

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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**BARAGA DAYS: ST. IGNACE - SEPTEMBER 25 & 26TH 2010**



From the prayerbook  
of Sr. M. Seraphine  
Balwinski, CSJ

O Bishop Baraga, because of your great desire to live a life of total commitment to Jesus Christ the Lord, you dedicated yourself completely to missionary activity to make God known, loved, and served by the poor whom you loved and served. Obtain for me, too, a complete dedication of myself to the Lord. Help me to be more concerned for the needy and those who experience discrimination.

As a man of peace, a man of love, you brought peace and love wherever you traveled. Teach me to share peace and love with all people.

Pray for me that the spirit of prayer which was intimately part of your life may also be as deeply a part of mine.

Help me to accept the hardships of life as willingly as you did, as a part of my dying to myself that I may rise with Christ in glory.

Intercede for me with the Lord that He may grant me the graces and favors for which I pray.

Amen

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## Lives Touched by Baraga

### Retracing Baraga's 1847 Trek "To the Interior"

by Yul Yost

I have for decades followed the movements and work of Slovenian missionaries that were active in the 1800s in the Upper Great Lakes. My hero, of course is my countryman, Bishop Baraga. I am awestruck by his intellect, his linguistic abilities and his physical endurance. In particular, I have read and reread the description of his trip in winter of 1847 from what is now Upper Michigan to Fond du Lac near Duluth, MN and back. Baraga calls it a trip "to the interior." Interesting, to Baraga Fond du Lac was in the "interior" then, but these days the Interstate 35 whizzes by Fond du Lac! The hardships alone that Baraga endured for the sake of lost souls is worthy of sainthood.

It was mostly his return trip which he and an Indian guide began on Dec. 5, 1847 that evokes my admiration, a trip that intrigues me to no end. The lakes were mostly frozen by then. They walked along The Lake Superior for seven days with some 50 miles a day. They carried their own food and equipment. In 1847 that area was a wilderness with an occasional game trail. I have hiked in northern Minnesota, I thus know what it takes to bushwhack. So, in Oct. 2009 three of us took, not a hike, but a "fast-paced" three-hour car trip along the south shore from Bayfield, WI to



Yul at the Baraga Cross.

continued on pg. 5



St. Ignatius  
Loyola Church,  
St. Ignace, MI.

## Association News

### PRAYER REQUESTS

For our special intentions, \$200, Edith & Rudy Lukez, Kirkland, OH; Prayers for my family and our good health, \$20, Mary Cugelj, Cleveland, OH; prayers for my husband Ron & myself – good health and well being, \$10, Julie Powell, Mt. Holly Springs, PA; please remember Mary Jo Crawford, who has cancer, in your prayers, \$20, Carl Lukezich, Calumet, MI; prayers for healing of our granddaughter, Lakota, her mother, Kristina & family in Washington State, also our grandson, Calvin, of Munising, for his health, and the healing of our youngest daughter, May, of Grand Rapids, \$20, Don & Susanna Braman, Munising, MI; prayers for my great granddaughter who was born blind & recently had an accident and was hit on the head, \$25, Mary Andrews, Lyndhurst, OH.

### IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you for the many favors received and his canonization, \$100, Maria Slana, Toronto, ON; favors granted – he should be a Saint, \$25, Betty Weimer, Jackson, MI; please continue to pray for our health and above all for thanksgiving for so many blessings, \$10, Mrs. Verna Pedranzan, Stambaugh, MI; for favors received in the past for our health, \$50, Grace & Dalen Skaletski, Abrams, WI; for prayers answered and our health, \$15, Joe & Elaine Beiring, Marquette, MI; in thanksgiving to God and to Bishop Baraga for the help and for many graces we received in the past, \$100, Rudi & Anna Knez, Cleveland, OH; in thanksgiving to the Lord as Jonah celebrates one year of remission from neuroblastoma, \$50, Mike & Judy Hurley, Wayne, MI; in thanksgiving for the many favors received by our family and especially our grandson, Adam, \$25, Ed & Carol

Stempkey, Cheboygan, MI.

