

Bishop Baraga Association
c/o Diocese of Marquette
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Marquette, MI 49855-4725

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the

Baraga

bulletin

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Lives Touched by Baraga

A Lovely Letter from One of Our Members

We are so fortunate to have Bishop Baraga Members that diligently pray and have promoted the cause for years. Recently, when Miss Maxine Taucher, from Kane, PA sent us a letter we were reminded once again of that devotion of so many members. She didn't write it to have it published, but it is the story of so many families, especially the Slovenians and we hope you keep your faith in the cause of Bishop Frederic Baraga as well.

I can't tell you how happy I am to know that Bishop Baraga is being recognized and hopefully will attain official Sainthood. When my mom was still with us she lamented why it's taking so long. (And she's been gone 26 years come April 22.) I'd try to console her and say that he already is a Saint in our eyes and that it takes time to let all know just how hard he worked to spread the Faith, the hardship he endured, etc. I remember it was in the early 1950s that a set of 78RPM records (in an album) were offered to raise money for the Cause of Bishop Baraga. I sent for them and I treasure them to this day. They have the traditional Easter and Christmas Slovenian hymns and conversations from a mother to her children in getting ready to go to Mass and receive our Lord in Holy Communion. All in Slovenian. I think the Album came through the Franciscan Fathers in Lemont, IL. I'm 83 now and I am sad that the Slovenian language is dying out, perhaps in larger Slovenian settlements they continue but in our area, there may be 5 or 6 who can still speak it.

However to get back to your hard work and Bishop Sample and all. Here in our home, my sister and I have a Lourdes Shrine on our buffet in the dining room with votive candle and Saints pictures. Each night before I go to bed I stop there and say a prayer for the beatification of Bishop Baraga and also JP II, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Terrance Cardinal Cook, Venerable Solanus Casey and Blessed Louis Guanella. And I'm sure not only my Mom, but all who revered Bishop Baraga, and are gone now, are doing their best 'up there' to promote his cause.

I subscribe to the *Ava Maria* Magazine by the Slovenia Franciscans in Lemont and the new *Slovenian American* newspaper out of Cleveland. It is nice they try hard to keep Slovenians together. And thank you for sending the *Baraga Bulletin*. God bless you and your work. Sincerely, Maxine Taucher



Tapping maple sap, courtesy of the Library of Congress, 1908.

Association News

PRAYER REQUESTS

For a special intention, \$100, Stanley Pekol, Waukegan, IL; prayers for health of my family, \$5, Verna Pedrangan, Stambaugh, MI; for a special intention, \$10, Elaine Beiring, Marquette, MI.

IN THANKSGIVING

To thank Bishop Baraga, \$40, Cvetka Benedejcic, Chardon, OH; in thanksgiving for many favors; Lavergne Raskob, Plymouth, MN; in thanksgiving for our health, \$100, Joseph & Frances Kovacic, Colonial Heights, VA; in thanksgiving for the ordination on March 19, 2011 of the Rev. Russell Arnett to the Catholic priesthood, and for blessings on his priesthood, and, second, in hope that two other similar ordinations may follow, \$100, Michael Dunn, Elm Grove, WI.

IN MEMORY

In loving memory of my husband, Joe and son, Tom, \$10, Elaine Beiring, Marquette, MI; in loving memory of my sister, Christen Perman & also prayers for my other sister, Mary & myself as we are both in poor health, \$20, Elsie Cizek, Chicago, IL; in memory of my only brother, Ivan who passed away January 16, 2011 at the age of 81, may he rest in peace, \$100, Stana Oven, Monterey, CA; in memory of Sir Knight, Cecil L. Trussell, \$94, Pat Whitte, Mt. Morris, MI.

SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSE

\$10,000 Anonymous from a dear friend to the Cause of Bishop Baraga. **\$150** Maxine Taucher, Kane, PA. **\$100** St. Ignatius Altar Society, Houghton, MI; Frances Cestnik, Burlington, ON; St. Francis Solanus Indian Mission, Petoskey, MI; Anna Marie Ellenberger, Onaway, MI.

\$40 Valentine Koncan, Etobicoke, ON.

\$50 Bob & Dorothy Mishica, Huntington Beach, CA.

\$25 Betty Lewis, Setac, WA; Anton Grasic, Toronto, ON.

\$20 For the cause & I enjoyed the Bulletin, Beverly Jahn, Manistique, MI; Jozefa Horvat, Westmont, IL.

\$15 Anne Beyersdorf, Menominee, MI.

\$10 Andrew Mihevc, Mayfield Heights, OH; John Derler, Port Huron, MI.

Fr. Bernardine Susnik, OFM from Lemont, IL sent us the generous gifts of the people who give through the Ava Maria Magazine for the Cause of Bishop Baraga.

Gifts amounted to \$1068.50 and came from the following supporters:

\$160 - F. Hren.

\$50 - R. Staric; S. Mramor; M. Muhic.

\$40 - J. Berkopec; I. Berlec; J. Dolinar.

\$35 - A. Cupar; C. Grajciar; Z. Likozar.

\$30 - T. Glavac; M. Strancar.

\$25 - I. Hauptman.

\$20 - A. Berkopec; A. Debevc; G. Gombac, A. Govednik; F. Markun; M. Ravnik; M. Rems; L. Rozman; A. Skubic; M. Turk; S. Vidmar; M. Vodisek.

\$15 - M. Grdadolnik.

\$13 - M. Celestina.

\$10 - K. Dreu; M. Erdani; S. Ferkul; A. Gregorc; J. Horvat; S. Intihar; J. Ivanetic; P. Knaus; V. Lavrisa; I. Manfreda; R. M. Novak-Leger; F. Picman; J. Samsa; E. Veider; M. Virant; A. Vujinovic; V. Zupancic.

