

## Play The Game Of Your Life

I was standing by the bed of a Hindu ascetic dying of cancer in a monastery in North India. He shared with me the call he heard from God to leave behind his university degree, a girl his parents had chosen to be his bride, and even the monastery he had joined.

He felt called to search for God in meditation in a small hut in the high Himalayas where the Ganges River rises. During the 20 years he lived in Gangotri he and a half dozen hermits scattered throughout the snow-filled valley were completely cut off from the rest of the world for 6 months of each year.

"If you were 21 years old again would you still choose that life," I asked. "Yes, I would," he replied, "I'm mature in this life now. I am saturated in spirituality. There would be no other way I could live."

Recalling this, I remember as a 17-year-old student trying to decide what to do with my life. I wanted to do something so that, when old and preparing to die,

I could feel that my life had been worthwhile — of service to God and to people.

Pictures of African babies on a collec-

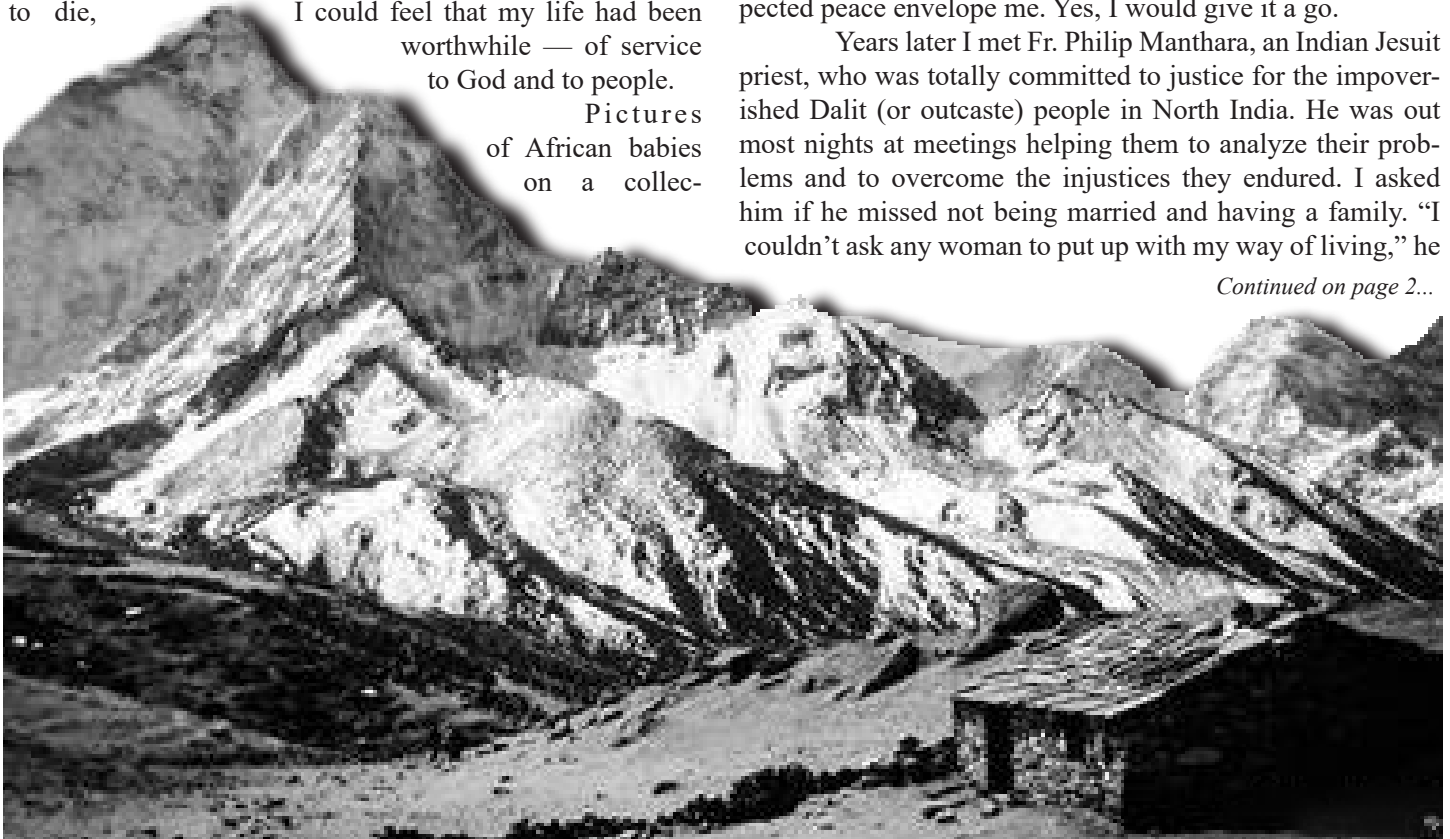
tion box in a local shop touched me. Money was needed to send missionaries to baptize the children so they could reach heaven. The theology was pre-Vatican II, but my concern was genuine. Later I heard of the millions of Catholics in Latin America who, because of a shortage of priests, could only receive the Sacraments once a year. So I thought of joining the Columbian missionaries.

