

# No Guilty Bystander: The extraordinary life and times of Catholic bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit

*The story of a US Catholic "peace bishop" and his commitments to social justice at home and abroad.*

MARYKNOLL, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, July 5, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq. Racism, discrimination, civil rights. Labor and economic injustice. LGBTQ

“

Tom Gumbleton, I believe, will eventually be known as the most noteworthy U.S. bishop in modern church history [who] both spoke and lived the Gospel of universal love and radical nonviolence.”

*Tom Fox, Editor/Publisher Emeritus, National Catholic Reporter*

rights. Nuclear weapons and the arms race. El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti. Clergy sexual abuse. In his forty years as bishop of Detroit, Thomas Gumbleton engaged with crucial issues facing not only Catholics but all of American society in some of its most tumultuous decades.

A native of Detroit and child of the Depression, Gumbleton attributes his world view to two events: the second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and a visit to Cairo with two fellow priests. Searching for the place tradition holds that the Holy Family lived, he recalls “we began to come into a large area teeming with homeless people . . . living in the streets all the time, without access to water, food, or any clean clothing. . . Sooner or later, I knew I would have to act upon

what I had experienced there.”

Named a bishop for Detroit in 1968 by Pope Paul VI, Gumbleton became known as a “peace bishop,” speaking out against the war in Vietnam and co-founding Pax Christi USA in 1972. The story of his work in drafting the US Bishops’ 1983 pastoral letter, “The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response” is an unusually detailed look at how it developed in the context of both US society, Catholic teaching, and the Vatican of Pope John Paul II.

Gumbleton also initiated the Bishops’ 1997 pastoral letter, “Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers.” He made humanitarian visits to Iraq; assessing the impact of the sanctions and the subsequent war.

As Tom Fox, editor/publisher emeritus of the National Catholic Reporter states, “Tom

Gumbleton, I believe, will eventually be known as the most noteworthy U.S. bishop in modern church history, a unique member of the Catholic hierarchy who both spoke and lived the Gospel of universal love and radical nonviolence.

Often criticized for the stands he has taken, Gumbleton has remained even in retirement a man of faith in action. In his honor, royalties from the sale of No Guilty Bystander will benefit the Kay Lasante Health Clinic in Haiti which Gumbleton helped establish.

# # #

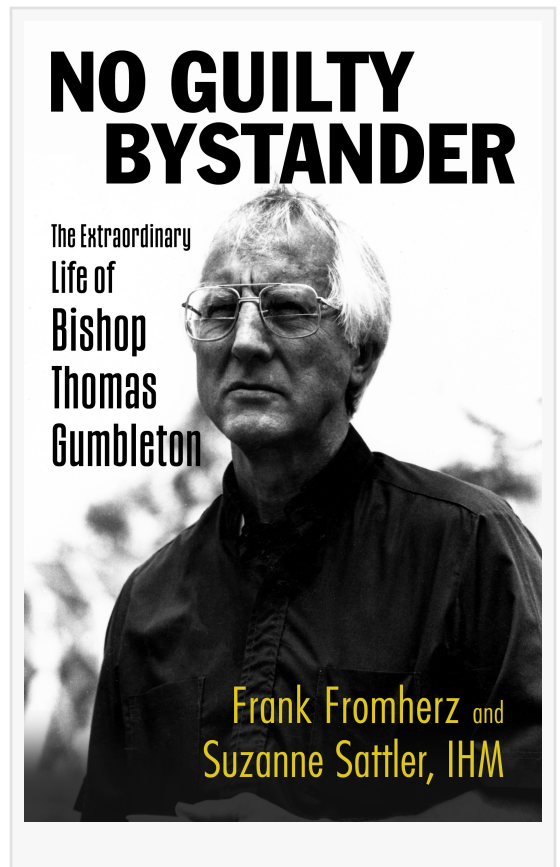
No Guilty Bystander: The Extraordinary Life of Bishop Thomas Gumbleton

Frank Fromherz and Suzanne Sattler, IHM

PUB DATE June 29th, 2023

ISBN 978-1-62698-523-0 softcover 336pp., b/w photos.

\$30.00



Founded in 1970, Orbis Books publishes works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit and challenge the conscience. Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. Learn more at <http://www.orbisbooks.com/> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/orbisbooks>

The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers follow Jesus in serving the poor and others in need in 22 countries that include the U.S. All Catholics are called to mission through baptism and confirmation, and Maryknoll's mission education outreach in parishes and schools throughout the country engages U.S. Catholics in mission through vocations, prayer, donations and as volunteers. Maryknoll missionaries share God's love and the Gospel in combating poverty, providing healthcare, building communities and promoting human rights. For more information, visit the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers at <http://maryknollsociety.org> and follow them on Twitter MaryknollFrsBrs.

Bernadette Price

Orbis Books / CFMSA

+1 914-570-4315

[bprice@maryknoll.org](mailto:bprice@maryknoll.org)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/641564400>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2023 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.