\$5.50 - M. Tiedman.

\$5 - A. Mlakar.

Thank you to all for your support!

When you glance at our Financial Report in this issue, you will realize just how generous our members are to the Cause of Bishop Baraga. (Remember we saved for years for the canonization process.) Looking back, in 1994, our income was \$35,384 & expenses \$46,620. Our membership was 2228 and today it totals 3476!

NEW LIFETIME BISHOP BARAGA MEMBERS

Myrna Meneses, Marquette, MI; Rev. James Cogan, Bradenton, FL; From Kim Bellisle of Menominee, MI came 3 new lifetime memberships: one to herself, Aaron Bellisle, Detroit, and Duane Bellisle, Menominee, MI; Mo & Joe Finch, Mohawk, MI.

A Special Gift – from the Toronto Group of Baraga Days during the visit to Mackinaw Island they decided to skip lunch and donate the \$500.00 to help the church of St. Anne.

We extend a belated happy 90th Birthday wish to Fr. Tone Zrneč. Fr. Zrneč has taken close to if not 30 trips to Baraga Days in his lifetime. He also promotes Baraga in many ways, some of which are being a presenter at the Slovenian College in Rome, writing books on Bishop Baraga and his video, "On the Trail of Bishop Baraga".

JOIN THE BISHOP BARAGA BIRTHDAY CLUB

Do you or anyone you know share the birthday of June 29th with Bishop Baraga? For years, lifetime member, June Burich, has promoted the life of Bishop Baraga. Please write to her if you or someone

Christmas Ornaments
\$10.00 each




Pewter Key Chain...\$10.00

Coffee Mugs
\$5.00



Marble Based Paperweight
\$10.00



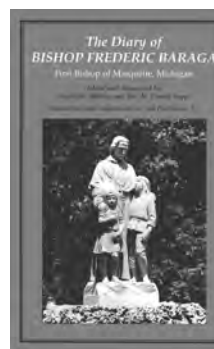
ENGRAVABLE

Please Support the Cause!



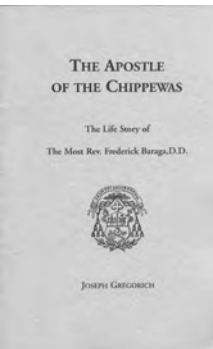
T-Shirts 100% Cotton
\$12.00
(sizes: M, L, XL, XXL)

Diary of Bishop Baraga
(Soft Cover)
\$20.00



NEW!!

The Apostle of the Chippewas
(Soft Cover)
\$10.00



Leaflets & Prayer Cards Available for the Asking

The purpose of the Bishop Baraga Association is to promote the cause for canonizing Bishop Frederic Baraga as a Saint and to make the example of his love of God and service of his neighbor known to all people. Please pray for his cause for Sainthood.

Membership Information

Membership entitles you to receive the quarterly publication **The Baraga Bulletin** Canadian Currency

Annual \$10.00 . . . \$10.00
Life (Individual/Family \$50.00 . . . \$50.00
(no shipping charge added)

Shipping/Handling Charges

Total Amount of Order . . . Shipping Charge

Up to \$30.00 \$4.00
\$30.01 - \$40.00 \$5.50
\$40.01 - \$75.00 \$9.00
Over \$75.00 FREE

Order Form

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| _____ | _____ | X _____ | = _____ |
| _____ | _____ | X _____ | = _____ |
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Sending support for the cause:

For prayer request of _____
In Thanksgiving for _____
In Memory of _____

Sub Total = _____
Shipping (see chart) = _____
Membership = _____
Total: (U.S. Funds) = _____

Please ship order to:

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check here if gift, send to: _____

Card acknowledgement sent by the Bishop Baraga Association to the recipient should read:

Send to: Bishop Baraga Association
347 Rock, Marquette, MI 49855

A Gift from a Loving Brother

Mr. Frederic Baraga, Vienna, to his sister, Amalia Baraga, Trebjne, October 18, 1818 made two notebooks in which young Baraga did his drawings. The first notebook is 14 x 11 cm; the second is 7 x 5.5cm. The first notebook has the following title:

*To you, beloved Amalia, as a souvenir
from your Frederic*



On the second page is the dedication:



*Take it, dear, precious sister,
take this token from my hands.
Heartfelt, closer, tighter
it binds our great and tender tie of love.*

There follow 52 sketches in oval and round forms, representing various scenes from nature: castles, villas, country life. The drawings are done mostly with brush and feather. Only a few are in color. Partly taken from nature, partly from imagination, some are beautiful and excellently crafted miniatures: trees, a house, a tower, ruins, water, a bridge, cattle, people in costumes (short pants, wide hats, jackets, etc.). At the end, there is a beautiful flower with the inscription:

*Tenderly brotherly love
dedicates these flowers to you.*

A nice wreath, with the symbols of the four season, has the inscription:

*Each of the four seasons
may provide you with joy.*



On the last page is written:



*Frederic Baraga
student attending the lectures
at the university of Vienna
in the year of Our Lord
1818*



Association News

special shares the same Birthday as our beloved Bishop. Contact: June Burich, 243 Pewabic St, Laurium, MI 49913-0735.

Crypt Mass

Crypt Mass will be celebrated on the third Monday of the month:

May 16th
June 20th
July 18th
August 15th

Members, when you move, please try to let us know!

The cost of a "returned" Baraga Bulletin is now \$2.60 per issue. Please remember if you move, third class mail is not forwarded. It is so

very helpful when members inform us of deaths and changes of address. Many of you have written us and your efforts are appreciated. Also, if you know of someone not receiving the Baraga Bulletin, let us know. For example, Manistique Bulletins came back to us. We learned that "Fire Codes" were recently installed and this may be the reason. Also, we will gladly provide a copy to those who can not afford it, serving in a mission or the military.