But celibacy raised a red flag. It hit me one day at a football game as I noticed a young lady nestling in the arms of her boyfriend in front of me. Would I be lonely for life? Could I live without a wife and family, without a home of my own? Would my life be deprived of warm intimacy with people because of the role, the uniform and the exile from homeland?

I obsessed over the decision for some weeks. Then one evening at dusk, having despaired of thinking through the conflicting ideas, I sat limp at the back of my parish church. The lamp burning in front of the Blessed Sacrament seemed to reach me in the darkening church. I discovered an unexpected peace envelope me. Yes, I would give it a go.

Years later I met Fr. Philip Manthara, an Indian Jesuit priest, who was totally committed to justice for the impoverished Dalit (or outcaste) people in North India. He was out most nights at meetings helping them to analyze their problems and to overcome the injustices they endured. I asked him if he missed not being married and having a family. "I couldn't ask any woman to put up with my way of living," he

*Continued on page 2...*



## Your Life

*Continued from page 1*

said. I was surprised to hear myself say, "I feel the same."

Of course, if we are generous with God, God is more generous with us. "Then Peter spoke up, 'Look,' he said, 'we have left everything and followed you. What will we have?' Jesus said to them, '...And everyone who has left houses, or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake, will receive a hundred times more and will be given eternal life.'" I have experienced the truth of Jesus' promise in many fulfilling relationships with people in Fiji. They have enriched me greatly.

Life is a journey in search of God and of our true selves. Missionaries leave home to share the love of God in Jesus Christ. In meeting the other I come to know myself, and I get a glimpse of the "Other." Love is experienced in both the giving and the receiving. Human love points to the greater love of God to which we are privileged to witness.

In the pluralistic world of today, most of us have the opportunity to journey with others who have different rays of the divine truth. Moreover, supporting missionaries in any way makes us part of the missionary outreach of God and the Church. We share in its graces.

I administered the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick to an old Fijian man. He sat up in his bed then and announced, "Father, I have done my duty to the community, to the government and to the Church." He was looking back on a life in which he had been faithful to his responsibilities.

I hope I can say at the end, "I have done what I could. There is no other way I could live."

*Written by Fr. Frank Hoare for Columban Mission Magazine, July 2023. For information on the vocation of a foreign missionary, please visit columban.org*

# POST FLOOD BLOCK PARTY



- Hosted by St. Ambrose Parish at Hampton and Wayburn in the Park.
- Sunday August 14th  
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Free Food & Soft Drinks
- Music on the plaza



If you plan on attending, RSVP via our website at [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net) or by using this code with your smart phone!



## Welcoming newcomers

to our parish is not just the job of the pastoral staff, ushers, ministers of hospitality or greeters. It is everyone's responsibility. Here are ten things you can do to provide better hospitality in our parish.

