



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

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Researcher of Holocaust Mass Gravesites to Speak at Marquette

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin— Internationally renowned Holocaust researcher Father Patrick Desbois will discuss his efforts to document long-hidden Nazi atrocities in his lecture, “Holocaust by Bullets,” on Tuesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. in Eckstein Hall, 1215 W. Michigan St.

Father Desbois is a Catholic priest in France and the president of Yahad-In Unum, a Paris-based organization dedicated to identifying sites of Jewish mass execution during the Holocaust, then collecting forensic evidence and eyewitness testimony, with the goal of preventing future genocides through education.

Father Desbois’ appearance is presented by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and Marquette University, and supported through a grant from the Isabel & Alfred Bader Fund, a Bader Philanthropy. A RSVP for this free lecture is encouraged; learn more [here](#). Father Desbois also will be available to sign copies of his book, *The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 Million Jews*, after his lecture.

Inspired by the experiences of his grandfather, who was held prisoner in the Rawa Ruska camp on the Poland-Ukraine border during World War II, Father Desbois began to research the story of the Jews, Roma and other victims murdered in Eastern Europe during World War II by the Nazi mobile killing units, the *Einsatzgruppen*.

That led Father Desbois to found Yahad–In Unum and begin the work of identifying mass killing sites, collecting forensic evidence of the executions, and videotaping witnesses’ testimonies to these killings – and given that witnesses are now in their 70s and 80s, the organization’s work is urgent. To date, Yahad-In Unum has researched 1,337 execution sites and gathered 3,580 testimonies during its 79 investigative research trips in seven Eastern European countries. Yahad–In Unum also conducts international workshops and graduate-level seminars to contribute to Holocaust scholarship and the study of genocide.

Father Desbois has devoted his life to fighting anti-Semitism and furthering relations between Catholic and Jews. He also serves as director of the Episcopal Committee for Catholic-Judeo Relations, under the auspices of the French Conference of Bishops. A contingent from Milwaukee will join Father Desbois in Poland this summer.

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About the Milwaukee Jewish Federation

For more than 100 years, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation has been dedicated to building a strong Jewish community. We distributed \$20 million last year to Jewish and non-Jewish organizations locally and around the world, and manage philanthropy through our \$150 million Jewish Community Foundation.