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Taking on water?

In his column, Faith Matters, Bishop Alexander Sample asks you to consider if your "boat" is taking on water.



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Rite of Election



See photos from the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion held at St. Peter Cathedral.

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Father Don Shiroda dies in Sault Ste. Marie

Retired diocesan priest, Father Donald Shiroda, 83, died March 21. Among his many achievements was the establishment of Caring House in Iron Mountain and Hope House in Sault Ste. Marie.



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Praying for life



Read about parishioners conducting a daily prayer vigil in front of Planned Parenthood offices in Marquette.

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Rules, regulations and recipes to help you on your Lenten journey, plus the words to "Hail, Holy Queen," prayed during the Rosary.

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APRIL 15, 2011



A FUTURE SAINT AMONG US? - The cause for beatification of Bishop Frederic Baraga continues to march forward after a recent decision in Rome.

Theological consultors move Baraga cause ahead in Rome

BY JOHN FEE

One more successful step in the cause for canonization of Bishop Frederic Baraga has been completed.

Theological consultors met in Rome on March 12 to discuss the position, which is the documentation of the life and ministry of Bishop Baraga including a summary of his virtues. The group voted unanimously that the life of the diocese's first bishop exhibited "heroic virtue."

"I was extremely pleased," said Bishop Alexander Sample. Now the process can move forward without delay. "I really did not think (the theological consultors) would give a negative vote – just look at the life of Bishop Baraga –

but I feared they might ask for more information or clarification."

With this important step completed, the cause can be forwarded to the Ordinary Session of the Congregation for Causes of Saints. Bishop Sample said a specific date hasn't been set yet, but he

"If the declaration of heroic virtue is made by the Holy Father, Bishop Baraga will be given the title 'Venerable.' This means he is worthy of veneration by the faithful."

-Bishop Alexander K. Sample

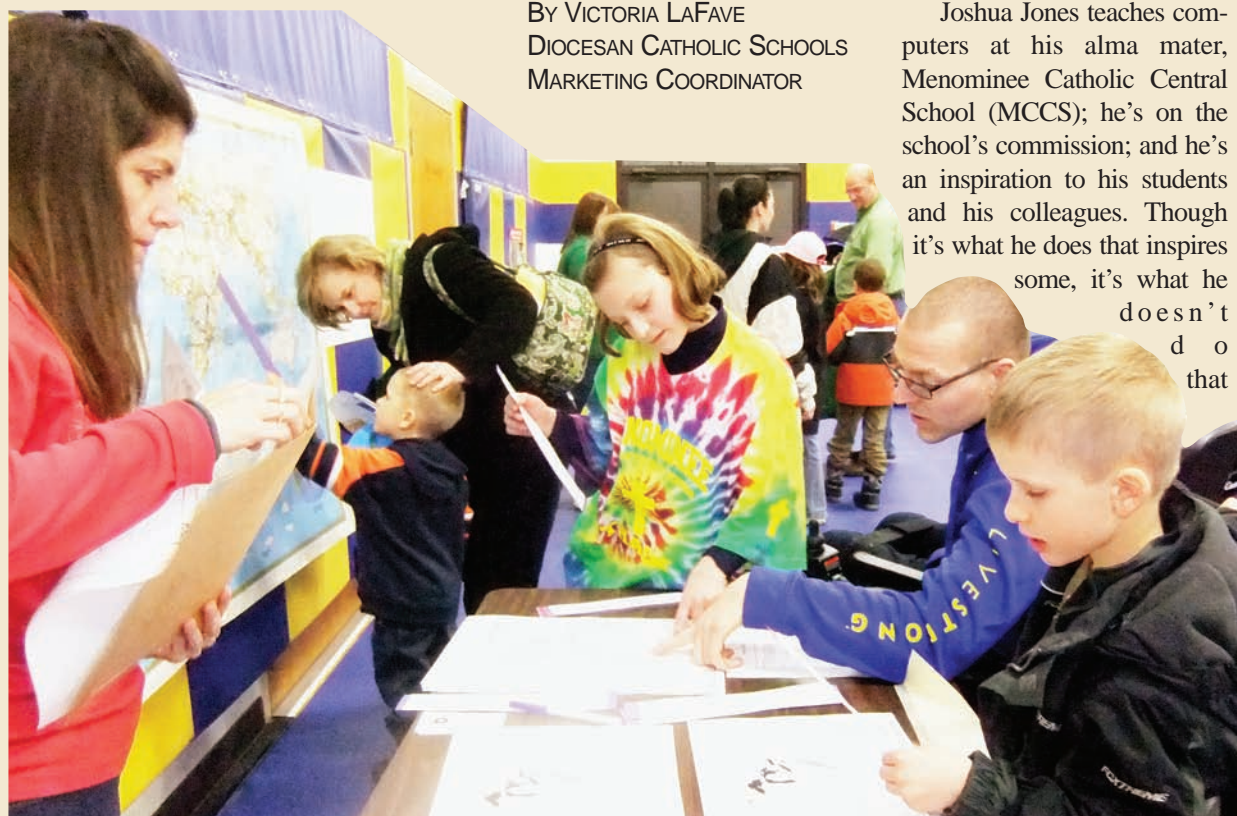
will get the word out to the diocese when he is notified.