The following people are listed as undeliverable. Can you help us?

Rev. Raymond Mulhern – Chicago, IL
Dr. Gloria Bratina – Toronto, ON

Ema Strucelj – Toronto, ON
William Chaltry – Menominee, MI
Laura Gratner- Cheboygan, MI
Mary Jo Milkavcic – Euclid, MI
Ernesto Turk – Para Brazil

Donations received after March 7, 2011 will be recorded in the next issue.

Announcement!

The Bishop Baraga Association Office & Diocese Archives will be closed until EASTER. This means, no correspondence will be answered, no letters, no emails, no telephone calls. We are sorry for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding and patience. We will reopen approximately April 25th.

Reserve the Date – September 24 & 25 for Baraga Days

Plans are under way for the 2011 Baraga Days in the Diocese of Gaylord. It is the weekend of September 24 & 25th. Details and schedule will be available from the BBA office after Easter and appear in the Summer Baraga Bulletin. The events will be held in the Harbor Springs Petoskey Area. The committee is planning on having a "tour" guide printed up for those attending so that you can see as many of the Baraga sites as possible. We plan on having a Slovenian Mass, an English Mass, Banquet and a few surprises!

In the meantime, suggested hotels are as follows:

Located in Petoskey, Michigan

Odawa Hotel – (231) 347-6041 Rate: \$99.00 no blocked rooms AARP/AAA

Hampton Inn & Suites – (231)348-9555 Rate: \$98.10 - \$116.10

Holiday Inn Express – (231) 487-0991 Rate: \$ 129.99

Best Western –(231) 347-3925 Rate: \$ 89.99

Days Inn- (866)-439-9707 Rate: \$ 50.11 - \$75.61

Super 8 – (231) 439-8000 Rate: \$ \$85.00-\$105.00

Located in Harbor Springs, Michigan

Best Western – (231) 347-9050 Rate: \$87.99

Located in Gaylord, Michigan

Hampton Inn & Suites – (989) 731-4000 Rate: \$69.00

A Special Notice for People in the Upper Peninsula

If you are in the Upper Peninsula and interested in riding via Motor Coach to Baraga Days, the cost would be around \$175.00 for the weekend travel, hotel & banquet. Please let us know if you are interested and we can plan to pick you up along the route. (Traveling along the vicinity of Houghton to Marquette to the Bridge.) (906) 227-9117 or (906) 227-9143.

All Members!

Remember we always appreciate your suggestions for Man & Woman of the Year Candidates! And let us know how we can help with your travel arrangements or if you have any questions.

Rates may vary due to taxes, AARP, or type of room. Rooms are blocked under "Baraga Days" for a standard 2 bed room.

Sisters for the Diocese

Rev. Edward Jacker to Mother St. John Facemaz, J.M.J.

Hancock, Sept. 5th, 1865

Very Reverend Mother Superior,

It must seem very strange to you that I left your kind letter of July 4th so long unanswered; but upon perusing the following lines I hope you will excuse my long silence.

I cannot deny that the content of your letter somewhat surprised me, as Bishop Baraga, himself relying on Father Menet's assertion, had assured me of the contrary, namely that upon application the Sisters would be sent immediately. But as Divine Providence has ordained otherwise, we must cheerfully submit and be thankful for the hope still held out to us; for I trust, I have by my long silence not yet forfeited the promise so kindly made by you.

But you will judge yourself!

There has been an Academy of the Ursuline Nuns in operation at Ontonagon (a place belonging to this diocese) for nearly three years; but of late, the business in that region having become rather dull, a serious



fear was entertained that the boarding school would not be sufficiently supported any longer, and the Superiors of that institution seemed to be quite anxious to transfer the convent to this place as being more central and more stirring. Now as long as I entertained the hope of obtaining Sisters of your order I did not feel inclined to make any offers to that end; but when I received your letter, I reflected on the expediency of inviting the Ursulines to this place, if they were willing to immediately take charge of the day-school. Our Rt. Rev. Bishop was at that time going to Ontonagon to inspect the state of affairs there and I had to await his return before

coming to a decision. Thus one week after another [sic] escaped and only now I know that the establishment of the Ursulines will continue to be kept at Ontonagon.

I hope this candid statement of the only cause that made me delay so long in answering you, will not give umbrage so as to make you reflect my renewed request to provide us with sisters of your order under the conditions and at the time mentioned in your letter. I would not have hesitated a moment to avail myself of your kind offer, had not the apparent probability or necessity of the Ursulines' removal to Hancock and the desire to procure religious teachers at the earliest date thus far biassed my mind as to make me wait for the Bishop's decision before giving you a definite answer.

As for the various desires expressed in your letter, I promise you, Very Rev. Mother Superior, that I will do all in my power to have everything in readiness until next spring. The building of a new school house has been delaid [sic] so long because the difficulty of raising the necessary funds would have been materially lessened by the presence of the sisters whose sight would encourage the congregation to make any sacrifice; for having been flattered so long with promises never fulfilled our people have almost given up the hope of seeing the education of their children entrusted to a religious community. But in spite of this discouragement we will with the assistance of God be able to prepare whatever is necessary for the first outset; as for the future I have not the least doubt that means will be abundant as soon as the fruits of your Sisters' pious labours will become visible.

Finally I beseech you not to retaliate, but to let me know as soon as convenient whether you are still willing to send three Sisters early next Spring, i.e. in the month of May, for then only the navigation opens in the Upper Lakes. On my part, I promise faithfully to wait and not to enter into negotiations with any other order.

Recommending myself to your prayers, I remain,

Very Rev. Mother Superior, Yours faithfully in Christ

Edward Jacker

mission last fall and with great diligence he immediately began to study the Indian grammar and to translate the Indian books we have. And now for 2 months he is alone in his mission, without an interpreter, (whom he has never used), hears confessions and preaches better than I could at the end of my second year as a missionary. To be sure, at that time there was no grammar, no dictionary and no book from which one could have learned this entirely peculiar language).