**1. Cultivate the virtue of hospitality at Mass.** Many Mass attendees tend to gather into cliques and ignore those who are not members of their particular clique. They are not really inhospitable, just heedless of the need for hospitality. Make hospitality a new habit when you go to Mass.

**2. Come early, leave late.** Instead of rushing to Mass to be there on time, and then rushing out at its conclusion, make time to come a little early and linger just a bit later. Make room in your busy life to greet and spend time with others at Mass.

**3. Go in peace to greet someone!** Seek out someone you've not met before. Shake their hand, introduce yourself, and take a few moments to welcome them to your parish home, God's house.

**4. Welcome everyone.** Not only do visitors need your warm welcome, regular Mass attendees also need a friendly greeting. Develop a good handshake and be enthusiastic about your parish. You are greeting others in the name of Christ.

**5. Help newcomers connect.** While you are getting to know visitors, introduce them to other parishioners as the opportunity presents itself. Feel free to invite visitors to sit next to you.

**6. Say goodbye with genuine warmth.** After Mass, bid farewell to visitors, inviting them to return next week. Introduce them to the pastor if the opportunity arises.

**7. Avoid parish business.** Avoid conducting parish business with others immediately before or after Mass. Focus on visitors.

**8. Give visitors information about the parish.** Ensure that a visitor has a bulletin and other information about the parish before they leave. If there is a social gathering after Mass, invite them.

**9. Be part of a greeting ministry team.** Parishes are always in need of greeters to serve regularly, and provide ongoing formation to new greeters. Help out, be a greeter. If your parish doesn't have greeters, now is a good time to start!

**10. Greet those who already minister in the area of hospitality.** It isn't necessary to neglect the people who are already ministers of hospitality in order to make visitors feel at home. A simple wave and a smile go a long way.

# All Things Considered

Our parish campus has been in a constant state of deconstruction and reconstruction for two years now. The “water event” of June 2021 was devastating to our buildings. There has not been much resembling “normal operations” here in the past twenty-four months. I live in dread that the next torrential rain will trigger a repeat performance. To mitigate that possibility, I formed an ad hoc Infrastructure committee chaired by Dr. Rory Bolger which has been meeting regularly since November 2021. (We gave the local municipal elections time to get settled before we began in earnest.)

While we have consulted with multiple engineers, cities, and counties, I am not certain that we have a better handle on the cause or the cures of the problem. The further we get away from the flood, the less urgency there appears to be to take the matter seriously.

About six months ago, we began to focus on what we could do on a small scale. That has amounted to a disconnect of half a dozen downspouts and a recognition that we need to install a water-tight storm door at the ARK entrance on Hampton.

A larger fix involves things like bioswales and increased capacity of the Jefferson Ave. storm/sanitary system. That has been promised as part of the new construction project to the South of us. We continue to have concerns that the addition of a large amount of hard surfaces will further stress the systems if they are not designed to accommodate not just normal storms, but the “once in a hundred year” events that seem to happen every five years. Again, we have assurances from GPP city engineers that they have done their homework on this.

The rectory heating and cool-

ing – HVAC – is back in operation. We are still unpacking files. The convent has been cleaned, but awaits further development. We have had a couple of inquiries about its re-development. It would not make sense to put things back the old way, if there is a new use for the structure.

HVAC systems for the church building are back on line, as is the organ blower motor — the only part of the instrument located in its own underground room.

There was some hope that we would have been back in the ARK if not for the beginning of last Lent, then at least by Easter. That hope evaporated when multiple construction issues unravelled. The kitchen floor was poorly laid, and after multiple attempts by the contractor to fix it, we ended up tearing it out and relaying it.

New appliances and counters have arrived. They will start being installed this month. Tables and chairs and floor coverings which we thought were going in for Easter, now sit in a warehouse.

The wood feature wall was completed just before last Christmas. Then over the New Year holiday, the sub-contractor, on his own volition, came by and decided to spray shellac on the whole thing, turning it orange. After multiple attempts to reverse that damage, it was determined that the wall would have to come out and be redone in the factory. Something similar happened with the rest room counters.

