Bishop Frederic Baraga

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225 YEARS OF HISTORY CELEBRATING BISHOP BARAGA 1797- 2022



BARAGA DAYS 2022



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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I hope this edition of the Baraga Bulletin finds you well. Mike, my husband and I just returned from Baraga Days in Toronto. We had a wonderful trip and made some incredible friends. I was grateful for Mike's help. He definitely earned his keep as he hauled merchandise, helped me at the border (which is a story for another day), helped with set up and tear down, assisted with photography and any other task that needed to be done. I am sure I do not thank him often enough for his commitment to the Baraga cause. So Mike, Thank you!

Beyond the event itself and the wonderful people we met along the way, the highlight for me was a quick visit to Niagara Falls. What a beautiful place. The knowledge that Bishop Baraga visited this wonder twice is just incredible. As we stood there with our phones taking pictures and of course, selfies, I couldn't help but wonder what Baraga did and thought while he stood there. As he wrote in his diary, he spent the night on the suspension bridge over the Niagara River, at the foot of the falls. Oh, what a sight that must have been! One of God's magnificent masterpieces. As we began our journey back to Toronto, a mere hour away, I was again reminded of the ease of our travel compared to Bishop Baraga's.

For many people, a successful Baraga Days event would have been the wonderful culmination of an exciting summer as they welcome the incoming fall season. For me, I have spent the last several months vacillating between eager anticipation of fall and trepidation! Now that Baraga Days is over (at least for a bit before we start planning next year's event) I turn my attention to not ONE but TWO weddings in our family! Our son Austin (our oldest) is getting married on September 17th at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette. Two weeks later on October 1st, the feast day of St Thérèse of Lisieux, our youngest daughter, Katelyn is also getting married at St. Peter Cathedral. We are excited to welcome Shelby and John into our family.

Again I am reminded of the abundant blessings poured out on us. I pray for all of you as well. We continue to remember Bishop Baraga's primary mission of evangelization and continue to strive to follow in this saintly man's footsteps.

May God bless each and every one of you!

May Venerable Bishop Baraga intercede for all of us.

God Bless.

LENORA MCKEEN

BISHOP BARAGA ASSOCIATION BARAGA EDUCATIONAL CENTER AND MUSEUM



BARAGA DAYS 2022



On September 3rd and 4th we celebrated Baraga Days in Toronto Canada. Fr. Leopold Valant, pastor at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, and Rose Nesich, parish secretary and Catholic Women's League President, were incredible hosts. Their team coordinated a beautiful two-day event that included both a Slovenian and English celebration of the mass, a showing of both Baraga documentaries, and two wonderful dinners.

The Bishop Baraga Association was joined by 3 bishops including:

- Most Reverend John F. Doerfler, Bishop of the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan
- Most Reverend Anton Jamnik, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Ljubljana
- Most Reverend Thomas E Dowd, Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, Canada
- Rev. Leopold Valant, CM Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Toronto
- Rev. Valentin Batic, CM Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Toronto
- · Rev. Drago Gacnik, St. Gregory the Great Parish, Hamilton, ON
- Rev. John Retar St. Vitus Parish, Cleveland, OH
- Rev. John Nosan- St. Leonard Parish, Brampton, ON

Saturday at the end of mass, Deacon John Vidmar, Bishop Baraga Association Advisory Board vice-president, presented the Baraga Man of the Year award. It was awarded posthumously to Rev. Anton Zrnec who served as assistant pastor and eventually pastor at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. For more information on the wonderful work of Rev. Zrnec please read the Baraga Man of the Year article in this edition of the Baraga Bulletin.

On Sunday, following the luncheon, Bishop Jamnik and Bishop Doerfler shared special messages. The Bishop Baraga Association held its annual meeting. An update on the cause was given. Bishop Doerfler shared about his recent trip to Rome, during which he was able to do some work on the cause. Dr. Andrea Ambrosi, the postulator for Bishop Baraga's cause for canonization has recently retired. A new postulator has been nominated and is under review. This individual was been involved with Dr. Ambrosi and they are well versed in Bishop Baraga's cause. We will update you with additional information as we are able to.