Father Lautishar's progress is a surprise to all. He read me his first Indian sermon and I marveled at such progress. He now speaks also English with some fluency and could very well hear English confessions; however, he seldom has occasion for this.

His health also, thank God, is quite good, and I hope that he will serve as our missionary for a long time, God be willing.

The last mission station I visited was Grand Traverse where Rev. Father Mrak is now stationed. Previously, a missionary had never settled here, although I and all my successors came here frequently until now, but only for a few days or weeks. The Indians of this mission are very humble and willing. I hope that the meritorious and experienced missionary Mrak, who now lives with them, will instruct them in everything that is good and keep them in a good christian disposition. On July 22nd I confirmed there 31 persons, children and adults. On July 24 I arrived again here in Mackinac and I am considering embarking for Sault Ste. Marie even today, from where I shortly hope to make a tour of inspection to the missions along on Lake Superior, if the Lord God be willing.

May I greet all my beloved, may God bless you all.

Frederic.

Bishop.

Mackinac, July 28, 1855

Financial Report of the Bishop Baraga Association For the Year 2010

Revenue:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Investment Income | \$ 49,015.39 |
| Membership Dues | \$ 7,410.00 |
| Donations | \$ 44,478.80 |
| Baraga Days Donations | \$ 20,741.64 |
| Baraga Day Meal Tickets | \$ 16,015.00 |
| Baraga Materials sold | \$ 4,152.00 |
| Net Revenue: | \$ 141,812.83 |

Expenses:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Salary | \$ 19,698.02 |
| Health Insurance | \$ 2,865.50 |
| Retirement | \$ 1,663.68 |
| Payroll Tax, Disability, etc. | \$ 3,646.61 |
| Office Supplies | \$ 550.10 |
| Postage | \$ 1,571.91 |
| Prayer cards/brochures | \$ 2,431.52 |
| Dues & Subscriptions | \$ 120.00 |
| Meetings/travel/presentation | \$ 1,385.39 |
| Rent to Diocese | \$ 5,004.00 |
| Baraga Materials Purchased | \$ 2,317.10 |
| Bulletins & mailing | \$ 12,070.62 |
| Literature/pray cards | \$ 1,106.14 |
| Postulator Expense | \$ 125,756.91 |
| Crypt Mass Expense | \$ 166.21 |
| Volunteers (B-days) | \$ 56.00 |
| Baraga Day Expense | \$ 13,735.37 |

Total Expenses: \$ 194,145.08

Savings in Investment Pool . . . \$ 361,943.64

Notes: Our membership is most gracious and giving – thank you. Baraga items sold includes some reimbursement for postage. We also have the asset of the inventory of items purchased, such as a supply of coffee mugs. Baraga Days Expense includes meals, program booklets, lodging for staff, bishops. This expense is offset by the “meal tickets sold”. Many times, donations are received when we sent out prayer cards and brochures. We prefer to make them available to all regardless of their ability to pay. Thank you for your continued support.

Baraga's Mission In and Around Arbre Croche Site of our Baraga Days 2011

*Bishop Frederic Baraga, Mackinac written July 28, 1855, in German, to Amalia Gressel, Ljubljana
Published Laibacher Zeitung, 237, October 13, 1855.*

To comply somewhat with the wishes of the catholic friends of the missions, I give here a brief report on my visitation journey of this year to the missions in and around Arbre Croche which I had established and attended more than twenty years ago. Since that time these missions have increased very much and now, in most of them, there are no more pagans. But in some there are one or more pagans who still stubbornly resist all efforts of the missionaries and the influencing examples of the converted Indians that surround them. However, these Indians have become very rare. In these missions almost all are converted.

On June 29th, (on my 58th birthday), I arrived at Arbre Croche which was my first mission station. On May 25th, 1831, 24 years ago, my first bishop in America, Edward Fenwick, brought me to this mission, which I took over with a grateful heart and deep emotions. Now I remained here several days and during the entire time I instructed the Indians and heard confessions, and on Sunday, July 1st, I administered holy confirmation for the first time in my first mission.

True, I was here last August, but I did not confirm because only a short time before Bishop Lefevre of Detroit confirmed here.

I arranged for confirmation on next Sunday in a mission that I have founded 24 years ago and dedicated to Ignatius Loyola, but where this holy sacrament has as yet never been administered. In the simple mission church, built by the poor Indians themselves, they saw, with great spiritual joy, their bishop, in full vestments, preach to them and administer the holy sacrament of confirmation.

From here I once more sailed in an Indian boat, after so many years, to Beaver Island which lies in the middle of Lake Michigan and is so far from firm land that it is scarcely visible as a streak of mist. As I was the first priest who 24 years ago stepped on this island, so now I was the first bishop who ever visited it. All the inhabitants of this island, who live very simply and peacefully, are now converted to the Catholic religion, because the missionaries who were my successors in this mission have visited them frequently

and have preached to them until all were converted.

My visit to this romantic island was joyful and stirring for me and these simple children of nature. Many old Indian men and women came to me, knelt down to receive the bishop's blessing and then with gratitude and deep emotion said to me: "Father, you baptized me, you certainly did, long, long time ago."

Others said: "My parents have told me that you had baptized me, but at that time I was yet a very small child."

And now they themselves have several small children around them. They now were very pleased to receive the bishop's blessing from their old missionary, from whom they or their parents first learned to pronounce the holy names of Jesus and Mary. And now I began with instructions and hearing of confessions, and administered to them, with deep emotion, holy confirmation. Many who had received the Holy Sacrament of Baptism 24 years before now received the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation. At this time forty-four received this holy sacrament on Beaver Island. Next time I come here those who are not yet well-enough instructed will be confirmed. In one house two Indian women were sick in bed. They were sad because they could not come to the church and receive holy confirmation. - I therefore went into their house, heard their confessions and instructed them, and the next day, I administered to them, on their sick-bed, and to their great consolation, this holy sacrament.