When the Congregation takes up the Bishop Baraga cause, it will consider the position, including the previous discussion and vote of the theological consultors, and then have its own discussion and vote on the heroic virtue of Bishop Baraga. If the Congregation agrees with the theological consultors' March 12 decision, its recommendation will be forwarded to the Holy Father.

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Menominee school welcomes back Jones as teacher

BY VICTORIA LAFAVE
DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
MARKETING COORDINATOR



HELPING HAND - Joshua Jones helps his sister, Jennifer Jones, who is in the fourth grade (left) and Dominic Piasecki (right), who is in the second grade, during a geography bee in February. They are working at third grade teacher Stacey Schraub's (standing) station during a "geography night" at Menominee Catholic Central School. (Photo courtesy of Joshua Jones)

Joshua Jones teaches computers at his alma mater, Menominee Catholic Central School (MCCS); he's on the school's commission; and he's an inspiration to his students and his colleagues. Though it's what he does that inspires some, it's what he doesn't do that

inspires many.

He doesn't complain or focus on his disability. He just continues setting goals and achieving them. Jones broke his neck in a swimming accident right after high school graduation, and now, because of his injury, he is classified as a C-7 quadriplegic.

But he didn't let this tragic injury stop him from focusing on achieving his goals.

"When anything like this happens, you only have two real options – you can either get down on yourself, shut yourself down, and fall into the terribleness of everything that has happened to you," he said, "and the sad thing is that most people wouldn't hold that against you.

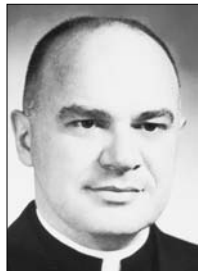
"I realized from an early point, that that wasn't an option for me."

The other option, according to Josh, was to accept the

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Father Donald 'the Blacktop Priest' Shiroda, 83, passes away

Family, friends and former parishioners gathered at St. Joseph Parish in Sault Ste. Marie on March 21 to celebrate the life of Father Donald L. Shiroda, who died in the Soo five days earlier at the age of 83.



Father Donald Shiroda

"Father Don Shiroda was a very close friend of mine, and he will be very much missed," said Father Lawrence Gauthier of Marquette. "Don was the type of personality that could relate to the children, teens and the seniors."

Father Shiroda was born on April 30, 1927 to Mabel and Louis Shiroda. After high school and working for Thornton Construction Co. of Hancock, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

In 1950 he entered the seminary at St. Jerome's College in Kitchener, Ontario, moving on to St. Francis Major Seminary in

Milwaukee, Wis. and then finishing his theological training at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Wis. Bishop Thomas L. Noa ordained Father Shiroda to the priesthood on June 6, 1959 in Marquette.

