

Detroit THE CITY OF CHURCHES

*MOTOR CITY SPIRITUALLY
THEN AND NOW.*

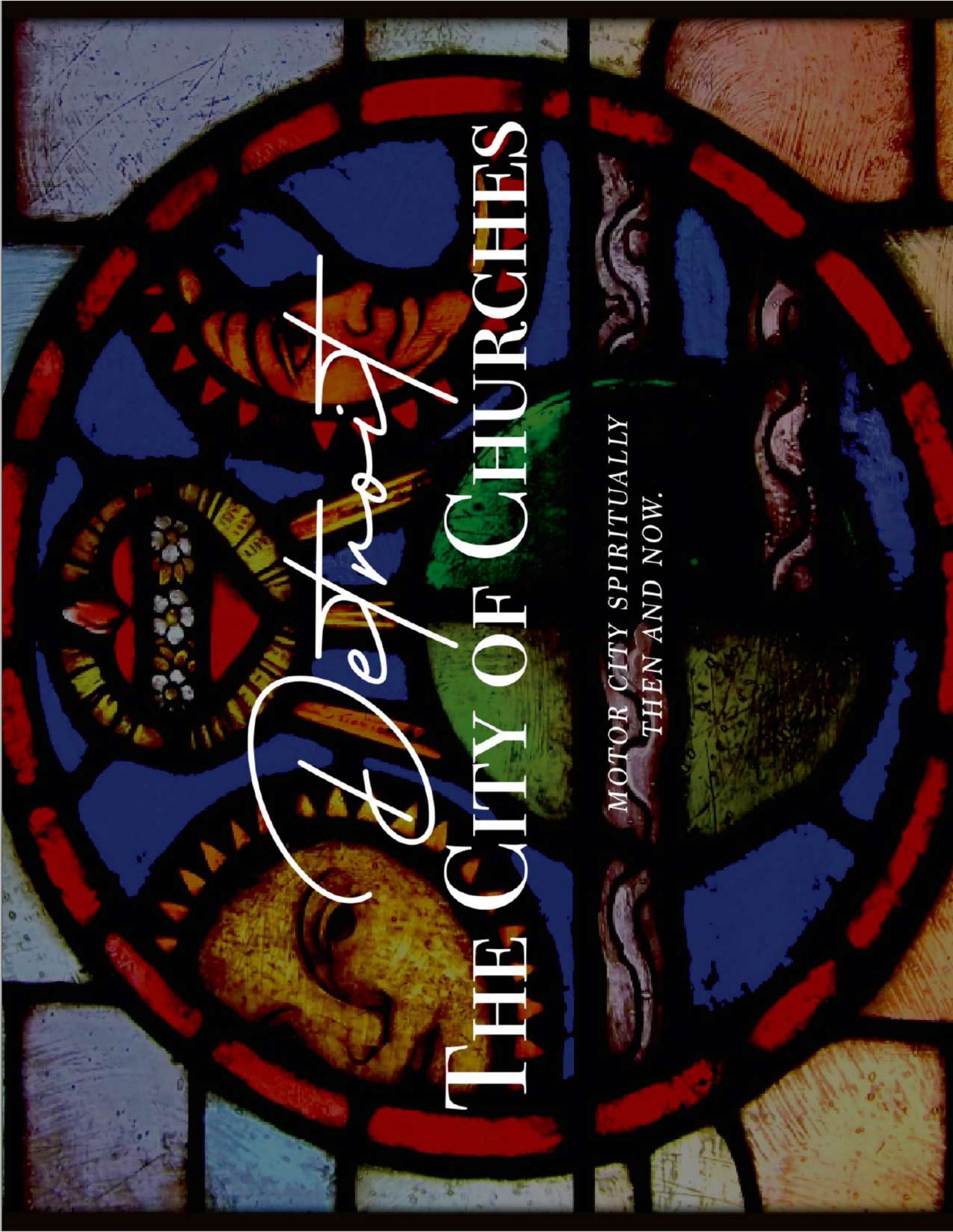
A Film By



Visionalist
Entertainment Productions

In Association With





Detroit

THE CITY OF CHURCHES

MOTOR CITY SPIRITUALLY
THEN AND NOW.



Detroit

THE CITY OF CHURCHES



Detroit has a reputation for iron and steel, and its national image is frequently covered in motor oil. When thinking of a culture built around the automobile industry, spirituality does not necessarily come to mind.

In fact, since its founding in 1701, Detroit has built a population from many nationalities of many faiths, and today boasts more churches per square mile than any other city in the country. They exist in every form, from Gothic cathedrals to hand-painted storefront missions.

Visitors are often intrigued to discover this remarkable side of Detroit's history, and one of

the most popular destinations is the Mariner's Church on Jefferson, where every March a 'Blessing of the Fleet' is held, and in November, a Great Lakes memorial service for those who have died in Michigan waters. A bonus to those who attend is that the church once served as an Underground Railroad stop prior to the Civil War.

Apart from the cultural significance of these holy places, a deeper question arises. To what extent does spiritual leadership form the sort of citizens Detroit boasts? Regardless of denomination, what role does the church play in influencing the young

people in the communities it serves? And in an era of dwindling faith, how do they manage to survive?

From the painful birth of automotive unions through the riots and the bankruptcy, Detroit's churches have been an oasis of comfort and inspiration for generations; nowhere is this more evident in Detroit's international reputation than in the gospel roots of Motown.

These subjects and more will be the focus of Detroit Public Television special, **DETROIT: City of Churches**. Emmy Award-winning director/producer Keith Famie and Visionalist Entertainment Productions will explore this

fascinating subject in an in-depth documentary that takes a look behind the pulpit. The Visionalist team will step into the lives of Detroit spiritual leaders and local historians to learn how Detroit's churches have remained a shining star for three centuries, casting light through the city's darkest hours.



Detroit

THE CITY OF CHURCHES

MOTOR CITY SPIRITUALLY
THEN AND NOW.

2-HOUR DPTV/PBS SPECIAL HOLIDAY SEASON 2022

Production Overview:

Over the course of the next 10 months, award-winning Director/Producer Keith Famie and the crew from Visionalist Entertainment Productions will embark on a historical journey back in time, through interviews with leading clergy and historians, they will document the significance the many Detroit churches and houses of worship played on some of the most iconic moments in Detroit's history.

Starting with Detroit's early years of settlement, its role in the underground railroad and its citizens whose boots stepped on multiple battlefields through our nation's history, we will continue to weave our story through the automotive boom, civil rights, the birth of Motown and its major sporting championships in order to see how Detroit's spiritual leaders, their places of worship and their congregations helped guide the city as we know it today. Our film, ***Detroit: The City of Churches***, will become a must-see for many generations to come.

The final 2-hour film will debut on Detroit Public Television as a Christmas special for 2022. This inspirational, historic story will premiere at one of Detroit's most iconic historical theaters while bringing together, under one roof, its spiritual leaders, their congregations, community leaders and media all in the celebration of the rich diversity that Detroit has become known for worldwide.

As a part of this production, there will be a book following the stories that are documented along the way.



April 8, 2021

Keith Famie
Visionalist Entertainment
28345 Beck Road
Wixom, MI 48393

Keith,

Thanks for the conversation today regarding the production of a hosted documentary special, exploring the Churches of Detroit. As we discussed, there are few more important pursuits than human spirituality and understanding how diverse religions, congregations serve our various populations in Detroit's houses of worship.

Detroit PBS is committed to covering issues in the public interest, including those surrounding the challenges and traditions of religious communities, sacred leaders and their organizations – striving to serve in an evolving world; honoring both doctrine and modern practice – while carrying on the rich legacy of service in Detroit.

And finally, for fans of history, this program is a unique way of telling the Detroit story through its churches and their congregations. We are so pleased to include it in our broadcast plans and look forward to a holiday premiere in 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred".

Fred Nahhat
Senior VP, Production
Detroit Public TV

Detroit THE CITY OF CHURCHES



Most histories of the Catholic Church in America are written about men. Priests, bishops and cardinals are credited with building the nation's largest church. But, in fact, women were the face of America's

parochial schools, Catholic hospitals and churches. For every priest, there were at least three nuns. Yet, their profound impact on the building of the foundations of America is rarely discussed.

In the 1960s, there were nearly 6,000 Catholic sisters teaching and working in southeastern Michigan. But currently, there are only 26 nuns teaching at Catholic schools in the Detroit area. Compare that to the 1960s, when there were 55 IHM nuns living in just one parish convent and teaching at Detroit's Holy Redeemer.