From Beaver Island I went to a mission known as Cross Village and where the Rev. Father Lawrence Lautishar is missionary. At the time I took care of these missions the converted Indians erected a large cross in their village, which since has often been renewed. From this cross the village received its name. Until now Father Mrak had been there for nine years and conscientiously fulfilled his duties as a missionary. May God bless him for that. Father Lautishar, his successor, is a zealous and pious missionary who makes a great effort to continue the good work begun by his predecessor. The short time in which he has learned the Indian language is astonishing. He came to this

A Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends in Christ:

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever, Amen. Recently, I thought that I would have had the opportunity to come to a Bishop Baraga Days event in Florida. Alas, it was not meant to be...this time. I was ready: the airline ticket had been purchased, I arranged for Fr. Ron Browne to preside at my Masses while I was gone and I even packed a couple of 'summer' clothes in anticipation of the warm weather. Believe it or not, I literally could not get off of the ground. A dense and unusual fog had settled in Marquette County and it ultimately delayed and then cancelled our flight. So, I was disappointed. But next year, if I am able, I will leave very early in the week to avoid another cancellation as what happened this year.

Besides being in an area of nice weather, I had a couple of other things going for me down there. The most important part of the trip was to celebrate the Holy Mass for those in attendance at Baraga Days but also to bring a special joyous message from Bishop Sample: and that is about the opening of the cause for Bishop Baraga which begins on March 12, 2011. As you probably know, we are praying very hard that the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints will look favorably on the miracle that we had recently sent to their office in Rome. What this means is that if they Congregation does find that this miracle was attributed to Bishop Baraga, then he will become "Blessed." It is an important initial step on Bishop Baraga's way to Sainthood. We are so close now and yet there is still more that we need to do.

Bishop Sample has asked us to offer some type of penance on March 11, 2011. This is in anticipation of what will happen in Rome with the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. March 11 is a Friday and also the first Friday of Lent. It would be a natural time for people to offer up a penance to the Lord. This year, I ask you to offer up your penance for the success of our Cause for Bishop Baraga. Let us pray that the Lord will soon raise our Bishop Baraga to the honors of the High Altar. Keep on praying to Bishop Baraga. I am sure that he is interceding for us before the throne of the Lord. May the Lord bless you with His peace...

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,



Fr. Ben Paris

LaPointe – Land Where the Honey Flows Sugar Water or Maple Sap

*Antonia von Hoeffern, LaPointe
written to Amalia Gressel, Ljubljana*

My most beloved sister,

Greetings from Arcadia; the land where honey flows (or sugar water). Yesterday I followed my desire to see the processing of sugar by the Indians. Many are twenty miles distant, although some only six. But there is one on our island because there is a place where there are a few thousand sugar trees. So I chose that one which was accessible on foot in an hour. We started before sunrise to be able to reach a hill and watch the sun rise in splendid greeting. It was a tranquil sunny morning that anticipated the heat of the day. Our caravan consisted of eleven travelers; the son of a Boston Irishwoman, his half-breed and her

two children, me and my little [servant] girl, and nine dogs who pulled a wagon laden with bran and sustenance for the day. We travelled energetically, as one must be on such a morning in the fresh air, over hill and dale toward the goal. We heard the few birds that spend the winter here and the romantic air of the forest gave us strength. The trip took three whole hours, because it was already quite hot for March and the ground so wet that we have to make great detours in many places in order to avoid the water. The way was very uncertain, and we would have one foot on solid ice and other would give way into the hollow underneath. One had to go ahead to break trail, and often



Great Lakes Maple Sugar Camp.

some got stuck and the ones behind fell into the water. Often I followed in the footsteps of the Bostonian over such a morass, but sweet arcadia, soon we were able to remove shoes and stockings! Our good hostess did that for me with heartfelt joy and allowed me to rest on cedar boughs so that I could watch in comfort as the water became transformed into sugar in the tranquil kettles over the fire. It is a most simple but very tedious preparation. The sugar water is not sweeter than when one adds a teaspoon of refined sugar to a cup of water. It is simmered again, but it requires some time to make a gallon of syrup. Then one removes it from the fire and stirs it until it becomes a fine powder, and that is the Indian sugar. I observed and tasted the sugar in all its stages of completion, and find the finished product to be the best as long as it is still warm.

We were shocked out of our enjoyment in this matter by lightning bolts that announced an approaching storm. We did not know whether it would be better to return home or stay the night with these Indians. I expressed my disinclination to remain, and so the half breed thought that he would himself lead us on a very short and propitious way home if we had the courage to traverse a small bog. The talk was of a short easy journey and so we began the trek as quickly as our guide could have wanted. I will continue this tomorrow, but today I write only about the pleasures realized as long as the new life remains with me, which was created in the cedar forest.

That tomorrow became nine days during which I wore out my joy for the Indian trek to the sugar castle, and it would have been a miracle if we all had not gotten sick. Now listen carefully: that nice little bog, which the guide had mentioned with the shortness of

the trek and which our ears filled with joy only partly comprehended was only 36 paces wide. I rather would have undertaken a journey such as that of the Jews over the Red Sea. The Bostonian and the half breed offered their backs but it certainly is not proper for an adult to be carried in that way. So I crossed in water to the knees. It was particularly unwise to wade through it because we were overheated. Our happy faces suddenly became so serious and no one said a word, as though we were approaching death itself, and on the far side I broke the solemn silence with tears as I recognized the folly of it all. And so, repentant and searching for the strength that would make me capable of reaching home, I remembered something which I once had read in a well-worn book with missing title page: that one suffers no ill by going from heat to cold and back to heat. A deep breath was my thanks and prayer to God, after which I hurried home with the proffered help of the Bostonian as well as my trust in the pronouncement of the author of the old book could urge me on. I was only 260 paces before I had a warm bath and hot tea, and wrapped my feet in spirit-impregnated flannel. Then I flung myself to bed and slept feverishly.

