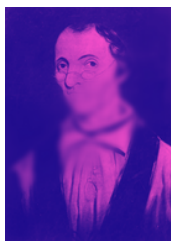
Submissions should be sent to the attention of Colleen Moore at the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit, 1000 Ste. Anne Street, Detroit, Michigan 48216. Artwork must be two-dimensional and able to be displayed on an easel. The deadline for submissions is March 27, 2026. Artwork submissions must include 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 2026.

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 2026.

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. Winning artwork will be kept by the Guild; all other pieces may be picked up by teachers, parents or students on October 28 between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Ste. Anne parish office at 2630 W. Lafayette, Detroit MI 48216. Artwork that is not picked up by 4:30 p.m. on October 28 will be discarded.

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

ABOUT FR. GABRIEL RICHARD



Fr. Gabriel Richard was born on October 15, 1767, at Saintonge in southwestern France. He entered the Society of the Priests of St. Sulpice (P.S.S.) on April 10, 1790. He was ordained a priest on October 9, 1791.

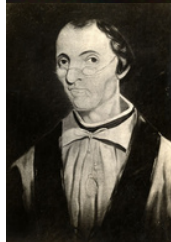


Narrowly escaping persecution during the French Revolution, Fr. Richard came to the United States in 1792 and was assigned to the French settlements on the Illinois side of the Mississippi. Fr. Richard was next assigned to Detroit and arrived here on Sunday, June 3, 1798. He remained in Detroit until he died in 1832 while ministering to victims of the cholera epidemic. During his time in Detroit, he was a missionary, educator and civic leader.



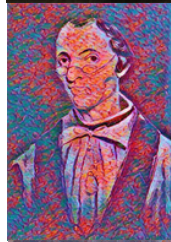
Missionary Pastor

Fr. Gabriel Richard became pastor of Ste. Anne Parish in 1802. During his 30 years as pastor he built the parish's seventh church, a stone building with stained glass. He faithfully ministered to the spiritual needs of the people and was a strong proponent of perpetual adoration of the Eucharist.



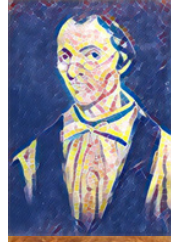
Educator

Fr. Gabriel Richard was a strong promoter of education. His personal library contained books from a range of academic areas including philosophy, theology, science, law, history and literature. He established a school in 1808 at the Spring Hill farm to educate native American and white children together to break down racial barriers. Along with Rev. John Monteith, Fr. Richard founded the University of Michigan by the authority of the Act of Appropriation on August 26, 1817. The cornerstone was officially laid on September 24, 1817.

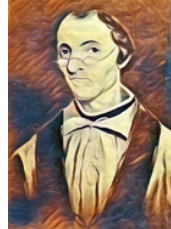


Civic Leader

During Detroit's Great Fire of 1805, he exclaimed: "We hope for better things; it will rise from the ashes." These words are still part of the seal of the City of Detroit today. He brought the first printing press to Detroit in 1809. He was elected as a territorial delegate to Congress on September 4, 1823, and took his seat on December 8. In his first two months, Fr. Richard presented 16 petitions to Congress. On April 26, 1824, he began his famous motion to build a long road between Detroit and Chicago, known as Michigan Avenue (U.S. 12).



More information about Fr. Richard can be found in the book *Always the Priest: The Life of Gabriel Richard, S.S.* by Sr. M. Dolorita Mast, SSND (1965) and on the FGR Guild webpage at ste-anne.org/father-gabriel-richard.





FR. GABRIEL RICHARD ART CONTEST SUBMISSION FORM

This completed form must accompany each submission to be eligible to win.

STUDENT NAME

GRADE

STUDENT ADDRESS

PARENT NAME

PARENT PHONE

PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS

SCHOOL NAME

SCHOOL ADDRESS

SCHOOL CONTACT NAME

SCHOOL CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS
