

Gabriel Heidbreder

In conjunction with our 10th Anniversary, Family Renewal Project proudly welcomes our new Executive Director, Gabriel Heidbreder!

A native of Michigan, prior to accepting his position with FRP and moving his family to Kentucky for the past seven years Gabriel lived and worked in Tennessee. He, his wife, Kimberly, and their son are eager for this new adventure and the opportunity to make many wonderful friends as they establish their home in Louisville. Gabriel will officially begin his new role on Monday, July 13.

"There has not been a single person who has been a stronger intermediary in my walk with Christ than Pope John Paul II. As a boy, I fell in love with his stalwart courage. While a seminarian, I discovered the immense value of a human formation built on the Holy Father's vision. As the Executive Director of Family Renewal Project I possess ready knowledge of John Paul II's Theology of the Body, and I seek to incarnate those truths both in a professionally excellent and unambiguously Catholic culture at FRP and among its volunteer partners. I look forward to working with the FRP staff, volunteers, and cooperative partners as we provide healing and formation for all in accord with God's plan for the human family." – Gabriel Heidbreder, incoming Executive Director of FRP

* More information about Gabriel is included below. TIP: Heidbreder is pronounced hide-braider.



If you would like to connect with Gabriel to send a welcoming message, offer encouragement or ask questions, his contact info is:

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Louisville, KY 40218

Phone: 502.303.1996 (call or text)

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Donna Burry will work closely alongside Gabriel to assure a smooth transition for him and the Team. In the coming months they will hire and onboard a new Director of Operations & Administration at which point Donna will eagerly resume her role as wife, mother and grandmother. She and Garry will continue to serve FRP as members of the Board of Directors.

Please join us in welcoming Gabriel and his family to Louisville and please mark your calendar for our Open House on Tuesday, September 29! This will provide a special opportunity to meet Gabriel and tour our beautiful office suite (more information forthcoming).

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From 2015 to 2018, Gabriel was in formation for religious life and the priesthood with the Fathers of Mercy based near Bowling Green in Auburn, Kentucky. While he did not continue to pursue a vocation to religious life and the priesthood, he completed his bachelor's degree in English Literature and the Humanities through Holy Apostle College and Seminary, as well as a master's degree in Catholic Studies at the Athenaeum of Ohio in 2019. As he left seminary, he remembers telling a formator, "Whatever I do next, I want to serve the Church by bringing John Paul II's integrated vision of formation to more young women and men like myself." While Gabriel has carried this out in various ways, as the Executive Director of Family Renewal Project, he will live it daily!

Following seminary, Gabriel moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to serve as the assistant director of a gap-year program for young adults known as the Love Good Apprenticeship Program. While in Nashville he met his now wife, Kimberly, and worked in two separate parishes leading family catechesis as a director of faith formation. In 2022 Gabriel stepped away from parish ministry to help found the Chesterton Academy of the Incarnation, located in Franklin, Tennessee. As a founding faculty member he taught Sacred Theology, Literature, Philosophy, and Latin and served as the school's Dean of Men.

Gabriel and Kimberly were married in 2022 at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville, and soon after they welcomed their son, Thomas. Kimberly loves to bake and keep a cozy home. A veteran event-planner, she also runs her own Catholic wedding planning business, Little Flower Event, Co. In his spare time, Gabriel continues his enjoyment of classic literature and art. An avid outdoorsman, however, he never misses a chance to get out and pursue his love for bowhunting, fishing, and gardening.

In mid-May Gabriel accepted the position as Executive Director of FRP. Over the past two months (while completing his duties at the Chesterton Academy, finding a home and moving to Louisville) he has actively engaged with the entire FRP Team in a variety of ways (both in-person and virtually). As Gabriel steps into his role we are very excited about the future of FRP as we continue to renew, restore, and reveal the culture of love and responsibility.