The passenger elevator, which we always knew came with a long lead time, continues to defy our attempts to bring it into use. The freight elevator was finished last Summer. The contract for the passenger elevator which was written in the summer of 2021, was lost. And so we went to the back of the line, again, to get on their very busy schedule.

Probably the most significant issue that perplexes us is the rebuilding of the electrical system for the ARK. After the flood, it was deemed a total rebuild. Custom equipment was held up as supply chains lagged due to Covid.

We were not happy with the progress of the subcontractor, and so we requested a change at the beginning of this year. A new contractor is now on board, but not without a lot of squabbling and finger pointing.

To mediate this, and to help get our ARK project back on some sort of schedule, in May we brought in an “owner’s representative.” Chris Christiansen, architect and licensed builder, is now bringing his talents and energy to our project which at this point has pretty much exhausted all our staff.

Chris’s revised schedule shot for finishing the ARK (except for the electrical system overhaul) by Labor Day. That was the plan until last week, when the elevator company gave us a revised projection of Christmas ... maybe.

At this time we are not discussing any extra-parochial rentals of the space. It wouldn’t be fair to promise anything to anyone regarding use of the room. I see the ARK coming together with a series of “soft openings” for some parish events maybe in December. Then in the new calendar year, we’ll work out a new business plan for extra-parochial use of the ARK.

Lent 2024 is early. Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day co-inside. I think we can count on the ARK being open for our legendary Lenten Fish Dinners the First Friday of Lent, February 16<sup>th</sup>. I feel safe enough in making that a promise.

We are now running neck-and-neck with as much time as it took to build the ARK as it is taking to restore it. Our insurance company has been extremely patient with this process which is now in the multiple millions of dollars.

Should we experience another flood of a similar magnitude, I don’t think that they are going to be quite that generous with the coverage. All the more reason to do what we can to anticipate water issues in a vulnerable part of town that sits on top of a spaghetti of pipes and drains that go back more than a hundred years.

TRP



## NOVENA OF BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY

For Catholics, a novena is a prayer for thanksgiving or intercession, commonly prayed in the nine days leading up to the feast day of a saint or a solemnity on the Church calendar.

The Capuchins invite you to pray with them the Blessed Solanus Casey Novena at any time you feel called to pray for the guidance of Blessed Solanus.

The text of the Solanus Casey Novena can be accessed at: [www.solanuscasey.org/prayer/blessed-solanus-casey-novena-prayer/](http://www.solanuscasey.org/prayer/blessed-solanus-casey-novena-prayer/)

More about Masses and events for Solanus' July 30<sup>th</sup> Feast Day is found at [solanuscasey.org](http://solanuscasey.org)



The 2023 CSA is in full swing. The Archdiocese of Detroit sent out a mailing with donor information and return envelopes. We encourage you to read through the materials and let us know if you have questions.

When you make a gift to the CSA, you support the work of more than 170 ministries, services, and programs in the Archdiocese of Detroit that respond each day to the material and spiritual needs of countless individuals and their families. If you would prefer to make your gift directly to St. Ambrose online using a credit card, debit card or an ACH withdrawal (we then make sure it is paid to the AoD), click on the QR code on page 5 in the "CSA Box Scores" box.

## Faith Formation Station

I have been a VBS kid for as long as I remember. Every summer my mom would volunteer to help run vacation bible school at our home parish, St. Philomena, and the four of us siblings would either be participants or assistants. This experience was another way the McKenzie kids got to know our parish family and to feel a part of the greater church community. There were songs, crafts, stories, snacks, bubbles and water balloons. I can close my eyes and still see photos of the generations of St. Philomena families lined up on Fr. Pete's rectory garden deck, popsicles in hand. These memories and photos are a part of the fabric of my childhood summers.