In the Detroit area, multiple congregations of sisters ministered here in the area's schools and hospitals. For example, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns out of Monroe, Michigan – known by their acronym as the IHMs and the Blue Nuns because of the royal blue habits they once wore – were the

predominant teaching congregation in the Detroit area. They are the oldest, existing congregation of Catholic nuns in Michigan, founded in 1845. They taught in some 100 schools across Michigan, including at landmark institutions such as Most Holy Redeemer, Most Holy Trinity and Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Felician Sisters, who came here to teach the city's Polish Catholics, helped establish landmark parishes here in Detroit and Madonna University in Livonia. The Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Joseph were health care pioneers in Michigan and Detroit.



As Pope Francis has said, "What would happen if there were no nuns? No nuns in hospitals, in missions, in charitable institutions, in schools... Can you even imagine a Church without nuns...? No it is unthinkable!"

In this two hour Christmas special, we will be sure to tell the story of our beloved sisters who impacted generations of Detroiters with their involvement throughout the history of our Motor City.



Detroit THE CITY OF CHURCHES

Spiritual Leaders Gathering

Detroit's spiritual leaders come together to discuss issues as it relates to the diverse communities they are located within. We will film this gathering focusing on our featured spiritual leaders. This will take place at one of Detroit's landmark locations that is not one of the houses of worship. The value of this gathering is to show the significance of these historic churches today and how they impact their communities.



Detroit THE CITY OF CHURCHES



As our film comes to a close, we will feature a collection of church choir performances of church choir performance of an iconic, emotional song.

Each church choir's performance of the song will take place in their church with their congregation singing along.

Throughout this poignant touching performance, there will be images of Detroit communities woven into the musical closing which will take us into the credits of the film.



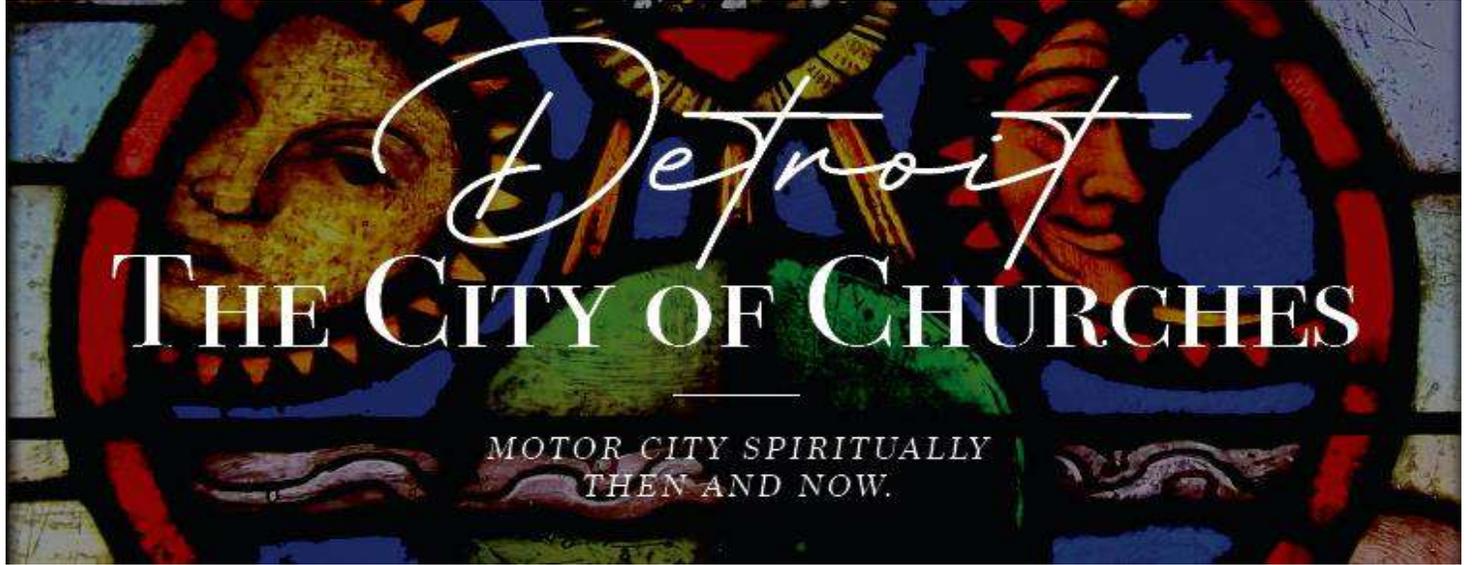
Detroit THE CITY OF CHURCHES

Community Premiere Celebration

Plans are in the works to host a historic film premiere celebration for the **Detroit: A City of Churches.**



Under one roof at one of Detroit's historic public venues will be congregation members, spiritual leaders and community supporters representing many different faiths and churches that will gather to praise the completion of a story that will inspire us all. Proceeds from the evening will benefit a few local Detroit charitable organizations.



MEDIA SUPPORT

Documentary to tell rich history of Detroit through its churches, congregations

Gabriella Patti
Jan 20, 2022



Detroit boasts more churches per square mile than any other American city, and renowned filmmaker Keith Famie is determined to tell the city's history through its churches in a two-hour documentary, "Detroit: The City of Churches," which will air Christmas 2022 on Detroit Public Television. (Detroit Catholic file photo)

With more churches per square mile than any other American city, acclaimed filmmaker Keith Famie says Detroit has a unique story of faith

DETROIT — The founding of Detroit dates back to 1701, and since then, the city has survived its fair share of adversity and milestones: riots, industrial innovation, bankruptcy, the fight for civil rights — even the whole city burning to the ground, resulting in Fr. Gabriel Richard's famous proclamation, "We hope for better things; it will arise from the ashes."

What arose from Detroit's ashes — and still are standing today — are numerous churches of all faiths. Scattered throughout Detroit's hub-and-spoke layout, these impenetrable structures serve as solemn, safe reminders of Detroit's history, its people and diversity.

In fact, Detroit boasts more churches per square mile than any other American city, a fact that will be highlighted in a new documentary to be released this year.

Veteran filmmaker Keith Famie aims to tell the history of Detroit through its churches in the two-hour special, "Detroit: The City of Churches," which will air Christmas 2022 on Detroit Public Television.

Since 2004, Famie, along with his team at Visionalist Entertainment Productions, has mostly focused his lens on Detroit, creating multiple Emmy-winning, primetime programs. While there have been stories told about the churches in Detroit before, Famie said that he felt inspired to take a closer look at the city from the perspective of Detroit's faith communities, spiritual leaders and congregations.

As Detroit grew, and people moved in from all over the world attracted by the automobile industry's introduction of the \$5 workday, immigrants brought with them their culture, food and faith, Famie said, resulting in the many churches we see today.

“(The churches) are ground zero for their communities; they’re ground zero for their congregations. They’re a place of refuge and safety, even during events that didn’t take place in Detroit,” such as 9/11, wars, conflicts and economic collapse, Famie told *Detroit Catholic*. “Churches and congregations become a pillar of comfort during complicated times in our lives.”

While Famie admitted he hasn’t spent a lot of time in church over the years, the film has reminded him of the sacredness and impact places of faith can have in people’s lives.



The documentary will feature the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit, the city’s oldest continually operating Catholic parish, which was founded in 1701. (James Silvestri | Special to *Detroit Catholic*)

“As I go and spend time in these in churches, it’s a reminder why they are precious and why they’re an integral part of society,” Famie said. “I hope this film not only historically teaches about Detroit’s churches, but will help a new generation to understand the value of these churches and these congregations.”

The documentary will feature churches of all denominations, including some of the Archdiocese of Detroit’s oldest Catholic parishes, such as the Basilica of Ste. Anne. Viewers can expect to see the historic Trinity Lutheran Church and Second Baptist Church, which served as one of the last stops on the underground railroad. The documentary will also feature footage of New Bethel Baptist Church, where Aretha Franklin grew up.

Interviews with spiritual leaders such as Canon Jean-Baptiste Commins, ICKSP, from St. Joseph Shrine in Eastern Market and Msgr. Charles Kusanke, pastor of Ste. Anne and nearby Most Holy Trinity, also are featured.

According to an article in *The Detroit News*, Detroit has as many as 800 churches, many of which have been standing for centuries. Famie said he’s been surprised at the enduring architecture and craftsmanship of many of them, a testament to the cultures and people who built them.

For example, Famie said, the stonework of the historic Trinity Lutheran Church on Gratiot Avenue came from Germany.



The documentary includes interviews with Canon Jean-Baptiste Commins, ICKSP, rector of St. Joseph Shrine, and Msgr. Charles Kusanke of the Basilica of Ste. Anne and nearby Most Holy Trinity Parish. (Courtesy of Visionalist Entertainment Productions)

“The same thing with (the Basilica of) St. Anne; some of these pieces that actually created the church came from long distances because the builders wanted it to feel like home. They wanted them to feel like a place of pilgrimage for their community and for their society,” Famie said.

Many Detroit neighborhoods were formed around an already existing church, Famie added. While some neighborhoods have fallen into disrepair, Famie said many of the churches continue to flourish, standing as hopeful icons for the community.

“It’s inspiring to see that some of the rundown neighborhoods still have churches that are flourishing because of community members who come from long distances in the suburbs to be a part of the congregation,” Famie said, adding such communities often hold familial history for suburbanites.

“There’s a certain amount nostalgia to that journey. It’s almost like a pilgrimage,” Famie said. “The church is still breathing life into that community through the bells ringing and the reverence and the pastors and the priests who are still there.”



The Visionalist Entertainment Productions team hopes to tell the history of Detroit through its numerous churches and spiritual leaders, such as New Bethel Baptist Church and Pastor Robert Smith, who will share how the New Bethel congregation played a role in the civil rights movement. The church also was where famed singer Aretha Franklin grew up. (Courtesy of Visionalist Entertainment Productions)

It’s easy to take these churches for granted because they have always been there and have played a role in many of our lives, Famie said. Famie hopes that this film will help people appreciate and celebrate these churches again.

“Some of these structures are just breathtaking to be in and, personally, I enjoy walking in them and I have my own spiritual moments as I really feel the walls. It’s almost that they can talk to you and they can inspire you to think,” Famie said.

Famie said the premiere of the documentary will bring together people from a wide array of faiths to celebrate and appreciate the city they love and the churches that helped form it.

“One common denominator with all the churches so far is giving — a sense of stewardship to the community in helping the less fortunate. That’s something I’ve seen come up again and again,” Famie said. “When it comes down to it, we’re all people, people who live and have survived and have prayed and have cried and have celebrated harmoniously in the city of Detroit through sports, parades, events, riots — through everything under the sun. And that’s the story I want to tell.”

Home > Daily News

Daily News

DBusiness Daily Update: Two New Keith Famie Detroit Documentaries Are in Production, and More

Our roundup of the latest news from metro Detroit and Michigan businesses as well as announcements from government agencies, including updates about the COVID-19 pandemic. To share a business or nonprofit story, please send us a message.

By **Tim Keenan** and **R.J. King** - January 11, 2022

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Rev. Lawrence Rodgers of the Second Baptist Church in Detroit discusses the Underground Railroad for "Detroit: City of Churches." // Courtesy of Keith Famie

Two New Keith Famie Detroit Documentaries Are in Production

Keith Famie, a film director, producer, and principal of Visionalist Entertainment Productions in Wixom, is working on two documentaries: "Detroit: A City of Hot Rods and Muscle Cars" and "Detroit: The City of Churches."

"Detroit: A City of Hot Rods and Muscle Cars" will dive beneath the hood of Detroit's muscle car traditions, tracking down the original enthusiasts, the first shade tree mechanics, and car collectors who came back from World War II with a different view of themselves and their place in the world.

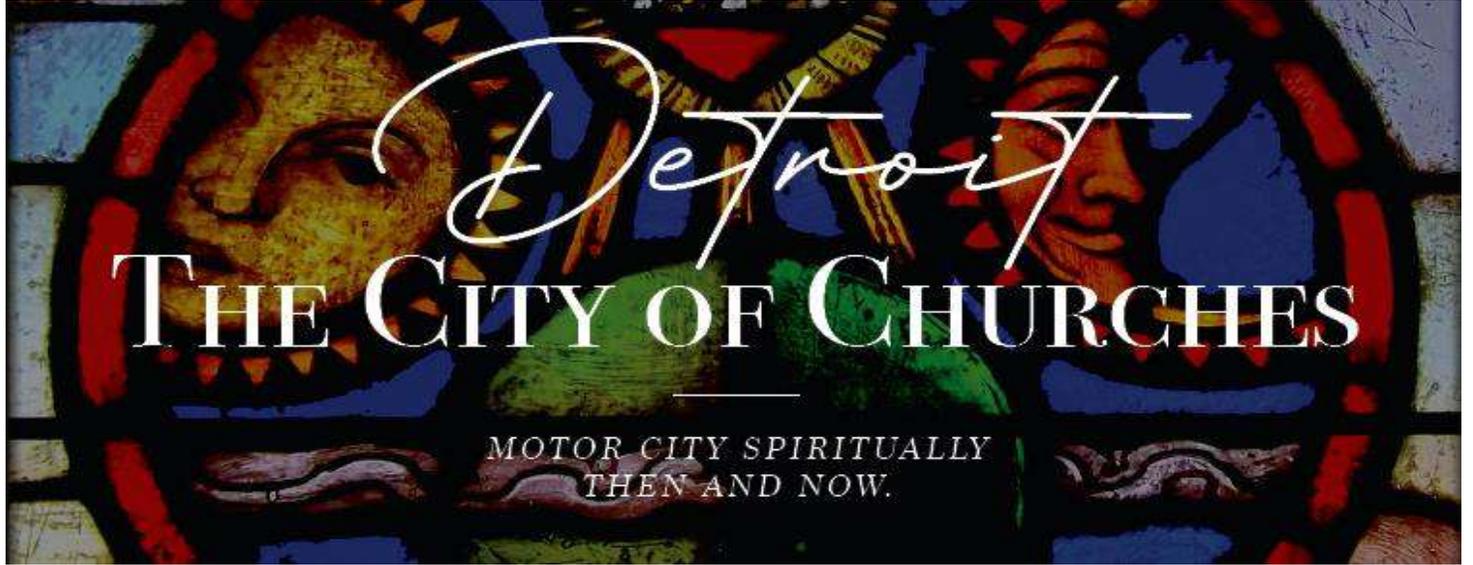
This film is slated for release later this year or the first half of 2023. To be broadcast on Detroit Public Television, the premiere is scheduled to take place at one of Detroit's iconic theaters and include a display of hot rods and muscle cars. An illustrated book will accompany the film's release.

The movie's website can be found [here](#) and its trailer can be viewed [here](#).

Due largely to the automotive industry attracting people from every race and culture, Detroit boasts more churches per square mile than any other city in the country. They include Gothic cathedrals, hand-painted storefront missions, and everything in between.

"Detroit: The City of Churches," will explore the city's rich collection of historical houses of worship, from the Catholic Basilica of Ste. Anne Detroit, founded by French explorers on July 26, 1701, two days after founding Fort Pontchartrain on the banks of the Detroit River, to the Second Baptist Church of Detroit, Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, and more.

It is scheduled for release on Detroit Public Television prior to the holiday season. A [website](#) for the film includes three trailers to view.



FEATURED CHURCHES
(CURRENTLY)



Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit / St. Anne's Parish

1000 Sainte Anne Street
Detroit, MI 48216
313-496-1701

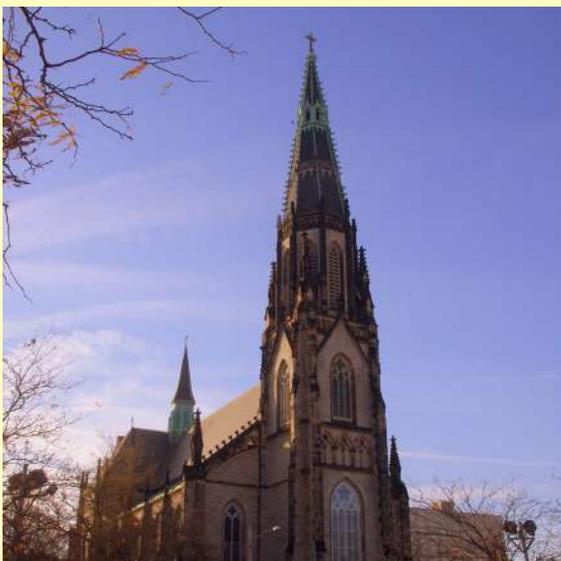
*Spiritual Leader: Msgr.
Charles Kosanke, Pastor & Rector*



Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church

8625 E. Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, MI 48214
313-822-3456

Spiritual Leader: Pastor Matt Nickel



St. Joseph Shrine

1828 Jay St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-784-9152

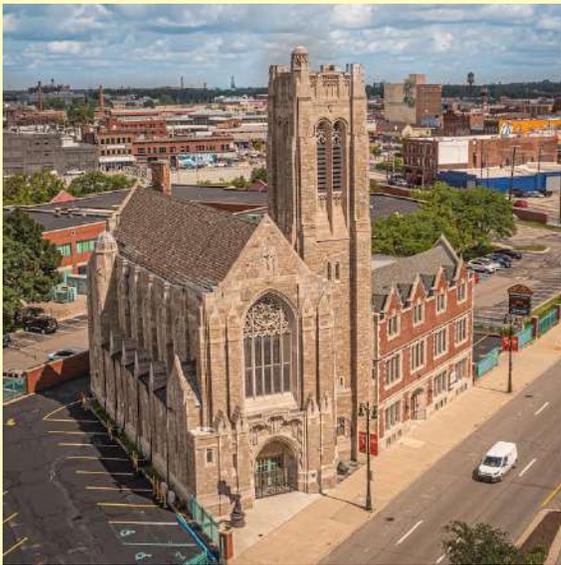
*Spiritual Leader:
Rev. Canon Jean-Baptiste Commins*



Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue

1457 Griswold St.
Detroit, MI 48226
313-962-4047

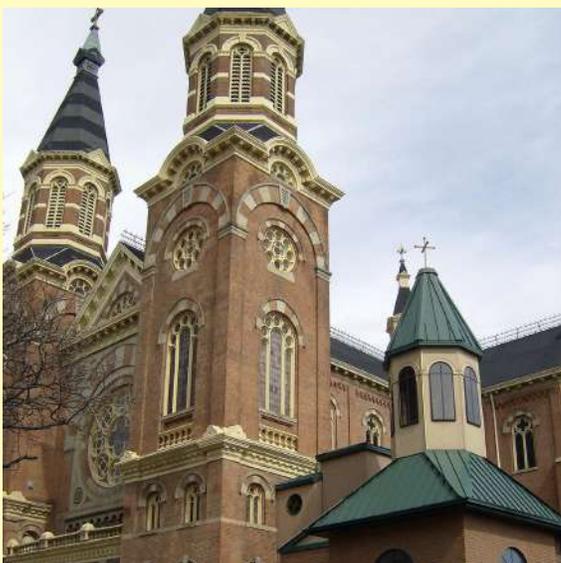
*Spiritual Leader: Rabbi Ariana J. Silverman /
Arlene Frank, Executive Director*



Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

1345 Gratiot Ave.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-567-3100

Spiritual Leader: Rev. D. Lee Andrzejewski



Old St. Mary's Catholic Church

646 Monroe St.
Detroit, MI 48226
313-961-8711

Spiritual Leader: Rev. John Owusu-Achiaw



Mariner's Church of Detroit

170 E. Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, MI 48226
313-259-2206

Spiritual Leader: Fr. Jeff Hubbard



Second Baptist Church of Detroit

441 Monroe St.
Detroit, MI 48226
313-961-0920

Spiritual Leader: Rev. Lawrence W. Rodgers



New Bethel Baptist Church

8430 C.L. Franklin Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48206
313-894-5788

Spiritual Leader: Rev. Robert Smith, Jr.



St. Augustine St. Monica Catholic Church

4151 Seminole St.
Detroit, MI 48214
313-921-4107

Spiritual Leader: Msgr. Daniel J. Trapp



Sweetest Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church

4440 Russell St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-831-6659

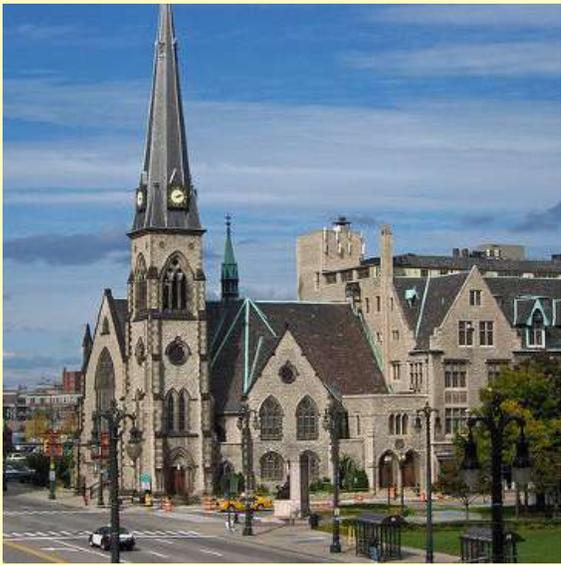
*Spiritual Leader: Fr. Greg Tokarski
(as part of Mother of Divine Mercy Parish)*



Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

707 E. Lafayette St.
Detroit, MI 48226
313-965-2988

Spiritual Leader: Fr. Georgios Manios



Central United Methodist Church

23 E. Adams Ave.
Detroit, MI 48226
313-965-5422

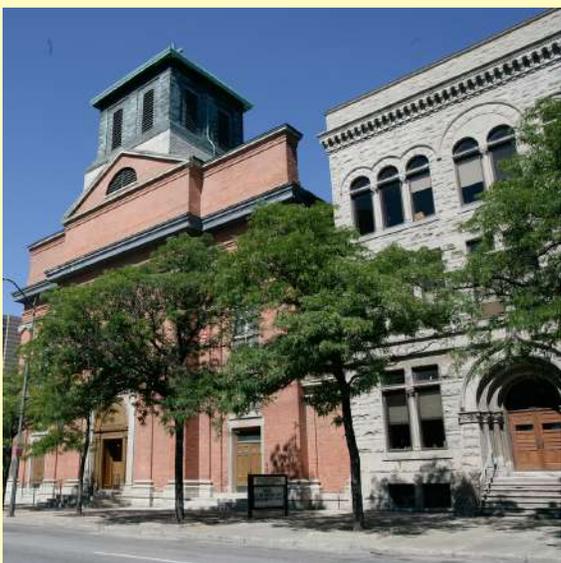
Spiritual Leader: Rev. Jill Hardt Zundel



St. John's Episcopal Church of Detroit

2326 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
313-962-7358

Spiritual Leader: Rev. Fr. Steven J. Kelly



Saints Peter and Paul Jesuit Church

438 St. Antoine St.
Detroit, MI 48226
313-961-8077

Spiritual Leader: Fr. Gary Wright, SJ



Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament

9844 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313-865-6300

Spiritual Leader: Very Rev. JJ Mech



Historic King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church

6100 14th St.
Detroit, MI 48208
313-355-2150

Spiritual Leader: Rev. Charles W. Williams II



St Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Church

4575 Outer Drive East
Detroit, MI 48234
313-893-6025

Spiritual Leader: V. Rev. Stavrophor Zivan Urosev



Most Holy Redeemer Church

1721 Junction Ave.
Detroit, MI 48209
313-842-3450

Spiritual Leader: Fr. Dennis Walsh, SOLT



Fort Street Presbyterian Church

631 W Fort St.
Detroit, MI 48226
313-961-4533

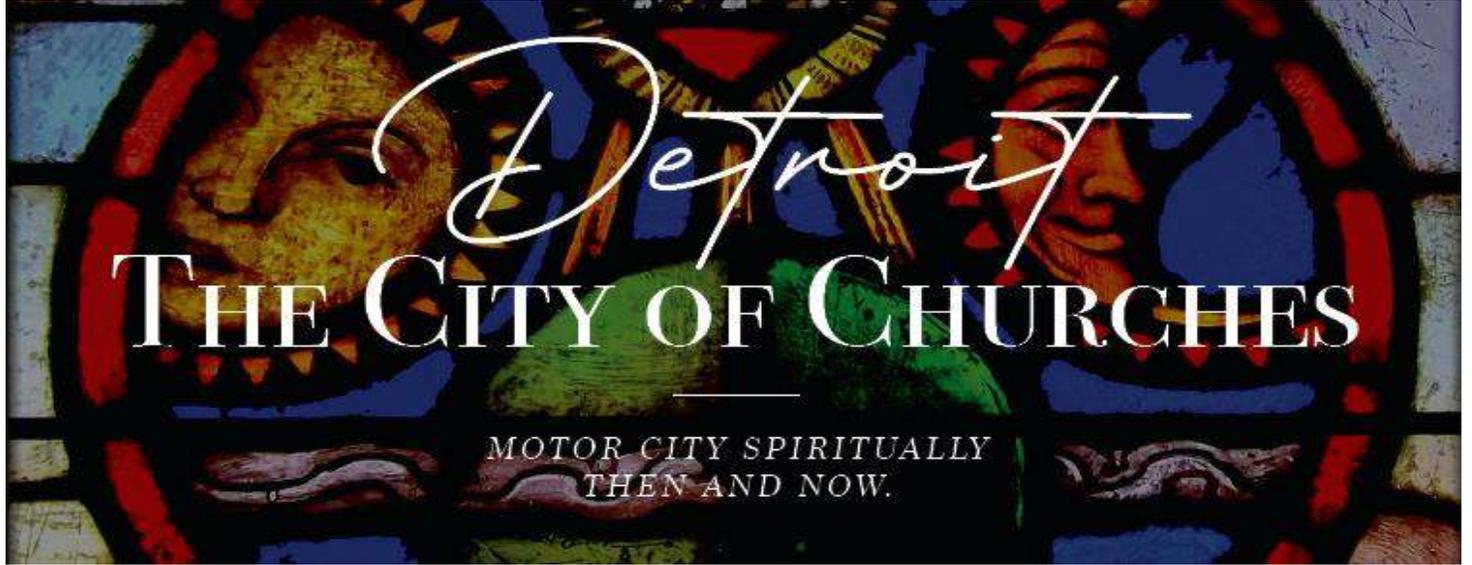
Spiritual Leader: Rev. Garrett Mostowski



Holy Family Church

641 Chrysler Drive
Detroit, MI 48226
313-963-2046

Spiritual Leader: Rev. Paul Ward



**SPIRITUAL LEADERS
LETTERS OF SUPPORT**



August 27, 2021

Mr. Keith Famie
Visionist Entertainment
2345 Beck Rd
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mr. Famie,

I am very happy to let you know that the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit is looking forward to participating in the story you will narrate about the history and role that Detroit historic congregations have played in the life of our city. We enthusiastically support this project:

Ste. Anne Parish de Detroit was founded on July 26, 1701, a few days after the founding of Detroit. It is the oldest congregation in the city and was the only congregation until 1816. Our current church was built in 1886. It includes elements from the 1818 church. One of our pastors, Fr. Gabriel Richard (1802-1832) is considered the "second founder" of Detroit after the 1805 fire. His exclamation, "*Speramus meliora; resurget cineribus*," ("We hope for better things; it will rise from the ashes") is in the seal of the City of Detroit.

On January 27, 2020, Pope Francis named our church a minor basilica. Only one percent of Catholic churches in the country and in the world receive this honor. A church receives this title due to its historical importance in the area and as a place of pilgrimage.

I believe that our congregation and church will be a significant part of your story. Please let me know how we can be helpful.

Sincerely yours,



Msgr. Charles Kosanke,
Pastor

www.ste-anne.org



DOWNTOWN SYNAGOGUE

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President

Richard Agree
First Vice President

Oren Goldenberg
Second Vice President

Ian Robinson
Treasurer

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Dr. Eugene Stone z"l

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Rabbi

Ariana J. Silverman

Executive Director

Arlene J. Frank

Development and Program Manager

Nicole Feinberg

Musician in Residence

Gavri Yares

Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth Kannon

Kitchen Coordinator

Aaron Egan

September 28, 2021

Visionalist Entertainment Productions
28345 Beck Rd. Ste. 404
Wixom MI 48393

Attn: Mr. Keith Famie

Dear Mr. Famie,

It is with great interest and excitement that the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue looks forward to the visual and auditory journey through the history of Detroit congregations in Detroit in your upcoming film, *Detroit: City of Churches*.

Your film and its important focus on the ways in which the worship community in Detroit has impacted the history and tapestry of the city is a welcome addition to the historical documentaries detailing the city's rich, vibrant, and varied legacy as well as its promising future.

As one of many houses of worship in Detroit, and as the last remaining free-standing synagogue in the city of Detroit, we support your film and the stories and history it will reveal about the religious community and its people.

Sincerely,

Arlene J. Frank
Executive Director

Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue
1457 Griswold St. Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 962-4047
hello@downtownsynagogue.org www.downtownsynagogue.org

CHURCH
1050 Porter Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313) 965-4450
mhtdetroit.org



SCHOOL
1229 Labrosse Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313) 961-8855
mhtdetroit.org

MOST HOLY TRINITY PARISH

August 27, 2021

Mr. Keith Famie
Visionist Entertainment
2345 Beck Rd
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mr. Famie,

I am very happy to let you know that Most Holy Trinity Parish is looking forward to participating in the story you will narrate about the history and role that Detroit historic congregations have played in the life of our city. We enthusiastically support this project:

Most Holy Trinity Parish in 1834 to serve the Irish immigrants coming to Detroit from County Cork, Ireland, hence the name Corktown. Besides being the spiritual home of the Irish, it also includes the Maltese, Mexicans, and Puerto Ricans. The current church was constructed in 1855. The congregation has always been known for its outreach to the poor and suffering in the city. It served as the first unofficial hospital during the cholera epidemic in the 1830s. It has the oldest operating grade school in city, founded in 1838. It also has the oldest free medical clinic in the United States, St. Francis Cabrini Clinic founded in 1950.

Msgr. Clem Kern, pastor from 1943-1977 was a legendary figure in Detroit, including being the chaplain to the labor movement.

I believe that our congregation and church will be a significant part of your story. Please let me know how we can be helpful.

Sincerely yours,



Msgr. Charles Kosanke,
Pastor



August 15, 2021

Mr. Keith Famie
Visionalist Entertainment
2345 Beck Road
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mr. Famie,

It is our honor to write to let you know that Historic Trinity Lutheran Church is looking forward to participating in the story you will tell about the history and role that Detroit's historic congregations have played in the life of our city. We enthusiastically support this project; "Detroit: The City of Churches"

Our sanctuary is crafted around the ancient hymn of praise, the *Te Deum Laudamus*. The architecture, artwork, and liturgical iconography of our historic sanctuary beautifully depict apostles, prophets, priests, kings, martyrs, angels and all the communion of saints, past, present, and future in stone, wood, glass, tile, and painting. Since 1850, Historic Trinity has persevered with eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, through war, civil unrest, pandemics, economic depressions and recessions, explosive growth of our city, and critical loss of urban population. The building itself tells the ongoing story of the history of the church. Your film, "Detroit: The City of Churches," will continue to tell that story of Saints past, present, and future with a new perspective to a broad audience.

Along with many of Detroit's houses of worship, Historic Trinity and our members have played a significant role in many aspects of Detroit's history since 1850. We look forward to sharing our story in this film and supporting its development.

We greatly support your work in the development of this film and stand by to assist in financing its production.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rev. D. Lee Andrzejewski'.

Rev. D. Lee Andrzejewski, Head Pastor
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church
1345 Gratiot Ave.
Detroit, Michigan 48207

Old St. Mary's

July 26, 2021

Visionalist Entertainment Productions

28345 Beck Rd. | Ste. 404 | Wixom, MI 48393

Attn. Mr. Keith Famie

Dear Mr. Famie,

With much enthusiasm, we write to let you know that Old St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Detroit is looking forward to the story you will tell about the history of the Motor City through the decades and the lives of our congregants.

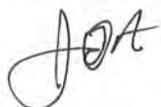
As the many houses of spirituality here in Detroit, the echoes of the people past, present, and future in the church will live on with the new PBS series *Detroit, City of Churches*. Detroit has been at ground zero of many historical events that helped shape Detroit, the region, and the nation.

Your future PBS film, *Detroit: City of Churches*, will indeed become a bridge-builder between so many communities here at home and afar.

We look forward to being featured in this film as we know that Old St. Mary's has a great story to tell and has played a significant role in so many aspects of Detroit's history.

We stand by to support this inspirational journey you are about to embark on with this production. With much anticipation, we support *Detroit: City of Churches*.

Sincerely,



Rev. John Owusu Achiaw
Pastor, Old St. Mary's Catholic Church



St. Augustine/St. Monica Parish
4151 Seminole
Detroit, Michigan 48214
(313) 921-4107
Sasm4151@gmail.com

July 25, 2021

Dear Mr. Famie,

With much enthusiasm, we write letting you know that St. Augustine/St. Monica Parish is looking forward to the story you will tell about the history of the Motor City through the decades and the lives of our congregants.

As the many houses of spirituality here in Detroit, the echoes of the people past, present, and future in the church will live on with the new PBS series *Detroit, City of Churches*. Detroit has been at ground zero of many historical events that helped shape Detroit, the region, and the nation.

Your future PBS film, *Detroit: City of Churches*, will indeed become a bridge-builder between so many communities here at home and afar.

We look forward to being featured in this film as we know that St. Augustine/S. Monica has a great story to tell and has played a significant role in so many aspects of Detroit's history.

We stand by to support this inspirational journey you are about to embark on with this production. With much anticipation, we support *Detroit: City of Churches*.

Sincerely,



(Pastor's signature)



Second Baptist Church of Detroit

FORMALLY ORGANIZED 1836

Reverend Lawrence W. Rodgers, Senior Pastor

February 1, 2022

Keith Famie
Visionalist Entertainment
28345 Beck Rd.
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mr. Famie:

With much zeal, I write this letter to inform you that Second Baptist Church of Detroit looks forward to the story you'll tell about the history of the Motor City through the years and lives of our congregants and community.

There are many spiritual members within Second Baptist who have lived and are living through the past, the present as well as the future. The PBS series: Detroit, City of Churches will also go down in history. Second Baptist has been at ground zero of many historical events that have helped shape Detroit, the state and the land and we're eager to be a part. Your film will indeed become a bridge-builder between so many communities both near and far.

We look forward to being featured in this film and we know that Second Baptist has an profound story to tell and we've played a momentous role in many phases of Detroit's history.

We wait to support this stimulating journey you have embarked upon with this production. It is with much eagerness, we support Detroit: City of Churches.