### IN MEMORY

In loving memory of my mother, Blanche Christensen, \$10, Julie Powell, Mt. Holly Springs, PA; in memory of my mom & dad, Louise & Joe Barbarich – my mom donated for many years and always wanted Bishop Baraga named a Saint, \$25, Antoinette Needham, Milwaukee, WI; my husband, Matthew passed away on October 12, 2009, we are sending \$100 in his memory, Stani & the Grdadolnik family, Euclid, OH; in memory of my parents Alojzi & Terezija Petek and my brothers – Lojze & Leopold Petek, \$200, Slavka Levstik, Downsview, ON; in memory of Rose Lukezich, \$10, Carl Kukezich, Calumet, MI; in loving memory of my husband, Peter, \$25, Mary Koritnik, Saul Rapids, MN; in memory of Vincent Rak, \$25, Ani Rak, Wickliffe, OH; in loving memory of Sr. Seraphine Balwinski who died Nov. 20, 2009, \$50, Joseph & Yae Balwinski, Fairfield, CA; in loving memory of deceased members of the Petak & Gasperich families, \$25, Jim & Rita Petak, Minooka, IL; in memory of Sister Mary Seraphine Balwinski, CSJ, \$200, John & Monica Balwinski & family, Branscomb, CA; in loving memory of Marie Ovnik – a gift of \$16,060 was received – Marie was from LaGrange and a Bishop Baraga supporter for many years, her sisters Lorraine & Judy are now active and attended Baraga days in Marquette, like Mary did for many years; in memory of the Svete & Barle family members who have passed; in memory of Edward “Pete” & Marie “Sis” Anderson, \$100, K. Dale & Carolyn Anderson, Randallston, MD; \$25, Martha Svete Springer, Gulf Shores, AL; in memory of our dear brother-in-law, Anton Gorshe, \$50, Rudi &

Anna Knez, Cleveland, OH; in loving memory of our daughter, Cheryl Dorais DePuydt, \$15, Yvonne & John Dorais, Marquette, MI; IN LOVING MEMORY OF Sr. Seraphine, who passed on November 20th, 2009, as she was a long time supporter of the Association it its work. \$100, anonymous.

### SUPPORT FROM INDIVIDUALS

**\$1000** For promoting the cause of Bishop Baraga, Karl & Ann Zajec, Euclid, OH.

**\$300** Charles & June Momber, Grand Rapids, MI.

**\$100** A special anonymous gift “For the Cause” graced our hearts; Gifts to help the cause came from the Kess family ~ Mrs. Sophie Kess and Mrs. Karolina Kess from Victoria, BC; We had such a wonderful experience traveling to Baraga Days, Romano & Jozica Vitulich, Wickliffe, OH; Frank Stanisa, Burlington, ON; I regret that I was unable to be at Baraga Days and please accept this donation – Frank Stanisa, Burlington, ON; Bob Mishica, Huntington Beach, CA; Maria Baje, Cleveland, OH; for the restoration of Bishop Baraga Association, Joseph A. Lastelic, Alexandria, VA.

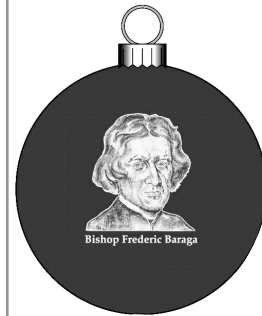
**\$50** Art Stancher & Beth O’Brien, Calumet, MI; for the cause of Bishop Baraga, E. L. Hubran, Cedarville, MI; Roger B. Carlson, Stillwater, MN; Ron Steffel, Petoskey, MI; Margaret Perger, North York, ON; for the canonization - Anonymous.

**\$25** Although we were not able to attend Baraga Days, we wanted to send a gift, Geraldine Robarge, Franklin, WI; Barbara & Richard Edwards & family, L’Anse, MI; Ruth Cychosz, Bessemer, MI.