In the morning I was able to write with pleasure and without any pain, but toward evening I experienced a thousand ills and no doctor; a thousand needs and no antidote. But there was God who never lets us suffer injury as long as we believe in Him. Everyone except the brown lady was ill, but now we all have recovered. I saw the making of sugar and the pleasure of that outlived the pain.

Now back to the 19th of March which brought to mind so many acquaintances near and far, and whom I heartily wish the fulfillment of their noble quests.

A Temperance Society

Most Rev. Frederic Baraga, Marquette to Most Rev. Peter P. Lefevre, Detroit
Original letter in French and in the Notre Dame Archives

Lapointe, Sept. 30, 1842.

My Lord!

I received your kind letter of August 21 on the 16th of this month. The zeal which your Congregation manifested during the ten days of the retreat which you mentioned has given me much consolation. At the same time this renewed the sorrow of my heart; for I see that a part of my small congregation, that is to say, the Canadians, makes practically no effort to obtain the grace of indulgence which the Holy Church now offers us, although I speak of it to them frequently. The other part of my Congregation, which speaks only the Indian language, has been more zealous. Almost all those who communicate have fulfilled the conditions prescribed by Our Holy Father, the Pope, and can hope to have gained a plenary indulgence.

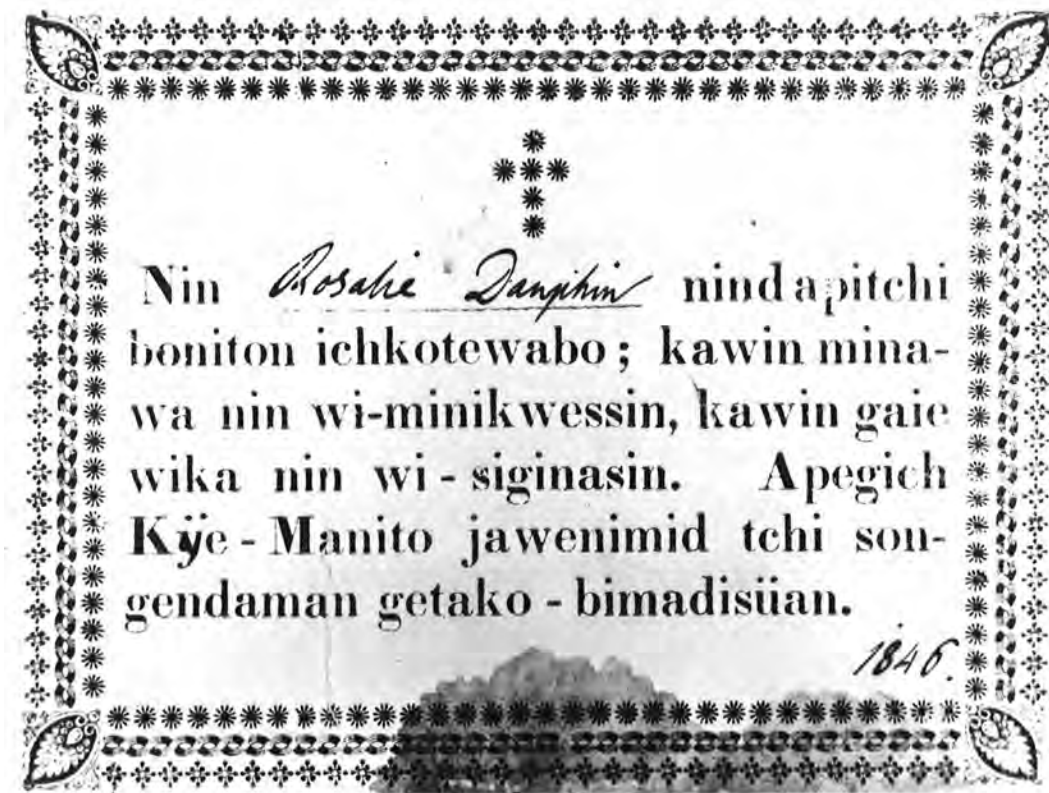
Mr. Cotte brought me back, among other things, the good news that you will come to visit us next summer, if the good God preserves your life. We are very consoled because of this, and I beg you, My Lord, do try to come around August 1. The members of this Mission are not always together here; they are obliged to seek their subsistence in different locations; but almost all are to be found here around August 1.

I beg you, My Lord, to bring with you some Temperance Tickets in French; we shall try to establish, under your authority, a small Temperance Society in this Mission. I likewise beg that you, My Lord, bring with you two Catholic Almanacs, the one for 1842 and the one for 1843.

Recommending myself to your good prayers, I have the honor of being, with the most profound respect,

My Lord,

Your very humble servant
Frederic Baraga
Missionary



temperance card used by father baraga.

Yesterdays

prepared by the Peter White
Public Library staff in Marquette
From the Marquette Mining
Journal, dated 1-9-2011

30 years ago

Marquette- A tombstone which apparently marked the original grave of Bishop Frederic Baraga, first bishop of the diocese was uncovered recently when a refurbishing project began at St. Peter Cathedral. The tombstone was in two pieces when found with inscriptions in Slovenian and English. It had served as part of the main altar's underpinning and will now become part of the backdrop for the bishop's throne.

which they all want very much.