Father Shiroda began his ministry serving as an associate pastor at St. Gregory Parish in Newberry and at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Escanaba. He also served as pastor of the following parishes: St. Albert the Great, Houghton; St. Christopher, Marquette; St. Paul the Apostle, Calumet; Immaculate Conception, Iron Mountain; Sacred Heart, L'Anse; and St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie, where he remained for 23 years until his retirement in 1997.

According to Father Gauthier, Father Shiroda was known as the Blacktop Priest. "He worked for this Copper Country blacktop company. When Don became a priest, wherever he was stationed and the company was working in the area, the church ended up get-

ting a new blacktop parking lot," Father Gauthier explained.

Among Father Shiroda's many achievements was the establishment of the Caring House, a domestic violence shelter, in Iron Mountain in 1981 and the Hope House, a home for women in substance abuse recovery, in 1989 in Sault Ste. Marie.

He served throughout the U.P. in a multitude of capacities, including Diocesan Director of Vocations, Sacramental Minister to Catholic Campus Ministry at Lake Superior State University (LSSU), Dean of the Sault Ste. Marie Deanery, and Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus and the Congress Circle 367 of the Daughters of Isabella.

The people of the Soo knew him as a season ticket holder and one of the many cheering fans for the LSSU Lakers' hockey team.

Father Gauthier remembers Father Shiroda as a peacemaker in the Soo. "When St. Joseph's Parish had a tragic division among the parishioners due to



FATHER SHIRODA - Father Donald Shiroda walking during the recessional at the diocese's opening Sesquicentennial Mass (File photo by Anthony Stackpoole).

the previous pastor, Don was called by the bishop to reunite the parish," Father Gauthier stated.

"He painstakingly visited every family to help reunite the parish. St. Joe's must have had at least 700 families at the time.

He will be remembered for his wonderful pastoral ministry prior to his retirement."

Donations can be made in honor of Father Shiroda to St. Mary's School, Hospice of the E.U.P. or Freighter View Assisted Living, all in the Soo.

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60
Years of
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BARAGA FROM P1

The pope will then decide whether to declare that the Snowshoe Priest exhibited heroic virtue, which is "a virtue that goes well above and beyond an ordinary person," Bishop Sample said.

"If the declaration of heroic virtue is made by the Holy Father," Bishop Sample said, "Bishop Baraga will be given the title 'Venerable.' This means he is worthy of veneration by the faithful."

With the title of Venerable, Bishop Baraga's body would be moved from the small crypt downstairs at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette to a more prominent area, most likely within the cathedral. Bishop Sample said potential places include the floor of the cathedral, which is a traditional place for burial of saints, a niche alongside the nave where

the Chrism oils are currently kept, or possibly a small addition to the current gathering space. This move would provide easier access to Bishop Baraga's burial place.

Causes for canonization follow two parallel tracks. One track requires that the person exhibited heroic virtue as a witness to his faith. The other track requires verifiable miracles attributed to the proposed saint's intercession.

Along with considering Bishop Baraga's heroic virtue, the theological consultants reviewed the diocesan investigation of an alleged miracle attributed to Bishop Baraga's intercession. Although they did not comment on the validity of the miracle itself, the theological consultants found the work accomplished by the diocesan tribunal to be properly conducted and the documents reliable for medical consultants to base their work on.

"The congregation validated the juridical acts of the process that we conducted here in Marquette to investigate the alleged miracle attributed to Bishop Baraga," Bishop Sample said. "They have approved the work – the documentation and procedures – that the investigation was properly conducted according to the norms of law."

The importance of miracles in sainthood causes is not to show the person worked a miracle, only God works miracles. Verifiable miracles attributed to a person under consideration for being declared a saint prove "the Servant of God is truly in heaven and able to intercede in the presence of God," Bishop Sample said.

Continued prayers for the Bishop Baraga cause are encouraged by Bishop Sample. He believes prayer has been key to the current success of the cause.

"I really attribute it (the findings of the theological consultants) to the prayers of the faithful," Bishop Sample said.

He asked that "people continue to pray for two things. Now that the positio is going to the Ordinary Session of the Congregation for Causes of Saints, that it will have success. Also, continue to pray that the alleged miracle will be upheld."

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