



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

Witnesses of Love

Living signs of Christ's
presence in the world

Venerable Frederic Baraga (1797 – 1868)

In 2012, Bishop Frederic Baraga was declared venerable. He easily could be patron of evangelization because of his outstanding work in bringing the faith to Native Americans and immigrants.

Priest." Once while Frederic crossed Lake Superior in a canoe, strong wind caused life-threatening waves. On landing safely in Minnesota, he planted a cross on the shore in thanksgiving.

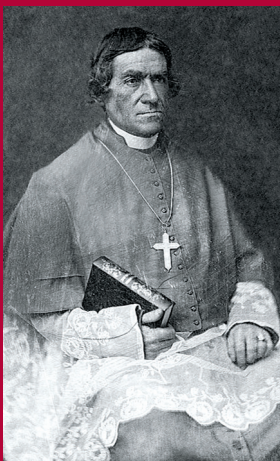
Frederic was born in Slovenia in 1797 and was ordained at the age of twenty-six. Responding to a call for missionaries, he arrived in Cincinnati in 1831. The bishop sent him to the Ottawa Indians in northern Michigan. Next Frederic worked with the Chippewa Indians and later the Ojibwa. He baptized thousands and encouraged Christian morality among them and the whites who dealt with them.

Fluent in eight languages, Frederic wrote an Ottawa catechism, a Chippewa dictionary, and Slovenian books. His writings educated Europeans about the Native Americans and America and inspired St. John Neumann, first bishop of Philadelphia, to come to the country. Frederic's letters and diary reveal the hardships and loneliness of his life. Frederic became first bishop of the diocese of Marquette. Toronto's bishop also put him in charge of missions north of Lake Superior. After a stroke and two years of ill health, Bishop Baraga died in 1868, a man beloved by all.

Frederic founded missions across a territory that encompasses all or part of eight states. He walked hundreds of miles each year, often through pathless forests. Because he traveled on snowshoes in the harsh winters, he was dubbed the "Snowshoe

Sr. Kathleen Glavich, SND

LIVING
OUR
Relationship
WITH
JESUS CHRIST



"Were it not for the ardent desire and fond hope I cherish that some unhappy soul . . . will be saved, nothing in this world could induce me to remain here."

Venerable Frederic Baraga

For Reflection

1. How do you explain the utter dedication Frederic Baraga had to missionary work among the Native Americans despite the risks and suffering it entailed? What impelled him?
2. In what ways could you evangelize among your friends, family members, coworkers, and on the Internet?
3. Frederic Baraga used his linguistic ability to promote the faith. How can you put one of your gifts at the service of the Church?

Read more...www.dioceseofcleveland.org/yearoffaith

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