Lenora McKeen, Executive Director of the Bishop Baraga Association provided an update on the happenings at the Association and the Baraga Educational Center and Museum. As always, it has been very busy and this summer is no exception with new events and endeavors underway.

After rescheduling this event in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, we were delighted to finally cross the border to visit our Canadian friends and celebrate the life of Venerable Bishop Baraga. We enjoyed our time in Toronto and look forward to next year's celebration! Thank you again to all who welcomed us into their community and for being such wonderful hosts.

BARAGA DAYS MAN OF THE YEAR SEPTEMBER 3-4 2022 I TORONTO, CANADA

At the 2022 Baraga Days in Toronto, Canada, the Baraga Man of the Year award was given posthumously to Fr. Anton Zrnec, CM for his unceasing work on Bishop Baraga's cause for canonization. Fr. Zrnec was born on January 27, 1921 in Laporje pri Turjak. He attended local schools and then high school in Ljubljana. He entered the Vincentian order in 1941 and made his vows in 1943 as he entered the seminary in Ljubljana. The war interrupted his studies and he fled communist Yugoslavia with many theological students. Eventually many of them made it to Italy as he did where he completed his theological studies and was ordained a priest on November 9, 1947 in Sienna. He continued studies for a time but then in 1948 left for Spain with other members of his order where he did pastoral work until 1951. This is where he built his fluency in Spanish. In 1951, his order sent him as a missionary to South America. The first year he worked at the pilgrimage site of Lujan in Argentina. He then spent two years in southern Chile and six years in Peru.



In 1969, he published his book Po Baragove Deželi, (Through Baraga Lands) which was commonly read among the Slovenian emigrant population both in Canada and the United States. In 1972, Fr. Zrnec was named vice postulator for the Canonization Cause of Bishop Baraga.

In the 1970's, Fr. Zrnec traveled through Baragaland documenting Baraga's mission stations with film that was eventually edited and released in 1980. There was nothing comparable done until the last five years when EWTN from the United States created two documentaries on Bishop Baraga.

When Alojz Rebula published his book, Duh Veliki Jezer (Spirit of the Great Lakes) in 1980 and reissued in 1997, Fr. Zrnec' photos were prominently featured.

He died in Toronto on June 14, 2016. His funeral mass, celebrated by Archbishop Stres, indicated the profound impact he had on the Slovenian community in Toronto. In reality, his influence was felt in many communities first as a missionary himself in South America and then as a beloved priest, writer, choir director, and a critical publicist of the saintliness of Bishop Baraga.

All of these are impressive achievements. His work as a missionary in South America help him further understand the groundbreaking work of Bishop Baraga among the Ottawa and Ojibway Indians both in the USA and Canada. We are humbled to honor him as the Baraga Man of the Year. Job well done good and faithful servant.



Baraga Days banquet event.



Mass during the Baraga Days event.

BISHOP BARAGA ASSOCIATION BARAGA EDUCATIONAL CENTER AND MUSEUM



NIAGARA FALLS



In the last edition of the Baraga Bulletin we shared about Bishop Baraga's connection to Niagara Falls. Baraga visited the falls twice, once in 1836 and 1858. During his trip in 1858 he spent the night at the Suspension Bridge which stood from 1855 to 1897. The bridge connected Niagara Falls, Ontario to Niagara Falls, New York.

The Suspension Bridge had two decks. The upper one was for trains and the lower one was for pedestrians and carriages. At first it was thought

that the bridge would not be able to withstand train traffic but on "March 18, 1855, a fully laden passenger train officially opened the completed bridge" (Wikipedia). The bridge enabled trade and tourism to grow in the region. In 1860 there were 45 trains per day that went over the bridge. The wooden bridge began to decay so in 1886 they began replacing the wood with steel and iron.