After that I sailed to the smaller Beaver Island, named Garden Island, which is inhabited by the Indians, who from time to time are visited by the Reverend Missioner Zorn. These Indians are now all Catholics and hold firmly to the faith, despite the evil examples with which they were surrounded when the Mormons lived in their neighborhood. Until now they still had their old chapel, put together with tree bark. But now they are about to build themselves a regular church out of the nicest cedar wood that I have ever seen, and which is already all hewn and ready for the building. Such building, entirely out of cedar wood, can last more than a hundred years, if only the roof is repaired from time to time.

Then, in company with the zealous Missioner Zorn, I visited two other mission stations, and on June 3 I reached the mission of Little Traverse, the former Arbre Croche. This was my first mission among the Indians which I began on May 28, 1831. Here the Indians have a beautiful and spacious church which they have built themselves. In general, these Indians are already rather advanced in civilization. Nearly all are cabinet-makers and carpenters, and they also make their own boats. When I came here for the first time, the Indians had only canoes from birch-bark; now such canoes are not seen anymore.

At this visitation of mine an incident occurred to me which previously had not happened in our Indian missions. A young Indian girl of 18 or 19 years [Margaret Sagima] according to the testimony of the missionaries leads a pious life for many years and every Sunday goes to communion, came to me and urgently begged me to accept her into the Ursuline convent at Sault Ste. Marie. I was surprised by such a request from an Indian girl, because this nation, as well as the Hebrew and

other ancient nations, esteem and desire only the married state. To proceed safely, I called her parents and asked them about their daughter, and they testified that several youths have already asked her to marry them, but she accepted no offer, and always said that she wants to remain single all her life. Then I questioned her repeatedly if she really wants to leave everything and go in the convent, and she assured me that this was her only wish. Therefore I took her with me and she was accepted in our Ursuline convent as a novice. If she will only remain persevering.

In Little Traverse Father Louis Sifferath is missionary, a conscientious, zealous and pious German priest, who in a short time has learned the Indian language fairly well, and who is still perfecting himself in it daily.

After I had visited two more small mission stations [Bear River and Cheboygan], in company with Father Sifferath, and everywhere preached to the Indians, I arrived, on June 9, in Grand Traverse. This is the mission of Father Mrak who labors already for many years as a zealous and judicious missionary among the Indians. There I was very pleasantly surprised when I saw how nicely Father Mrak has repaired and improved his mission church from the outside and inside.

On the return trip, in the night, which was stormy and cold, we had to disembark and spend the night on the shore. I had no blanket with me, but, fortunately, my cloak. I had laid down on the cold sand and spent the night shivering. On the following morning I could scarcely speak and also could scarcely get up. I caught a bad cold.

On the 17th inst., I finally arrived again, to my joy and that of others, here in Sault Ste. Marie, where I shall remain a few weeks and then undertake a new visitation journey on Lake Superior which will last about two months.

Already on the 18th Frederic asked me how we should celebrate the next day, and we all discussed the beloved Pepi as we well know her, and thereby entertained ourselves very well because our mischievousness was set free and uncovered weaknesses to make the discussion more spicy and interesting. Yes, dear Pepi, the depraved nature of all of us finds pleasure sometimes to dwell upon the weaknesses of others and even to consider them with pleasure, and the nearest naturally are always the dearest because one knows them better. The Americans do not know the celebrations of birthdays and christenings because they not only do not yield a profit, but also would be a detriment to the earning of money. For that reason there were no cannons fired and no guests invited, but only a mass said for them and a splendid dinner arranged in the evening. At least you must believe me that it brought much laughter to us because of the failure of Joseph's doughnuts (of which I was very attentive) suffered in their cooling and so they only were the subject of our contemplation.

In the evening my brother made me aware of the northern lights. Quite often there are meteors here in the winter and I already had seen the most magnificent of them. In sprang forth as a silver streak from picturesque clouds and illuminated the entire northern sky. It was a spectacle which in itself silently hid the secret of its appearance. It became ever larger and more splendid, and finally became motionless as though created for eternity. I thought of all those who were preparing themselves for the celebration and sent in spirit the vision of heavenly pillar to all that I saw. The good Joseph encouraged me to send him a large bar of gold from America and now I suddenly was inspired by the wish to be able to send him this silver pillar, but as I stood there with my wish, the splendid structure sank slowly before my eyes as though it wanted to bring my wish to fulfillment. The heavenly clouds lifted but the pillar moved in a direct easterly direction and evoked in me the desire to travel along with it to be witness of its welcome. Did it arrive?

Because my writing sounds a little foolish to me, I come to think as a real fool. Consider Smolnikar passing himself off for the Apostle Andrew and appearing in Boston and Philadelphia with the announcement in the newspapers that the time has arrived when all people will be united in one religion

and that he is the messenger of God to bring this about. He mentions many miracles that God has performed for him and that he himself has worked, and that he has driven the devil from many possessed souls, etc., and says that he will explain everything in his writings. He calls upon all the priests of the area and invites them to be collaborators, etc. The first part of his writings he sends to Frederic with the fervent wish that you should read it. There are only a few minor instances wherein you by no means can identify the learned fool. "In order to be consummate the reader must be of the same opinion as I am in the actual place of Christian education, in the view of relationship of people with each other and with the higher and nether world of spirits. As is the custom, I substitute my name, my given name with that of another and kept my gallant Andrew who first among the apostles recognized and followed Christ, and chose also Bernard as an example. It was clear to me that I could choose no other names than these." Perhaps because he was able to tell the truth to princes and bishops so courageously with the knowledge of our times, compared to that of his own times. Certainly he transcended the ages, but still wallowed in many of his thoughts in superstition, and God knows how that describes many of us. I want to express myself and the paper is already covered with words, and that is how it always is with my letters. I want to write much and too much more. Could I but be satisfied to say that I am well and hope to hear the same from you. It would be simpler to tell you my feelings orally than on paper when they are alive in me. Farewell; I love you very much and hope the same from you.