**\$20** A gift and a gift membership for our son, M/M Russell Hesch, West Branch, MI; to renew my membership

“Only One Thing Is Necessary”

**Christmas Ornaments**  
\$10.00 each  
Specify if you would like a Red or Green Ornament.

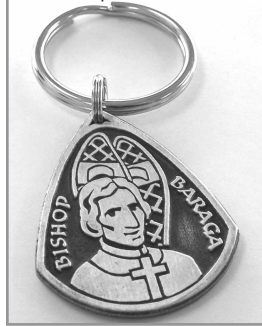


**Coffee Mugs**  
\$5.00

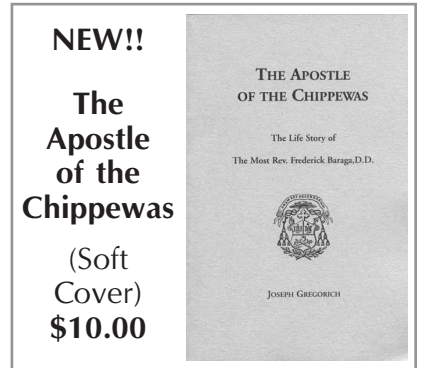
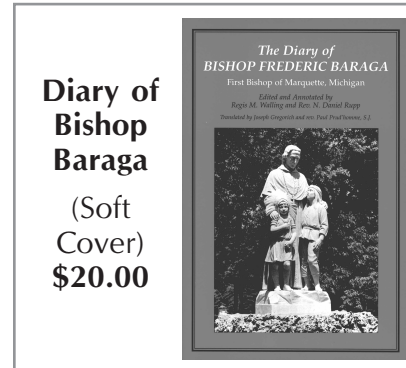


sand beige & brown

**Pewter Key Chain**  
\$10.00



## Support the Cause!



### 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

Description	Quantity	Cost Each	Total
_____	_____	X _____	= _____
_____	_____	X _____	= _____
_____	_____	X _____	= _____
_____	_____	X _____	= _____

### 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

souls could be saved if the servants of the Lord had wanted to hasten here for their salvation.

During my stay at Fond du Lac many have received the grace of Holy Baptism. It pleases me especially when I have the good fortune to lead an entire Indian family through the door of Holy Baptism and of the holy faith into the fold of the Good Shepherd.

Very gratifying also was the baptism of a very old woman, perhaps ninety years old. When I came to Fond du Lac I heard that this old woman was very feeble and sick. I then went to her hut in which she lay all alone. She was abandoned by her relatives, who moved far into the forest to spend the winter there, and had no help until a Christian family took charge of her, cared for her and fed her, and kept her fire day and night. - Yes, these people are in the habit of doing this. When their parents and grandparents become so old and feeble that they no longer can move about in the forest, then they are simply left behind. If this happens in an Indian village, then there is always some one who takes them in charge and cares for them until they die. Christian families usually do this. However, it often happens that these poor old people are abandoned in the middle of a horrible wilderness by their relatives, - by their own children and grandchildren!! - where they must pine away miserably from hunger and cold! - O horrible paganism!

So this old woman was also abandoned. However, a Christian family soon took charge of her. She was, as I was told, sick already for a long time, although not seriously. After I crawled with some difficulty into her extremely poor, small hut, I greeted her; and the Christian Indian woman who cared for her, and who at the time accompanied me, said to her that the missionary had come to visit her. She could not see me, she was blind, but she stretched out her hands towards me, and when I extended my hand to her she clasped it with both hands and cried out loud: Nosse, nosse, jawenimichin!, that is, My Father, my Father, have mercy on me! - I now began, after I had first expressed pity on account of her abandonment, to make her understand how happy she would be in the other world, since she is so miserable and abandoned in this one, if she only will accept and believe the word of the Great Spirit describes ..."

By early December they needed to return. They set out from Fond du Lac about the 5th of December 1847. The first day they reached a point on Lake Superior, between Superior and Bayfield, called in Chippewa, Ga-Pakweiagak. The snow was then but six inches

deep. They camped on the sandy beach. During the night it snowed very hard and in the morning they were covered with a thick layer of snow, for about one foot of snow had fallen that night. Hence they resolved to go straight from Ga-Pakweiagak to the mouth of the Sioux River. No trail could be seen through the thick forest.

