

## ***Celebrating the Wisdom of Bishop Frederic Baraga 2010***

*Weekly parish Bulletin inserts – Quotes of Bishop Frederic Baraga accept when noted. If you would like more information, please contact the Bishop Baraga Association at (800) 562-9745 ext. 117. Membership in the BBA is \$10 per year and you would receive our newsletter, “The Baraga Bulletin. Prayer cards are also available to your parish at no charge..*

Jan. 3: Bishop Baraga is a saint. I had been told this even before I knew him.  
Mother Mary Xavier LeBihan, O. S. U. – first women religious in the Upper Peninsula.

Jan. 10: Baraga wrote, “The ice is so weak the canal can be crossed only with danger.” and, “Alone I walked across the ice.”

Jan. 17: “If canonization were done now as formerly, the day after his death the Mass of St. Frederick Baraga would have been said: the people with one voice would have proclaimed him a saint, for already they spoke of miracles obtained by his intercession.”  
Mother Mary Xavier LeBihan, O. S. U.

Jan. 24: “Pray for me, dear friend that God Almighty may give me patience in my sickness and a happy death.” Bishop Baraga to Archbishop Prucell, 1867

Jan. 31: “It is certain that I and every Catholic missionary would travel not only 57 miles, but even 570 miles solely to help an immortal and infinitely precious soul to eternal happiness through Holy Baptism” Fr. Baraga, from Assinins to Copper Harbor

Feb. 7: “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.”

Feb. 14: “Every priest who might come here, would with God’s help, effect the salvation of hundreds, even if he had only a little preserving missionary zeal.” Fr. Baraga 1835

Feb. 21: “My right ear plugged up so that now I hear just as little as with the left. ...I can no longer hear quiet confessions.” Frederic Baraga, Feb. 22, 1856

Feb 28: “I can tell you the good old man has the patience of a saint on such occasions as waiting for a boat.” Fr. Jacker

Mar. 7 : This afternoon I told Brother Donovan that I will come to supper only on Sundays, but never on weekdays, during the entire Lent.” Bishop Baraga 1860

Mar. 14: “On one occasion at LaPointe Fr. Baraga preached on the Passion of Christ and he cried through the entire sermon.” Rev. Simon Lampe, O. S. B.

Mar.21 : “Very heavy confession day: I heard confessions for perhaps 10 hours.” Bishop Baraga, March 26, 1861

Mar. 28 (Palm Sunday) : “Baraga always carried a few tools. I saw him framing himself the 14 stations for St. Peter’s Cathedral at Marquette.” Fr. Frederic Eis, (4<sup>th</sup> bishop of Marquette)

April 4 (Easter): “Jesus became obedient to death, and therefore God gave Him a name which is above every name, that every knee may bow at the name of JESUS.” Fr. Baraga 1842

Apr. 11: “May I be the first to announce Your Divine Word, and speak to the Indians about Your Mercy, which you have revealed to men through Your Son, and have filled our hearts with faith in You and with love for You!”

Apr.18: “God forgive him his sin and grant me the grace to bear it patiently.” Fr. Baraga after being robbed, 1832

Apr. 25: “Oh, how I thank God for calling me to the difficult, but the most consoling missionary vocation.” Fr. Baraga, 1844

May 2: “Is it right and pleasing to Thee? And, “Lord what do you want me to do?” Bishop Baraga prayed as he made plans to build a church on Sugar Island.

May 9: “God is powerful enough to make even the most unintelligible book intelligible and useful to the people, if it serves to His divine glory and to the honor of His glorious Mother.” Fr. Baraga 1828

May 16: “They have created a name for the First Communion in their own language: they call it ‘the Great Joy – Kitchi Jawendagosiwin.’” Fr. Baraga 1838

May 23: “No occupation on earth is so important as that we serve Our Lord God and go one day to heaven. That is just for what we are on earth.” Bishop Baraga, 1853

May 30: “Dearly beloved children, be faithful in the fulfilling of this holy duty; and never say, I have no time to pray.” Fr. Frederic Baraga

June 6: From 4 a.m. until 10 p.m. I had uninterrupted work, many confessions, 5 sermons, 23 Baptisms and 3 Confirmations. The church was packed full”. June 2, 1860

June 13: “I have never seen him so cheerful as when he sat among the Indians in Mackinac and sang from the newly printed books.” Antonia Baraga

June 20: “I was afraid to pitch in at my stomach’s desire, for all that Baraga had was 1 loaf of bread, ¾ lb of cheese and a ½ bowl of sugar...no other ingredients.” Fr. Edward Jacker – Sugar Island

June 27: "One needs a strong spirit to endure here...Frederic, a being that barely touches the earth, accepts joyfully all the unpleasantness, never concerns himself with them."  
Antonia Baraga

July 4: "Baraga was a truly apostolic man who counted neither honor, ease, nor life itself dear, so that he might faithfully follow his Divine Master in the care of souls." Honorable S. P. Ely, July 4, 1876

July 11: "It rained a little, but not enough to suit the wishes of the people whose gardens and meadows are suffering from drought." Bishop Baraga, July 3, 1860.