Yours in Christ,


Rev. Lawrence W. Rodgers
Senior Pastor

LWR: gdt

313. 961.0920 (Office)

441 Monroe Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-2930
www.secondbaptistdetroit.org

313.961.6157 (Fax)



February 1, 2022

Mr. Keith Famie
Visionalist Entertainment
2345 Beck Road
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mr. Famie,

It with great excitement I am writing to let you know that St. John's Church is looking forward to participating in your project *Detroit: the City of Churches*. We are honored to be a part of the telling of the story of how the historic houses of worship in Detroit have, and continue to, shape the heart and soul of our city.

Founded on the Feast of St. John' the Evangelist, January 27th, in 1858, St. John's Chapel opened for worship on November 11, 1859 and immediately encountered a problem. Built in what was a rural area outside of the city limits, they found that they building they expected to use for five to ten years before building a larger sanctuary, was over-subscribed the first week it was open. 600 people applied to rent pews in the 125 seat chapel. The following week the parish governing board, The Vestry, voted to move forward immediately and begin fundraising and construction on the larger sanctuary, which was completed 20 months later in 1861. It is the oldest church building on Woodward Avenue.

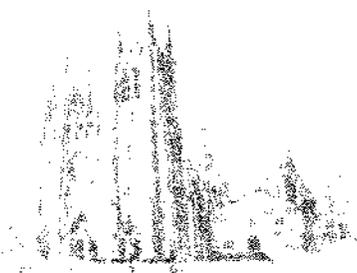
Major renovations in 1882 and 1892 enhanced the Sanctuary, and in 1936 the chapel and church were moved eastward 60 feet for the widening of Woodward Avenue. Changes in neighborhood demographics brought decline to the neighborhood while St. John's continued her ministry, and now finds herself in the midst of the District Detroit project bringing new housing, commercial, and entertainment buildings all around us.

We look forward to working with you in the upcoming project!

Under His Mercy,

Fr. Steven J. Kelly, SSC
Rector, St. John's Church

2326 Woodward Ave, Detroit, Michigan 48201
Phone (313) 962-7358 www.StJohnsDetroit.org
I-75 and Woodward Avenue, next to Comerica Park



CATHEDRAL OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT
9844 WOODWARD AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

PHONE: 313-865-6300

EMAIL: CATHEDRAL@AOD.ORG WEB: CATHEDRAL.AOD.ORG

Mr. Keith Famie
Visionalist Entertainment
2345 Beck Road Ste. 404
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mr. Famie,

On behalf of Archbishop Allen Vigneron, I am happy to express our support for the project you are undertaking. We are looking forward to participating in the documentary and will do all we can to help flesh out the wonderful history of faith that has played such an integral role within the Motor City.

As the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Detroit, the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament exists as "Everybody's Second Parish" for the 1.4 million Roman Catholics who reside in Metro-Detroit. This Norman Gothic structure has towered over Detroit's main thoroughfare for over a century and was consecrated as the Cathedral when Pope Pius XI elevated Detroit to an Archdiocese 85 years ago. We are enthusiastic about sharing our history, since we have hosted two canonized saints (St. John Paul II and St. Teresa of Calcutta), been the setting for the chief liturgical events of the Archdiocese, have existed as a destination for spiritual pilgrims, and been a center for ecumenical collaboration since our very founding.

The mission of your project harmonizes with the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament's role as the "Apostolic Center of the Arts." We provide arts, culture, education, and service opportunities in order to engage people of all faiths and backgrounds and assist them in encountering the love of God. I believe your documentary, *Detroit the City of Churches*, will help support this goal.

We look forward to assisting you in creating this inspirational film.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



The Very Reverend Fr. J.J. Mech
Chairman, Art for God's Sake
Rector, The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament



SS. PETER & PAUL
JESUIT CHURCH

438 ST. ANTOINE STREET
DETROIT, MI 48226

P: 313.961.8077

F: 313.963.5134

ssppjesuit.org

February 10, 2022

Mr. Keith Famie
Visionalist Entertainment Productions
28345 Beck Rd, Ste 404
Wixom MI 48393

Mr. Famie:

On behalf of the congregation of Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church, let me express how delighted and excited we are to be part of your upcoming film project, *Detroit: City of Churches*. This undertaking is certainly deserving of support from all those interested in telling the story of Detroit.

Our parish worships in the oldest church building in Detroit, and we look forward to the reflections the project will engender about the contributions that our long parish history has made to the people and culture of the city. Our faith has not only inspired our spiritual growth, but it has moved us to act for the good of our neighbors and our city. From the Weinman Settlement House, the League of Catholic Women (today's Matrix Human Services) and the city's first St. Vincent de Paul Conference – all at the beginning of the last century – to today's Pope Francis Center for those experiencing homelessness, our people have engaged in robust social services for those in need. When Bishop Borgess entrusted the parish to the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1877, it became the base for an ever-growing family of Jesuit institutions that have profoundly affected generations of Detroit and Michigan people, businesses and services: U of D Jesuit High School and Academy, University of Detroit Mercy, Loyola High School, Gesu Church and Elementary School, Manresa Jesuit Retreat House.

This is a story worth telling, and we look forward to supporting the production of this film. It will help both the city and our parish to celebrate our upcoming 175th anniversary – and we hope in turn our story can help the city celebrate its own history of spiritual and social development for the good of all its people.

Rev. Gary Wright, S.J.
Pastor





METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

707 East Lafayette Boulevard • Detroit, Michigan 48226

Church: (313) 965-2988 • Fax: (313) 965-2988

Email: Annunciation@prodigy.net



March 3, 2022

Mr. Keith Famie
Visionist Entertainment
2345 Beck Rd.
Wixom, MI 48393

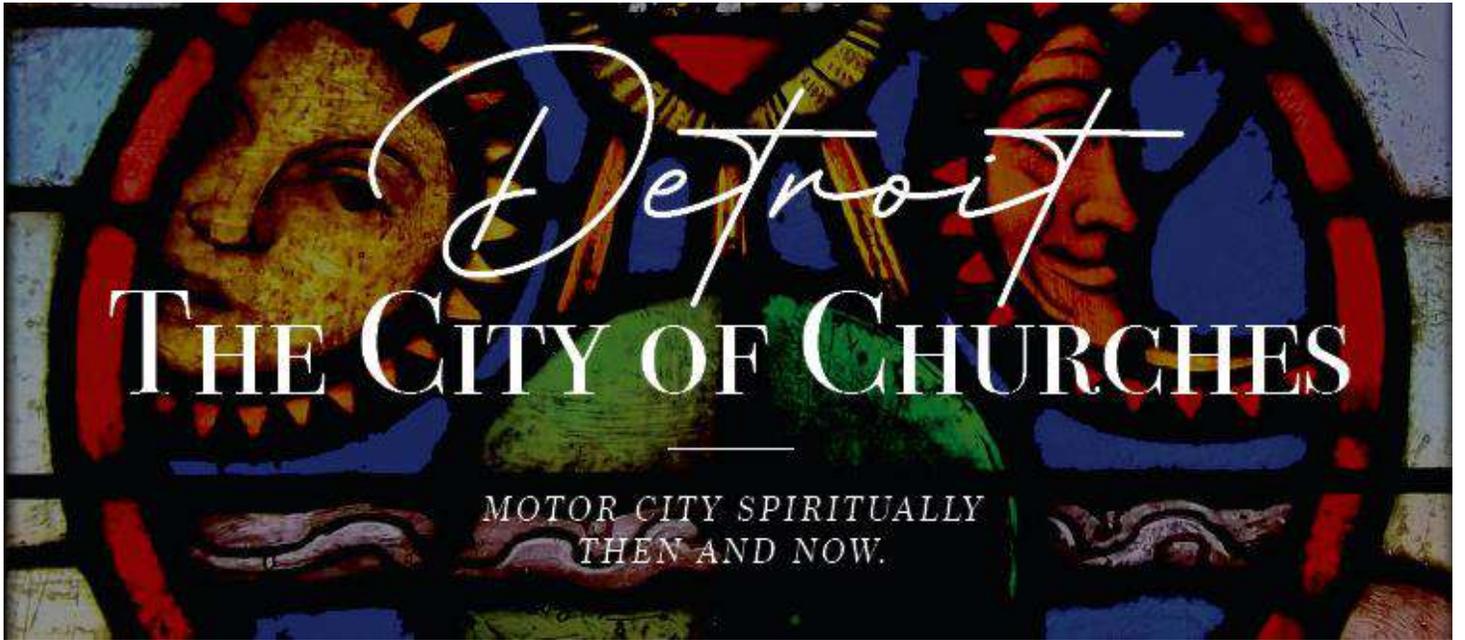
Dear Mr. Famie,

I am pleased to let you know that The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral parish council unanimously agrees to participate in your upcoming documentary titled, "Detroit: The City of Churches". We are excited to be able to share the rich 112-year history of our wonderful church and the story of the people who both helped found it in 1910 and continue to support the Cathedral, Greektown, and Detroit.