The next night was very cold and Louis, Baraga's guide, caught a very severe cold and became very sick. He could not sleep all night and kept saying all the time that he would not be able to go a mile further. It was indeed a sad night! They were far away from any human habitation, in a dense forest, on a high hill or ridge, without any trail. They could not afford to stay there long as their provisions were very scarce. Often during that long, cold night Fr. Baraga thought that the end of his earthly career was perhaps at hand, which certainly would have been the case had his trusty guide died.

Such, however, was not the will of the Good Shepherd who still wished to preserve the life of this zealous missionary for the salvation of many a soul. Louis partly recruited his strength so that he could rise the next morning and walk slowly, but he was unable to carry anything. Hence Baraga was obliged to take the whole pack on his back and carry it for several days in succession through the deep snow over high hills and through low valleys, a thing very painful to one not accustomed to such work. But Baraga was satisfied, if only his guide, upon whom all depended, could come along.

After such days of hardships and fatigue, Baraga was obliged to prepare everything for the night's camping in the open air with no other covering overhead than the starry canopy of heaven. He was obliged to chop enough wood to keep up a good fire during the long night, which, at that time of the year, lasts about sixteen hours in the Lake Superior region. Baraga had never chopped wood before, and hence this exercise must have been very painful to him especially after a fatiguing march all day through the deep snow, carrying a heavy pack upon his shoulders. Their journey was slow, for Louis was very weak. Finally they arrived at the mouth of the Sioux River where they made three large fires to attract the notice of the people of La Pointe Island who then came for them in a boat. They had been a whole week in making the journey from Fond du Lac (Minn.) to La Pointe.

Excerpts from: Verwyst, P. Chrysostomus, O.F.M. *Life and Labors of Rt. Rev. Frederic Baraga, First Bishop of Marquette, Michigan.*

## Association News

& a donation, Norbert A. Ozimek, Parma, OH; Helen Jerse, Lakeside, CA; Josephine Jurkovic, Euclid, OH; Ivanka Matic, Euclid, OH.

**\$15** Jerry Zakosek, Trenary, MI; Mary Kusnik, Windsor, ON.

**\$10** Thanks for sending the materials - & my brother and I would like to become members - Dave & Bob Lichay, Brainerd, MN; Bob & Mary Hennings, Gwinn, MI; Eunice Leemon, Grafton, WI.

### GROUP DONATIONS

Our annual gift - \$50 **AMLA Martha Washington Lodge #38** - Willoughby Hills, OH

**Our Lady Help of Christians Parish** - \$200 - Toronto, Canada

**Discalced Carmelite Nuns** - \$2,000- for promoting the cause of Bishop Baraga - Iron Mountain, MI

We received a \$150.00 **Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund Grant** which was made possible through the generosity and recommendation of the David T. Hill Fund, a donor advised fund. David and his wife are from Riverview, FL and attended FL Baraga Days and Chicago/Lemont/Joliet Baraga Days.

**The Ava Maria Magazine** & editor Fr. Bernardine Susnik, OFM are like having a Bishop Baraga office in Lemont, IL and around the world. They collected donations in the amount of \$1,208.50 for the Cause of Bishop Baraga.

The following gifts were received: \$7: J. Lomshek; \$9: A. Ferencak-Zver; \$10: A. Cupar; K, Dreu; S. Ferkul (MN); T. Gerkman; M. Grdadolnik (WI); A. Gregorc; I. Hirschegger; P. Knaus; Z. Likozar; S. Medved; J. Nosan; F. Picman; E. Veider; S. Vidmar; M. Virant; S. Vlasic; M. Vodisek; I. Volcjak. \$15: A. Debevc. \$18: M. Wlahowic. \$20: T. Glavac; I.