Yours,
Toni

Did you receive the letter of January 28, April 5 and May 18, 1838?

May 18, 1838 To Madam Amalia Gressel in Laibach in Austria by way of Paris and Vienna.

May 18. Today (but very early) a ship sailed from here to Sault Ste. Marie, and already on April 20th we saw two ships sail from our new harbor. One was wrecked on the rocks but no hands were lost and the cargo was recovered. April was very warm. Now it is cold again. Yesterday we had much snow.



100th Anniversary of Fr. Frederic Baraga's visit to Beaver Island

Mission Visitations & Observations by Bishop Frederic Baraga

Written by Bishop Frederic Baraga, Sault Ste. Marie
dated June 23, 1859 sent to the Leopoldine Society, Vienna

NEWS ABOUT THE EPISCOPAL ACTIVITY OF THE RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP OF SAULT-SAINTE-MARIE IN MICHIGAN, FREDERIC BARAGA

Esteemed Mr. Editor:

The Right Reverend Bishop Baraga has repeatedly sent communications to the Central Direction about his Episcopal activity among the Indians of his diocese, of which some may be quoted here.

Some days ago, so he writes under date of June 23, 1859, I again returned from a mission visitation journey and I hasten to send in a brief report about it. From this journey I returned half sick and exhausted, because it was a difficult circuitous journey through all our missions among the Ottawa Indians. In these missions one must either go from one mission to another on foot or sail on the stormy Lake Michigan in a small Indian boat, which is often connected with danger to life, and which would be even more dangerous if the Indians were not so skilled in guiding their boats. On these journeys one must also spend the night at times on the shore, and this spring the nights here were very cold.

I set out on a visitation this spring at the first opportunity that I could find to Mackinac and St. Ignace. However, this opportunity did not come before May 15, because the ice remained in our St. Mary's River a very long time this year. And when I came to these two mission places, the people, whose occupation and service consist mostly in fishing, had already sailed for their spring fishing grounds. These poor people are hired by white employers to catch fish. The employers provide them with empty barrels, nets and salt, and pay them 4 or 5 dollars for each barrel which they fill and salt. Among these fishermen there are many who are already adults and

have not yet been confirmed, because they are never there when the bishop comes on a visitation. Therefore the missionaries said to me that I should come in winter in order to meet them. Therefore, in winter, in the first days of the month of February, 1860, I shall have to make a journey on foot, on snowshoes, to Mackinac and St. Ignace. These winter journeys on foot are now difficult for me, first, because I am now already somewhat out of practice, and, secondly, also because of my age, since next February, if I live, I will be in my sixty-third year. In these years, especially when one in past years has suffered hardships, one is already somewhat stiff and feels the cold.

The marching throughout the day is still tolerable, but when it comes to the evening, to spend the night on the snow under the open sky in this northerly climate, that does not go well. By the tiresome walking on snowshoes, over hill and dale, one is in a sweat the entire day, despite the cold, so that all the underwear becomes wet; and in the evening, when one comes to a halt, he then soon feels extremely cold and begins to shiver as if he had a fever. If on these winter journeys I could come every evening to a house, then they would not be difficult for me. But in this desolate country one must often travel many days before he again comes to a house. Such is the lot of a missionary bishop, which, however, I do not find hard, because I have been a missionary in this dreary country for so many years; only the years oppress me somewhat.

From the St. Ignace mission I sailed in an Indian boat to Cross Village, where a worthy German missionary of the Third Order of Saint Francis, Father Seraphin Zorn, who in a short time



had learned Ottawa well, works zealously for the honor of God and for the salvation of his Indians. This is a pure Indian mission. Mackinac and St. Ignace are mixed missions. There they are Indians, half-Indians, Canadian French and Irish, but in Cross Village all are Indian. The Indians were glad to again see their old missionary and bishop. As soon as they saw the boat coming from afar, they rang the mission bell, and all assembled. The schoolteacher, who is a brother of the Third Order, came at the head of his school children who carried two flags and whom the Indians joined down to the shore in order to welcome the bishop. They all knelt down to receive the bishop's blessing, and then with salvoes and the ringing of the bell, accompanied me into the mission church, where, after a short address, I again gave them the holy blessing. In general, the Indians everywhere welcome the bishop thus. In this mission I always have much consolation, because the poor Indians there are good and very diligent in attending church; and the missionary is exemplary and zealous.

From there I sailed to the Beaver Islands, which are situated in the middle of Lake Michigan, between the Upper and Lower Michigan. Two of these islands are inhabited, one by Indians and the other by whites, mostly Irish.

more than 300 families there of these abominable people, and they applied such an absolute rule over the entire beautiful island that none other could settle there. Besides their Mohammedan polygamy, they were also kind of pirates and thieves, and caused so much disturbance that, finally, the neighboring settlements, especially the inhabitants of Mackinac, united themselves against them, hired a large steamship and with armed forces drove the thieving Mormons from Beaver Island. Now this beautiful and large island, which for many years was the seat of the cruelest, devil-worship, is populated almost entirely by Catholics, mostly Irish, some German and French, who sincerely wish nothing more than to have a church and a priest soon in their midst. On May 22, on the 4th Sunday after Easter, I said Holy Mass there in the spacious school house, and preached in English for the first time on this island. And after the Holy Mass I administered Holy Confirmation to 24 persons. All these persons, with the exception of only one boy, were adult people, among them were also old men and women who never before had an opportunity to see a bishop in their midst. After the divine service the women and children went out and I held a conference with the men, how and where a church on this island was to be built,

When I came to these missions for the first time only Indians lived there, but some years ago the whites began to settle on the large Beaver Island, and certainly the worst kind of whites, namely, the Turkish-minded Mormons with their numberless wives, and in a short time there were