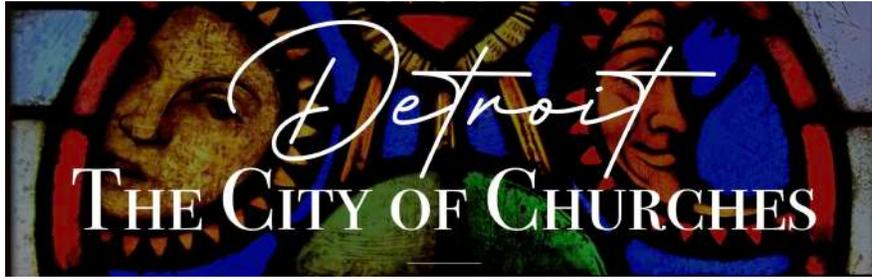
Please feel free to reach out to me so that we can discuss timing and logistics. Father George and the entire parish look forward to working with you.

Sincerely yours,
Harry Harris
Annunciation Cathedral Parish Council President
(313) 920-6174





SUPPORTER OPPORTUNITIES



GRACIOUS METRO DETROIT SUPPORTER \$25,000.00

As a Gracious Metro Detroit Supporter, you or your company will receive and be recognized in the following manner:

Opening of the Film

- You or your company logo will be featured on the opening billboard slate of the documentary for all PBS and theatrical shows with other Gracious Metro Detroit Supporters.

Documentary Film Website

- Your company logo and direct link to the company website will be placed on the front page of the film's website, www.detroitcityofchurches.com.

Community & Media Leader Premiere

- You or your company will have twenty (20) VIP tickets to the community and media leader premiere celebration of the documentary before it premieres on Detroit Public Television/PBS.

Printed Program Booklet for Community & Media Leader Premiere

- You or your company will have a full-page advertisement message featured in our full-color printed program booklet with other Gracious Metro Detroit Supporters.

Marketing & Media

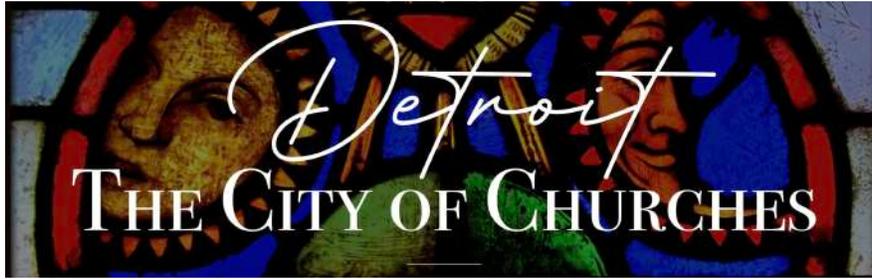
- Your company logo will be featured along with other Gracious Metro Detroit Supporters on all marketing materials including tickets and flyers for the film premiere.

Film Credits

- Your company will be featured in a special section of the film's credits with other Gracious Metro Detroit Supporters.

Note: You will be able to write your check to Urban Communications Group, a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to produce educational human-interest stories.





CARING UNDERWRITER
\$10,000.00

As a Caring Underwriter, you or your company will receive and be recognized in the following manner:

Opening of the Film

- You or your company logo will be featured on the opening billboard slate of the documentary for all PBS and theatrical shows with the other Caring Underwriters.

Documentary Film Website

- You or your company logo and direct link to the company website will be placed on the front page of the film's website, www.detroitcityofchurches.com.

Community & Media Leader Premiere

- You or your company will have ten (10) VIP tickets to the community and media leader premiere celebration of the documentary before it premieres on Detroit Public Television/PBS.

Printed Program Booklet for Community & Media Leader Premiere

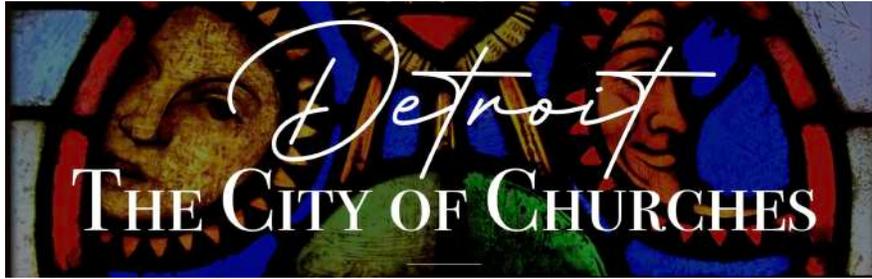
- You or your company will be featured in the full-color printed program booklet on a page with other Caring Underwriters.

Marketing & Media

- Your company logo will be featured along with the other Caring Underwriters on all marketing materials including tickets and flyers for the film premiere.

Note: You will be able to write your check to Urban Communications Group, a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to produce educational human-interest stories.





SUPPORTER OF THE STORY
\$5,000.00

As a Supporter of the Story, you or your company will receive and be recognized in the following manner:

Opening of the Film

- You or your company logo will be featured in the 'thank you' graphic that will appear in the opening billboard slate of the documentary for all PBS and theatrical shows with the other Supporters of the Story.

Documentary Film Website

- Your company logo and direct link to the company website will be placed on the front page of the film's website, www.detroitcityofchurches.com.

Community & Media Leader Premiere

- You or your company will have six (6) VIP tickets to the community and media leader premiere celebration of the documentary before it premieres on Detroit Public Television/PBS.

Printed Program Booklet for Community & Media Leader Premiere

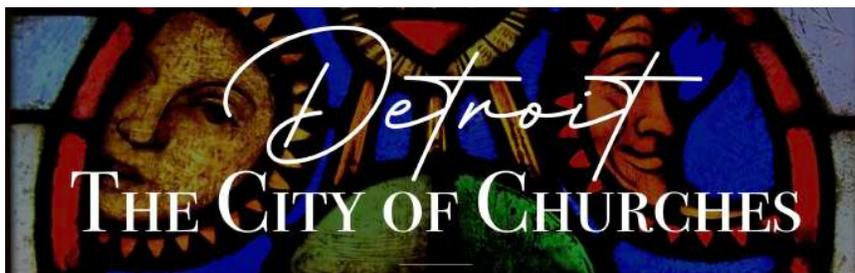
- You or your company will have a full-page advertisement message featured in our full-color printed program booklet with the other Supporters of the Story.

Marketing & Media

- Your company logo will be featured along with the other Supporters of the Story on all marketing materials including tickets and flyers for the film premiere.

Note: You will be able to write your check to Urban Communications Group, a 501(c)3 whose mission is to produce educational human-interest stories.





LEADING CONGREGATION SUPPORTERS \$2,500.00

As a member of your church's congregation, you or your company will be recognized in the following manner:

Film Credits

- You, your family or your company will be specially thanked in the credits where the churches are listed. This will appear in all theatrical and PBS broadcasts.

Documentary Film Website

- Your company logo and direct link to the company website will be placed on the front page of the film's website, www.detroitcityofchurches.com.

Community & Media Leader Premiere

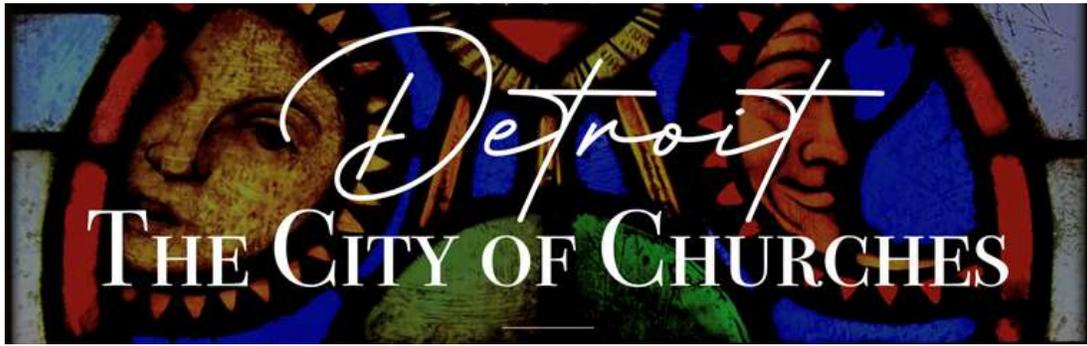
- You will have two (2) VIP tickets to the Community and Media Leader Premiere.

Printed Program Booklet for Community & Media Leader Premiere

- You will be featured in the four-color printed celebration booklet for the public premiere event on a page with other community leaders.

Note: You will be able to write your check to Urban Communications Group, a 501(c)3 whose mission is to produce educational human-interest stories.





YES! I would like to support ***Detroit: The City of Churches***, the documentary film by Visionalist Entertainment Productions.

I understand that by supporting ***Detroit: The City of Churches***, I will be supporting **Urban Communications Group**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting community sponsors with socially conscious storytelling. I acknowledge that my contribution will support Urban Communications Group both financially as well as through the media attention received by ***Detroit: The City of Churches***.