Berlec: M. Grdadolnik (OH); I. Manfreda; F. Markun; M. Raqvnik; J. Rus; J. Samsa. \$25: Dr. V. F. Mersol. \$29: A. Vogel \$30: M. Draksler. \$30.50: R. Vucko. \$40: J. Dolenc; J. Berkopec; J. Dolinar. \$50: I. Hauptman; F. Hren, M. Rems, A. Sever. \$60: R. Staric. \$75: M. Muhic. \$250: S. Mramor.

### NEW LIFETIME BISHOP BARAGA MEMBERS

Most Rev. Bernard A. Hebda, Bishop of Gaylord & Most Rev. Paul Sirba, Bishop of Duluth ~ gift memberships from Most Rev. Alexander Sample, Bishop of Marquette; John & Joan Delisi, Lake Villa, IL; Mr. Frank Schoener, Shorewood, IL; Jeffery Mrak, Zimmerman, MN; Webb T. Coates, Marysville, MI.

### JOIN THE BISHOP BARAGA BIRTHDAY CLUB

Do you or anyone you know share the birthday of June 29th with Bishop Baraga? June Burich encourages others to write to her if you or someone special shares the same birthday. Contact: June Burich, 243 Pewabic St, Laurium, MI 49913-0735.

### Crypt Mass

Crypt Mass will resume after Lent. It will be held at 12:10 on the following Mondays:

April 19  
May 17  
June 21  
July 19  
August 23

Baraga Days 2010 - St. Ignace, Michigan September 25 & 26th!

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

We extend a special thank you to all that have written to inform us of deaths and changes of address. Many

of you have written us and your efforts are appreciated. Please if we have your name misspelled or you know of anyone not receiving the newsletter that should be receiving it, let us know! A gentle reminder - the post office does not forward 3rd class mail. If you have a winter address - we would be happy to mail your newsletter there, but you need to let us know.

We are trying to update the addresses of:  
Rev. Msgr. Richard Groshek  
Lorraine Schnotala  
Frank Kovacevich  
Mrs. Albina Zimmerman  
Helen Paquette  
Dr. Dusan Gojkovich  
Antoinette Wonderly  
AMLA - Lodge Mir #10  
M/M John Korosec  
Tina Schwerin  
Eva Volek  
Mae Chabot  
Mrs. John E. Hoefl

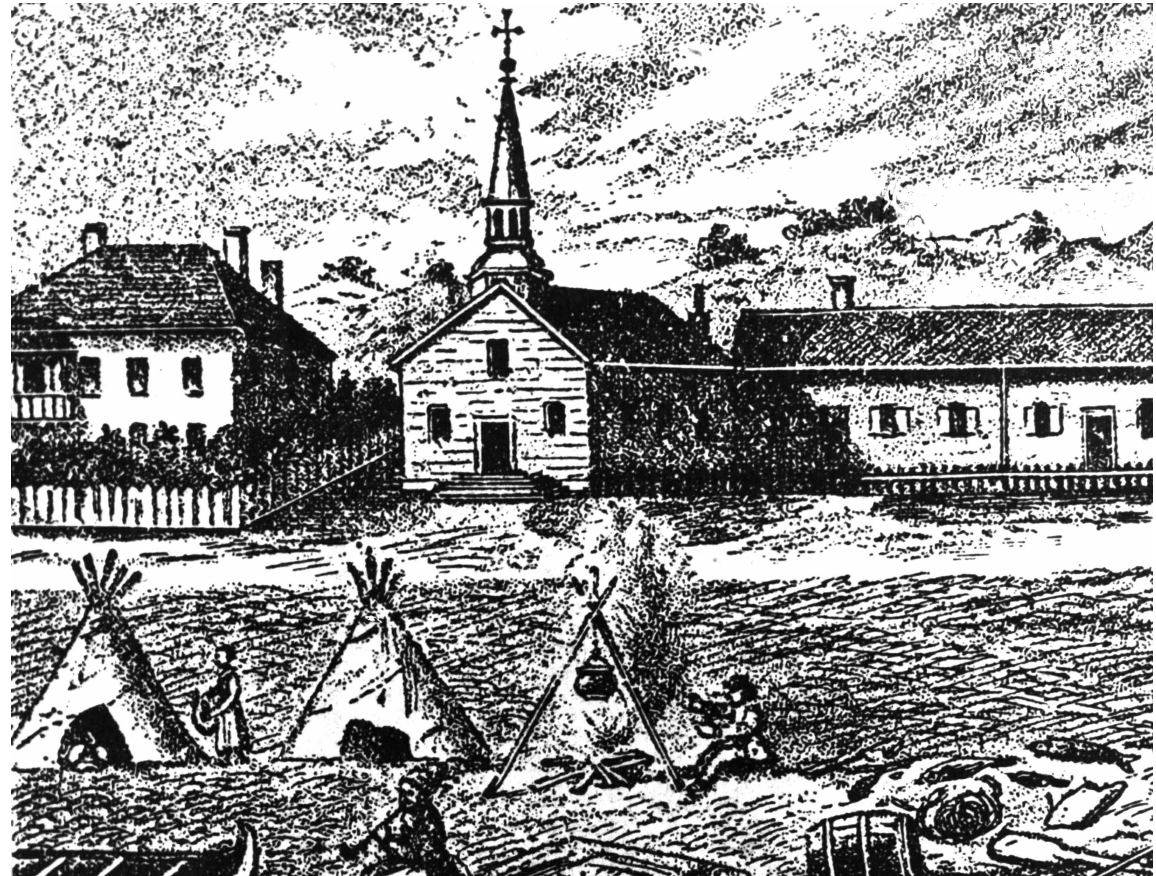
Donations received after January 11, 2010 will be recorded in the next issue.