Last week more than 120 campers and 45 teen volunteers came together for an out-of-this-world Family of Parishes Vacation Bible School experience. We utilized Our Sunday Visitor's Totally Catholic Stellar VBS program. The program is designed to "launch kids on a cosmic



quest where they have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world." Thus, the welcoming area, cafeteria, classrooms, and art and Bible adventure stations were all decorated with outer space themed decorations: a rocket ship, dazzling lights, rotating planets and stars. The themes for our four days of VBS were the following: When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light! When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light! When good things happen, shine Jesus' light! When people need help, shine Jesus' light! Following these themes, the kids participated in Bible ad-



venture stories and sharing, music, crafts, dance, games, outside play, snacks, and an opening and closing session each day. Families donated school supplies and the campers decorated and assembled pencil cases for a special Backpack Blessings Project which will be donated. On the last day of camp, the campers participated in a parade, song show presentation, final blessing, and pizza party. It was a faith-filled, action-packed, joyful experience for all!

In Matthew 19:13-15 Jesus blesses children, all children. "Then the children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." An image of Jesus surrounded by children often accompanies this verse. I liken this image and the message it contains to VBS. Let the children come to me – with their abundant energy, their snotty noses, their shouting out of turn, their scraped

*Continued on next page...*

# KAYAK THE CANALS! of St. Ambrose Parish

Not many parishes enjoy waterways like St. Ambrose.  
Join us for a guided 2-hour Kayak Canal tour this August!

We're back this summer with the *always* popular River and Canal tour which takes you out to the Detroit River, around Grayhaven Island, past the Fisher Mansion and by the waterfront residences of Jefferson Chalmers!

August 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.  
Tickets are \$70 per kayaker

This private tour is professionally conducted by Detroit River Sports and great for beginners and experienced kayakers alike!

Kayak and safety equipment provided.  
Tickets can be purchased at  
[stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net) or call 313.822.2814

knees, and their open hearts. Let them make new friends for the week and know the value of reaching out and getting to know someone who is likely different than your friend-group at school. Let them get to know Jesus through Bible stories and through the people around them. Let the older kids learn that they really can be leaders as they share their faith with the younger kids. Let them all embrace a little bit of the cheesy, the silly, the low-tech but loving experience that is VBS – and let them all smile and dance at the end of the day singing the songs from the week in unison. Let them know that we are all a part of this messy and foolish universe together and that they can truly Shine Jesus's Light!



I promise, it is an experience like no other. Thank You to our VBS Volunteer Crew Leaders: Eden Novack, Ella Pope, James Van Marcke, Andrew Woolums, Evan Woolums and Cassidy Woolums.

Kelly Woolums

2	0	CSA
2	3	Box Scores
Number of Families ..... 800		
Returns to date .....86		
Average Gift in '22 .....\$894.00		
AoD Quota in '23.....\$97,755		
Property/Liability Insurance ... \$57,600		
Adjusted parish target ..... \$155,355		
Received as of 7/1/23..... \$59,800.50		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our CSA goal is higher this year by \$4,086, but it will be as challenging to meet as it was in 2022.</li> <li>• The insurance premium listed – roughly \$1,107 a week – is the cost of our property and liability coverage for the parish.</li> <li>• Once we meet the AoD quota, anything given to the CSA comes directly back to our parish without the usual 7% deduction.</li> <li>• Scan this QR Code with your smart phone camera to make your donation.</li> </ul>		

## The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the  
St. Ambrose Catholic Community  
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