July 18: "Bishop Baraga likes a nap. During our canoe trip my good bishop mostly dozed over his breviary." John G. Kohl, to his sister.

July 25: "On St. Ignatius day, I have dedicated this house of God in the name of this same missionary saint whose spiritual sons were and still are the greatest missionaries."  
Bishop Baraga

Aug. 1: "Who would not respect a missionary, who, out of love for God, suffers and endures so much for the salvation of his neighbor." *Zdognja Danica*, Ljubljana 1854

Aug. 8: "I must confess that I am a lonely man, who takes no recreation at all and likes to be alone at my writing desk, when not employed in Missionary business. Such a man of course, is poor company..." Fr. Baraga to Bishop Lefevre

Aug. 15: "Fr. Baraga's sermon was couched in plain, intelligible language and explained the Catholic Doctrine of the Assumption, as distinguished from the Ascension." Prof. Julius Ducatel, LaPointe, 1845

Aug. 22 : "Baraga has all the nice virtues of a pious religious man, unpretentious humility, love for poverty and limitless charity..." Fr. Franc Pierz.

Aug. 29 : Bishop Baraga said to me, as I was strumming on a guitar, "It pleases me that you are satisfied as a missionary must be of a happy heart." Fr. John Chebul 1860

Sept.5: "On the day of his ordination Fr. Baraga wrote: "When He, whose name is Love, comes to call his servant, I shall answer Him: 'Here I am Lord, give me the crown which You gave to your Apostle Paul.'"

Sept.12: "Every word and act is precious, no matter how small. Rather, it is well to use time in reading, study, especially moral and doctrinal theology and prayer." Bishop Baraga - for the priests of his diocese.

Sept. 19: "Thanks be to Him for having humbled me in order that I may learn all the more clearly to recognize my weakness and my goodness and be confirmed all the more in humble confidence in Him alone." Fr. Baraga Sept. 22, 1830

Sept.26: "On October 1<sup>st</sup> at this station so dear to me, dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, was confirmation at which all were very deeply moved, my dear Indians and me also. I even cried, so touched was my heart." Bishop Baraga, Oct. 12, 1854

Oct. 3: "Today, on October 8, I have heard a very instructive sermon on the unbounded trust in God...He has prepared for us all the more glorious reward in the future life, the more unflinchingly will be our trust in Him." Frederich Baraga, age 23

Oct. 10: "His sermons are cheery and moving and always useful, bringing cheerfulness to everyone whenever he spoke." Bishop Baraga's sister, Antonia

Oct. 17: "I wish to have the merit of obedience in all that I do in my ministry." Fr. Baraga 1842

Oct. 24: "I thank you with all my heart, my kind benefactors, which so actively and abundantly assist me in my mission undertakings." Frederic Baraga to the Leopoldine Society

Oct. 31: "The spiritual joy these priests and works of love gave Bishop Baraga was exceedingly great." Fr. Edward Jacker

Nov.7: "Bishop Baraga's pastoral letter to the Ojibwa People carries the title "One thing is necessary." It sums up the richness and dept of his spirituality."

Nov.14: Upon reading the appeal for priests in the "Northwest" Fr. Baraga said "I read with tears in my eyes how few are the workers in the diocese and how abundant the harvest." Nov. 13, 1829.

Nov. 21: "Thank God that He lets me travel so happily and beg Him, if it is his holy will, that He may let me complete my entire journey just as happily." Fr. Baraga Nov. 1830

Nov. 28: "The good one (Frederic) preaches 5 times in foreign languages, Indian, French and English in the morning and French and Indian after the singing of the vespers." Antonia Baraga

Dec.5: "On Dec. 1 there arose in me the inclination to the priestly state, which had stirred me already in the third year of philosophy." Frederic Baraga, student

Dec. 12: "Few people can realize the emotion of two priests, who, after months of solitude, have the consolation of meeting." Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli

Dec. 19: "I must have priests in certain places, This diocese if not like other diocese, where the parishes are near together and easy communication, summer and winter." Bishop Baraga Dec. 26, 1863

Dec. 26: "I give instructions in the evening three miles away from my house. I do this with pleasure for because of it, on Christmas, I baptized 22 Indians." Fr. Baraga Dec. 28, 1835

EXTRA'S – In case one week's quote is too long or any reason:

"Baraga's letters reveal all the beauty of his soul and the lovely purity of his noble heart."  
Voncina, biographer

"Frederic would often sing with the Indians until late into the night, until he would lose his voice and not be able to speak." Antonia Baraga

"We always have contrary wind and bad weather on our journey and peril against big waves that threaten to swallow us. However I can say that I am very calm and have no fear at all, because I know that leading me to there was the good Shepherd." Fr. Baraga

"On steamboats and railroad, I am always uneasy...the engineers are extremely careless and incautious." Bishop Frederic Baraga