All checks are written to **Urban Communications Group**.

You can mail form and check to:
Visionalist Entertainment Productions
28345 Beck Rd. Ste. 404
Wixom, MI 48393



Enclosed is my support check of \$ _____ written to _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Thank you for supporting ***Detroit: The City of Churches*** and **Detroit Public Television**.

Urban Communications Group is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization focused on rich, moving and educational human-centered documentary filmmaking.



Keith Famie

Director/Producer



Director/Producer Keith Famie was, for many years, known as a celebrity chef and a metro Detroit restaurateur. He was selected as one of America's "Best New Chefs" in 1989 by *Food and Wine* magazine; *Esquire* magazine chose his restaurants as "Best New Restaurant" in America on two separate occasions.

Famie was also a finalist on the 2001 reality television series, *Survivor, the Australian Outback*.

Keith hosted his own Food Network series, *Keith Famie's Adventures*, documenting cooking styles from around the world. In 2004, the Adventure Chef embarked on a new journey - documentary filmmaking. "I didn't want to be the 'Adventure Chef' guy anymore. I wanted to help people tell their stories."

Since that life-changing decision, Famie has been awarded eleven Michigan Emmys and been nominated several other times for his rich, human-interest storytelling, from ethnic documentaries to military tribute films. He and his team at Visionalist Entertainment Productions create informative, entertaining films that touch a wide audience.

In 2013, Keith produced a seven-part series called *The Embrace of Aging: The male perspective of growing old*, which aired on PBS Detroit in 2013. And in 2015, Famie received his 11th Emmy for *The Embrace of Aging: The female perspective of growing old*, the second 13-part film series in this trilogy.

In 2016, Visionalist Entertainment launched the eight-part series *The Embrace of Dying* how we deal with the end of life on DPTV/ PBS. *Maire's Journey* was completed after almost three years, a touching story about a 24-year-old cancer patient and the amazing journey she made in her afterlife. The film toured several film festivals. In November of that year, a two-hour film titled *Death Is Not the Answer*, which looks at the complicated and emotional subject of depression and suicide, aired on DPTV/PBS in December 2016 and was nominated for two Michigan Emmy's.

In 2017, Famie and his team at Visionalist Entertainment Productions debuted a short 18-minute film, *A Day in the Life of Elijah*. The audience steps into the life of the 6'3" 17-year-old Elijah Craft from Detroit who shares his quest to learn to read as a senior in high school after being tested to find out he was at a third-grade reading level. This was awarded the Merit Award at the Global Shorts International film festival in Los Angeles. Famie and team also debuted on DPTV/PBS, *Enlisted* which explores the reasons why young people join the military.

In 2018, *Those on the Front Lines of Alzheimer's & Dementia*, aired on PBS and was nominated for a Michigan Emmy the following year. In the fall of 2019, *Those on the Front Lines of Cancer*, released on PBS locally as well as nationally; it was also nominated for a Michigan Emmy. In the winter of 2019, Famie and his team released *Blessed Solanus Casey's Journey to Sainthood* on PBS. Also published in 2019, was Keith's new book, *Living Through the Lens* and in 2021, Keith published *Papa's Rules for Life*, a book on life lessons; both books can be found at www.keithfamie.com.

While 2020 production plans changed course slightly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Famie and his team were hard at work on three documentaries including *Shoah Ambassadors*, *Hospice Care in America Today*, and *Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower?*. These productions are through the production phase and are set to be released on DPTV/PBS in 2021/2022. VEP has three films which are currently in the early stages of production. These include *Detroit: The City of Churches*, *Detroit: A City of Hotrods and Muscle Cars*, and *The Autistic World*. For more information, please visit www.v-prod.com.

Outside of documentary production, Keith is involved in charitable projects. In 2003, Keith finished the 25th anniversary Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Kona with Team In Training for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In 2015, he was awarded the 2015 Diamond Award by the Association for Women in Communications, Detroit Chapter. In 2017, Keith was presented the Media Award by the Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit. Over the years, Keith has been actively involved in several well-respected, Michigan-based 501(c)(3) organizations that support everything from children with cancer and hunger relief to veterans' issues.

EMMY AWARD WINNING VISIONALIST ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2004 BY PRODUCER/DIRECTOR KEITH FAMIE. SINCE THESE EARLY YEARS, FAMIE AND HIS TEAM HAVE PRODUCED A WIDE RANGE OF PRIMETIME PROGRAMS.

MICHIGAN EMMY AWARD WINNERS

- [Taste of Taiwan \(2006\)](#)
On-Camera Talent – Keith Famie
- [Our Italian Story \(2006\)](#)
Human Interest Special & Best Director
- [Our Polish Story \(2007\)](#)
- [Our Greek Story \(2007\)](#)
Best Cultural Documentary
Best Human Interest Program Special
- [Our Arab American Story \(2007\)](#)
Societal Concerns Program Special
- [Our India Story \(2008\)](#)
Best Documentary Cultural
- [Detroit: Our Greatest Generation \(2009\)](#)
Editor/Program
- [Our Vietnam Generation \(2011\)](#)
Documentary Historical
- [The Embrace of Aging:](#)
The female perspective of growing old
Director – Post – Production

COMING 2021

- [Shoah Ambassadors:](#)
Bridging the chasm between the generation who endured the nightmare of World War II and today's bright-eyed, tech-savvy youths who may have only a limited grasp of what their elders suffered
- [Chromosomally Enhanced](#)
A touching and inspirational journey through the daily lives of children and young adults with Down syndrome and their families
- [Hospice Care in America Today](#)
An in-depth look at how hospice has historically changed the way we approach caring for those who are dying in today's society



DOCUMENTARIES

- [Ice Warriors:](#) An action-packed journey with the Red Wings Alumni team through Russia
- [Our Italian Story:](#) Progress, passion and promise – Detroit's Italian heritage
- [Our Arab American Story:](#) Reverence, resourcefulness and respect, Detroit's Arab American Heritage
- [Our Greek Story:](#) Antiquity, modernity, and destiny- Detroit's Greek Heritage
- [Our Polish Story:](#) Family, faith and fortitude- Detroit's Polish Heritage
- [Our India Story:](#) Amity, diversity and sovereignty- Detroit's Indian Heritage
- [Can you see how I see? :](#) An inspiring look into the life of those in our society who are without sight
- [Detroit: Our Greatest Generation:](#) A tribute to our Michigan WWII veterans, both men and women, who fought for the freedom of our families and our country
- [Our Vietnam Generation:](#) A long overdue welcome home to the men and women who served during Vietnam
- [One Soldier's Story:](#) the profound story of Sgt. Michael Ingram, Jr. and his legacy
- [The Embrace of Aging:](#) 13-part series on women and 7-part series on men
- [The Embrace of Dying:](#) 8-part series on how we deal with the end of life
- [Maire's Journey:](#) Follow Maire Kent as she sets sail on an epic journey to fulfill her dying wish
- [Death is NOT the Answer:](#) A deep look into the complex world of depression and suicide
- [Enlisted:](#) Choice. Adventure. Growth. Why would one enlist in the military?
- [Those on the Front Lines of Alzheimer's & Dementia:](#) What can be done to stop this truly devastating disease?
- [Those on the Front Lines of Cancer:](#) Can the uncommon journey that cancer patients undergo result in anything positive?
- [Blessed Solanus Casey's Journey to Sainthood:](#) How does a humble boy from Irish Immigrant parents rise to the rare and distinguished honor of beatification?

EMMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>The Embrace of Dying (2018)</u>
Editor-Program | <u>A Day in the Life of Elijah (2018)</u>
Public/Curren Affairs |
| <u>Death is NOT the Answer (2016)</u>
Public/Current/Community Affairs Director-Non-Live | <u>Enlisted (2018)</u> Editor-Program |
| <u>A Day in the Life of Elijah (2018)</u>
Public/Current Affairs | <u>A Day in the Life of Elijah (2018)</u>
Education Schools |
| <u>Enlisted (2018)</u> Documentary-Topical | <u>Those on the Front Lines of Alzheimer's and Dementia (2019)</u>
Documentary-Topical |
| <u>A Day in the Life of Elijah (2018)</u>
Education Schools | <u>Those on the Front Lines of Cancer (2019)</u> |

VISIONALIST ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS

- 2015 - The Association for Women in Communications- Detroit Chapter- Diamond Award (Keith Famie)
- 2016 - Royal Starr Film Festival - Best Documentary- Second Runner Up- Mp Maire's Journey
- 2017 - Gilda's Club Metro Detroit Media Award
 - 43rd Annual MCA-I Media Festival- Bronze Reel- One Soldier's Story
- 2020 - Development of new documentaries for 2021
- 2021- New, impactful productions underway

Maire's Journey Festival Awards