**Priest in Solidum:** Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

**Pastoral Minister:** Charles Dropiewski

**Religious Education:** Kelly Anne Woolums

**Minister of Music:**

**Office Manager:** Peggy O'Connor

**Secretary:** Mary Urbanski

### Sacramental Celebrations

**Masses:** On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

**Baptism:** Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

**Penance:** As announced and by appointment.

**Marriage:** Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

**Funeral:** Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

### Directory

**Parish Office:** 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

**Tel:** (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

**Email address:** [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net)

**Religious Education:** (313) 332-5633

**Pastoral Ministry:** (313) 332-5631

**Ark Scheduling:** (313) 822-2814

**Parish Website:** [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net)



## Liturgy Schedule

### Monday, July 10

*Weekday 14<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time*

### Tuesday, July 11

*Weekday 14<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Jerry Doyle

### Wednesday, July 12

*Weekday 14<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time*

### Thursday, July 13

*St. Henry*

7:00 p.m. - Mass - Henry Matylonek

### Friday, July 14

*St. Kateri Tekakwitha, virgin*

12:00 p.m. - Mass - Mitchell Urbanski

### Saturday, July 15

*St. Bonaventure, bishop & doctor*

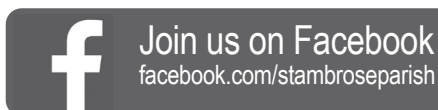
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

### Sunday, July 16

*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 - Mass - For All People

11:15 - Mass - For All People



## Scriptures for the 14<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

### July 10

Gn 28: 10-22a  
Ps 91: 1-4, 14-16  
Mt 9: 18-26

### July 11

Gn 32: 23-33  
Ps 17: 1-3, 6-8, 15  
Mt 9: 32-38

### July 12

Gn 41: 55-57; 42: 5-7a, 17-24a  
Ps 33: 2-3, 10-11, 18-19  
Mt 10: 1-7

### July 13

Gn 44: 18-21, 23b-29; 45: 1-5  
Ps 105: 16-21  
Mt 10: 7-15

### July 14

Gn 46: 1-7, 28-28-30  
Ps 37: 3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40  
Mt 10: 16-23

### July 15

Gn 49: 29-32; 50: 15-26a  
Ps 105: 1-4, 6-7  
Mt 10: 24-33

### July 16

Is 55: 10-11  
Ps 65: 10-14  
Rom 8: 18-23  
Mt 13: 1-23 or 12: 1-9

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

Reference # in our Breaking Bread Hymnal or on your iPhone using the QR code.

**Entrance:** Glory And Praise To Our God #558

**Psalm:** I Will Praise Your Name #818

**Preparatory:** I Heard The Voice Of Jesus #462

**Communion:** We Shall Rise Again #694

**Recessional:** The Church's One Foundation #423



To participate electronically, go to: [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://facebook.com/stambroseparish) or better yet, to You Tube at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymbBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymbBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg)

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

### On Sunday, July 2, 2023

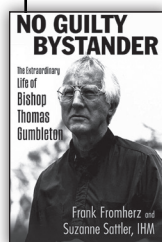
in envelopes we received ..... \$2,157.00  
in the loose collection..... \$1,615.43  
in electronic donations..... \$4,218.38  
for a total of ..... \$7,990.81  
Under budget for the week.....\$2,109.19  
Number of envelopes mailed ..... 621  
Number of envelopes used .....51



## Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, James Blake, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Ricardo Hernandez Montoya, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Jeanene Maples, Angela Hansen, Marilyn Potenga, John Freund, Kevin O'Connor, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

## Marcellina's Book Club



### No Guilty Bystander

aims to bring to better light the inner and outer journeys of a man who became a transformational figure on the world stage and in his hometown of Detroit, and whose influence in the Church and

the wider world is yet to be fully measured or vindicated.

Thomas Gumbleton, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, has long served as an outstanding voice and witness for peace and justice in the Catholic Church. From his early opposition to the Vietnam war, his work on the Bishops' historic pastoral on nuclear weapons, to his peacemaking missions and solidarity with marginalized communities around the globe, and his promotion of reform and renewal in the church, he has offered a prophetic model of faithful discipleship.

On Thursday July 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church will hold a program and book signing with Bishop Gumbleton, Publisher Robert Ellsberg, and Co-Authors Frank Fromherz and Suzanne Sattler.

Sacred Heart Church is located at 1000 Eliot St., Detroit, MI 48207. A special live- stream of the event will also be aired at [sacredheartdetroit.com](https://sacredheartdetroit.com).

Copies of **No Guilty Bystander** can be purchased through your favorite book retailer or through our parish office.





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