### Florida KC Baraga Days - February 13th, 2010

The Michigan Knights of Columbus, Floridians and "snowbirds" will again be honoring the Knights of Columbus and their founder, Fr. Michael McGivney in Holiday Florida at St. Vincent's de Paul Church. Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 13 followed by a luncheon and program at the VFW Hall. For more information please contact Glenn Barry - (727) 375-5342 or g.s.barry@comcast.net or Herb Wegner at (727) 376-2743. Thank you!

## Bishop Baraga in the Vicinity of St. Ignace and Mackinac Island

While Fr. Baraga was stationed at Arbre Croche, he made his first trek on snowshoes. This journey was to and from Mackinac Island where he visited the only other priest in the vicinity, Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli, O. P., and went to Confession. During the winter of 1854-55, Bishop Baraga spent much time on the Island. On January 14, 1855, he inaugurated the Diocese's first St. Vincent de Paul Conference which Fr. Jahan had begun. He made



many trips to St. Ignace. It was a difficult journey, as the ice directly between the island and St. Ignace was too thin and the journey was made in a round about path, a 28 mile trip, as shown by this map drawn by Fr. Edward Jacker in 1875.



/// Unsafe Ice  
 . . . Route of expedi-  
 ency, about 28 miles  
 - - - Ordinary route,  
 about 6 miles

Original Church of St. Anne, Mackinac Island. To the left is the home of Madame Madeline Laframbois, widow, business-woman (fur trader) and Catechism teacher. Otchipwe travelers encamped on the shore

### Baraga Days 2010 will be in St. Ignace Michigan

We are pleased to announce that the parish family at St. Ignatius Church in St. Ignace has graciously agreed to be our hosts for Baraga Days on September 25 & 26th. Some of you may remember Fr. Pawel Mecwel from the Sault Ste. Marie parish where the Slovenian Mass was held and the fabulous breakfast that was served.

Details to be announced:  
**Saturday:** 6:30 p.m. Slovenian Mass St. Ignatius Loyola Church, 120 Church St. St. Ignace, MI. Followed by Soup & Sandwich Social at Little Bear East Community Center, 275 Marquette St. St. Ignace, MI  
**Sunday:** Tentatively 3:00 p.m. English Mass — St. Ignatius Loyola Church 120 Church St. St. Ignace, MI Followed by Banquet & Annual Meeting of the Bishop Baraga Association at Little Bear East Community Center 275 Marquette St. St. Ignace, MI

Many of the area hotels are seasonal, but we have blocked rooms at the Best Western Harbor View (800) 642-3318 at the rate of \$72 per night. (Ask for Ron.)  
 A full list of accommodations will be in the Spring Issue of the Baraga Bulletin along with Banquet Ticket prices and information.