There are so many interesting facts about the fall themselves:

- They started to form more than 12,000 years ago
- The falls are nature's creation and not man-made
- It is actually 3 waterfalls grouped together that make up Niagara Falls
- Niagara Falls is #5 on the top 10 list of the world's tallest waterfalls at 52 meters or 170 feet
- Niagara Falls moves 3,000 tons of water per second of fall
- The river below the falls is 170 feet deep
- In March 1848 an ice jam upstream caused the flow of water of the falls to drop to a mere trickle
- 4 of the 5 Great Lakes drain into the Niagara River
- Under an international treaty, the flow of water is reduced during the night to allow more water to be used for power generation. The flow of the falls is not affected during prime viewing hours.

*Visit Niagragafalls.com for more information

BY: HEIDI SWALVE - AUTHOR OF FATHERBARAGA.COM

Lives Touched By

When I walked up to Father Baraga's Cross in front of the waters of Lake Superior for the first time and read his plaque I was instantly captivated. This cross stood alone, but at this moment I felt like I had a companion. He, I knew somehow instinctively, understood me. "Father Frederic Baraga, learning of a possible epidemic afflicting the Indians at Grand Portage in 1846, set out in a small boat from Madeline Island in Wisconsin with an Indian Guide..."



Lives Touched By Continued

BY: HEIDI SWALVE - AUTHOR OF FATHERBARAGA.COM

For the first ten years of my adult life, I devoted myself assiduously to the Christian Faith studying the scriptures, learning of Christ and his ministry, praying earnestly that I might live like a Saint doing good works in the world. Then, in no uncertain way, I was called to go on a completely different journey learning of the Ojibwe traditions and cultures. I was invited by Native elders to go on vision quests and attend sweat lodge ceremonies. These pieces of my life seemed unquestionably disparate but somehow, Father Baraga was able to bring this diverse puzzle together: He was a Catholic Missionary who lived with the Ojibwe. In this moment of standing in front of the cross I felt a sense of ease. Finally someone that understood my two worlds.

Over the next two years, I dedicated my mornings and evenings to learning about this missionary. Given my Ojibwe connections, I wanted to understand the context of his missions. I wanted to know whom he worked with and where he traveled. I wanted to understand what was happening with the Ojibwe at the time of his missions. I wanted to understand this man's heart and his journey. In so doing I was gifted the knowledge of one of the greatest missionaries I could come to know. This man truly cared for the Native people. He gave countless hours to their attention. He sang with the little ones until they slept, he traveled hundreds of miles to care for them when he was called at whatever hour of the night that may have been. He spoke their languages. He worked to preserve lands for them during a time when they were being pushed west. He was not only a missionary, he was exemplary of what it meant to live the gospel of Christ caring for the natives during their time of greatest need. He dedicated his life to their welfare through his Catholic faith.

As a result of all my research, I created a website called "Father Baraga and the Ojibwe Natives" which can be found at www.fatherbaraga.com. On this website, you can learn about the Ojibwe language and culture and the treaties that were created at that time. You can view the maps to see how the landscape of Lake Superior changed. You can also plan a pilgrimage to not only learn about Father Baraga's missions but to also learn the histories of the Ojibwe Natives and the region. You can also learn about the histories of truth and reconciliation and see Pope Francis' entire pilgrimage exemplifying the same care and concern that Father Baraga had for the Native peoples of the world. Given the purpose of Pope Francis' pilgrimage of penance in Canada, the legacy that Father Baraga leaves cannot be more important during this time in our lives. He taught us what it was to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and what Christianity is truly about...loving others as Christ loved us. In this way, I cannot be more grateful for Pope Francis and his incredible step forward in helping the healing of these wounds as it has been so needed. The tears of gratitude that have resulted from what he has opened to the world have been beyond amazing to witness and Father Baraga's emergence in this world during this time has great meaning.

I know that Father Baraga's appearance in my own life has had great weight and importance as I share these histories with others so that they can understand the full context of his mission. I know that Father Baraga is watching over us all during this time and has already influenced the hearts and quickened the minds of many who go about doing his work in the world and who follow in the steps of this incredible man who laid the path for us. Considering Father Baraga was known as the snowshoe priest these are big steps to follow. I cannot be more grateful for all that has been brought forward as I know that the path that he has trod continues to be the path for many to follow. Father Baraga...I know in my heart and mind...is a Saint.

BISHOP BARAGA ASSOCIATION BARAGA EDUCATIONAL CENTER AND MUSEUM





LETTER FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Dear friends and devotees of Venerable Frederic Baraga,

Those tuned into Church news recently have heard the word "synodality" used with increasing frequency. Pope Francis has asked that the next meeting of the Synod of Bishops, in October 2023, focus on the topic of synodality. The Synod of Bishops is an organization created in the late 1960s to bring together bishops from around the world to advise the Pope on select topics.

In the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 15 tells us of the Council of Jerusalem – the first Council or Synod of the Church. The Apostles gather to discuss whether and how non-Jewish converts are to be welcomed into the Church. They pray, probably argue, pray some more, and come to a conclusion. For the next 2000 years, the Church has had various forms of Councils and Synods. What the bishops will be doing next October will be discussing ways to utilize Councils and Synods more effectively in the life of the Church.

The Church in the United States developed from its infancy as a very synodal Church. Two years after the first diocese, Baltimore, was established, the bishop of Baltimore held a diocesan synod, and synods were held regularly in that diocese. In 1831, after several dioceses had been erected in the United States, a Provincial Council was held in Baltimore, and in 1853, after the structure of the Church in the United States had come to include several Archdioceses and Provinces, a Plenary Council was held in Baltimore, followed by two more Plenary Councils in the 19th century. By the beginning of the 20th century, in order to deal with societal issues stemming from the First World War, the bishops formed the National Catholic Welfare Council, which evolved into the US Council of Catholic Bishops, which meets regularly to discuss issues of common importance.

Bishop Baraga was no stranger to the concept of Synodality. He participated in the first two Plenary Councils of Baltimore and enthusiastically supported the efforts of the bishops to address issues such as Catholic education, formation of priests, regulation of parish property, collective prayer for the conversion of non-Catholics, marriage issues – particularly the problems raised by interfaith marriages. At the Second Plenary Council of Baltimore, Bishop Baraga suffered a stroke, which inhibited the last two years of his life and ministry, but he managed to return to his Cathedral in Marquette and spend the remainder of his life among the people he loved so dearly, preaching Christ to them by word and deed until his death.

As the Church prepares for the upcoming Synod, let us remember the example and ask for the prayers of our dear patron, that the bishops who will gather together with the Pope address the issues facing the Church and the world with the same fidelity and zeal that Bishop Baraga showed.

God bless you all,

Fr. Tim Ferguson Chaplain



ASSOCIATION NEWS

IN MEMORY OF

Audrey Godell by her daughter Susan Godell; George & Agnes Gregorich by Joseph Gregorich; Brother John Hascall by Mary Cadeau;

IN THANKSGIVING

By Gloria Niell; For Rev. Augustine Serafini - Community of Our Lady, Oshkosh, WI.

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Beltmann-Miller Foundation; Catholic Women's League – St. Gregory the Great; Knights of Columbus #6694 – Swartz Creek, MI; Knights of Columbus #8274-Port Huron, MI; The Sisters of Mary; Slovenian Society of St. Joseph;

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Community members gathered in the prayer gardens of the Baraga Educational Center for Music on the Porch.

BISHOP BARAGA ASSOCIATION BARAGA EDUCATIONAL CENTER AND MUSEUM



ASSOCIATION NEWS

NEW BISHOP BARAGA MEMBERS

Stella Adamich; Sara Francois-Bartell & Family; Chris Bates & Family; Ben Cadeau; Daniel, Jade & Jenny Cadeau; LaVonne Cadeau; Monique & Billy Ann Cadeau; Jean-Baptiste & Destiny Cadeau; Stewart Francois & Family; Laura Gavin; Luz Infante; Celestine Nguyen & Family; Will & Gabrielle Nguyen - Li; Charlie &

NEW BISHOP BARAGA YOUTH MEMBERS

Emily Cadeau

*If you are interested in becoming a member or purchasing a youth member, please contact the Bishop Baraga Association at 906-227-9117 or by visiting our website at www.bishopbaraga.org

JOIN THE BISHOP BARAGA BIRTHDAY CLUB

Welcome Marlene Bechtel!