## A Message From Our New Executive Director - Rev. Benedetto Paris

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with great humility, yet most profound joy that I have been named Executive Director of the Bishop Baraga Association. I look forward to this position and working with Elizabeth Delene who is doing a great job in her role at the Association.

I have begun learning more about Bishop Baraga and to be honest with you the more I read, the more I am inspired. Bishop Baraga truly was and is an inspiration to myself and also many of our priests. I have more to tell you but I will wait to share with you. For now, I am looking forward to my role as Executive Director and Bishop Baraga's forthcoming canonization to Sainthood. In the future, I will be working and praying diligently for his cause, as I know you do.

### Lives Touched By Baraga (continued from pg. 8)

Duluth, MN. I had hoped we'd retrace the path that Baraga took some 162 years before. We stopped occasionally on the shore of guitchi gumi (big water, in Ojibwa) and tried to imagine what it would be like to have to spend the night "on the shore of guitchi gumi" on a snowy December as Baraga did. Once we stopped on a sandy beach near the town of Cornucopia, WI. Over 100 miles to the north, on the north shore of The Gitche Gumee below its curvature is The Grande Portage. Baraga founded a mission there in 1836. Some 30 miles to the west across the lake, along Hwy. 61 now stands the magnificent, granite Baraga Cross, a monument to his near-fatal lake crossing in 1846 in a canoe thru a "floating field of ice". (described on p. 229 in Verwyst's book.) Did Baraga sleep on this sandy beach; I wondered. He does mention a "sandy beach". It would have been the second night of their trek back. But let Bishop Baraga himself describe that trip as reported in "The Life of Bishop Baraga" by C. Verwyst published in 1900. Below are excerpts starting on page 234:

In a letter, dated Copper Harbor, Mich., October 18, 1847, F. Baraga makes the following reflections, which we give in full as they give us an insight into the boundless charity of this holy man toward the Indians, and his burning zeal for their conversion and eternal salvation:  
 "...And now some news about my missionary undertakings: I am on the way to Fond du Lac. This is a mission station in the interior, about 350 miles from here. I have been there before as appears from my former reports. I never remained there longer than eight or ten days, sometimes only three or four. But now I intend to stay in

that mission over two months, in order to instruct more fully in religion the newly converted, and, with God's help, to bring some Indians to the way of salvation." Having thus consoled, instructed, and confirmed the poor Indians of Fond du Lac in their faith; F. Baraga prepared to return to L'Anse. This return trip was full of hardships and misery for the pious missionary, especially between Fond du Lac and La Pointe. He remarks that he had made many hard missionary journeys, but that this was the hardest of them all. At other times he made the trip from Fond du Lac to La Pointe on foot in four days, but this time it took him seven days. His traveling companion and guide through the pathless forest was Louis Gaudin (Gordon).

At Fond du Lac Bishop Baraga did his priestly duties and describes it as follows: How glad they were to see their missionary. It is most regretful, indeed, (I cannot refrain from this sad complaint,) that a locality such as Fond du Lac remained so long without a missionary, where there are so many already converted, and even many more unconverted Indians. I have founded this mission in the year 1835, (13 years ago!!) and already at that time I have given the new converts hopes that soon a permanent missionary would be with them, whereupon they were highly pleased. And since that I have never ceased to aim, by way of letters and personal appeals to my bishop and to Europe that a permanent missionary would be sent to Fond du Lac. But up to this hour, this most earnest desire of mine has not yet been fulfilled, and will remain unfulfilled, according to all appearances, yet for a long time. - European priests, who in many place are in the way of each other, and yet do not want to come to this abandoned part of the Lord's vineyard, will answer for it before God, that many