Do you or anyone you know share Bishop Baraga's birthday on June 29th? For years, lifetime member, June Burich, promoted the life of Bishop Baraga. Her daughter, Antonia Burich will continue the Bishop Baraga Birthday Cub. Please write to Antonia at 243 Pewabic St, Laurium, MI 49913-0735 if you or someone you know shares Bishop Baraga's birthday and would like to be added to the Baraga Birthday Club.

SIGN YOUR CHILD/TEEN UP FOR A BISHOP BARAGA YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

Youth Members are an incredibly valuable part of the BBA's community. As the Baraga Educational Center & Museum continues to grow, please consider purchasing a \$5.00 membership for your child or teen that is valid until their 18th birthday. As part of their membership, they will receive an online bulletin on our website targeting their age group and together, we can follow in Bishop Baraga's footsteps.

Baraga Days 2023

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church 320 East Portage Avenue Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan



MERCHANDISE



BOOKS	DVDs
The Life and Legacy of Bishop Baraga and the Baraga House <i>by Sandy Jurkovich</i> \$8	They Might Be Saints: Bishop Frederic Baraga\$15
The Man, His Legacy and the House by Russell M. Magnaghi \$15	Walking with Baraga: The Joe Gregorich Story\$15
They Followed Him to America: Slovenian Missionaries in the Upper Midwest by John (Janez) Vidmar	T-SHIRTS (100% COTTON) Baraga image (S,M)
A Dictionary of the Ojibway Indians by Frederic Baraga\$25	OTHER Baraga coat of arms bandana
Dushna pasha: Pasture for the Soul by Frederic Baraga\$12	Lapel pin (pewter)
Short History of the North American Indians by Frederic Baraga \$35	Key chain (pewter)\$10 Baraga magnet (3.5" round)\$5 Window cling (spewshee design)\$2
The Apostle of the Chippewas by Joseph Gregorich \$10	Baraga candle (glass, six-day burn time) \$10
Life and Labors of Rt. Rev. Baraga by Fr. Chrysostom Verwyst, OFM \$22	Christmas ornament (burgundy or forest green)\$10
By Cross and Anchor by James K. Jamison \$15	NEW! Laying in state postcard \$1
By Cross and Anchor Study Edition by Janet McKenzie\$20	ARTWORK BY LOREANN PARENT Pencil Drawings of the Life of Baraga\$10
Bishop Baraga ABC Workbook \$3	Baraga Illustrated Notecards \$2 St. Peter Cathedral Notecards \$2
Bishop Baraga ABC Reader \$5	Miscellaneous Baraga Notecards \$1
Valiant Lives Dedicated to Bishop Baraga by Pauline Scharres\$15	HOTIETES
NEW ARRIVAL! Plague crosses.	B B

Cross provides protection and healing during times of pestilence.

Large Wall Cross......\$10

Small Cross (1 1/2 in)......\$5

Booklet (included) has the *Imprimatur* by

Most Rev. John F. Doerfler, Bishop of Marquette, MI.





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LIVES TOUCHED BY BISHOP BARAGA

*READ THE FULL STORY INSIDE THIS EDITION OF THE BARAGA BULLETIN

By Heidi Swalve, Author of FatherBaraga.com

"When I walked up to Father Baraga's Cross in front of the waters of Lake Superior for the first time and read his plaque I was instantly captivated. This cross stood alone, but at this moment I felt like I had a companion. He, I knew somehow instinctively, understood me.

"Father Frederic Baraga, learning of a possible epidemic afflicting the Indians at Grand Portage in 1846, set out in a small boat from Madeline Island in Wisconsin with an Indian Guide..."

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HAS YOUR LIFE BEEN TOUCHED BY BISHOP BARAGA?

Let us know, and share your story about the ways that Bishop Baraga has impacted your life.

Share with us by email at Imckeen@bishopbaraga.org or by emailing us at

BishopBaragaAssoc@gmail.com.