



DIOCESE OF DULUTH PILGRIMAGE SITES

*A presentation of beautiful and historical sites in
our Diocese for prayer and contemplation.*

WHY A PILGRIMAGE?

One goes on pilgrimage to ask God for the grace needed to live more generously one's Christian vocation, explains the Vatican's Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy. Therefore, the pilgrimage is not, and never should be, just "a journey to a place of religious interest." Alone or with others, it is a physical component of one's spiritual walk toward God. May you have a rich experience of these sites of pilgrimage in the Diocese of Duluth and emerge from it closer to our Lord.





CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

2801 East Fourth Street, Duluth, MN

The Cathedral of our Lady of the Rosary is the spiritual heart of our Diocese. It is our "mother church" and the seat of our Bishop. The word "cathedra" comes from the Latin meaning "chair" since each cathedral church contains the bishop's chair, the symbol of his apostolic authority and from which he presides at the sacraments.

This beautiful Italianate cathedral church was built in 1957 and is named for the Patroness of our Diocese, Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary. If you are unfamiliar with this Marian title, research the Battle of Lepanto of 1571 to find out more about this miraculous episode. (*G.K. Chesterton, Catholic convert and apologist, wrote an excellent poem on the battle named "Lepanto," a highly recommended read.*)

The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary is replete with Marian imagery. To the left of the main altar is a side altar with a statue of Our Lady for veneration and petition, the frosted windows in the sanctuary depict Marian titles, such as Our Lady, Health of the Sick and Our Lady, Virgin Most Wise, and even the flower molds on the ceiling remind of us of Mary as flowers are, like she, creations of beauty and purity.

Mary, Our Blessed Mother reflects the divine light and glory of her Son, Jesus Christ. The most important fixture in the Cathedral is the tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament which is located directly behind the main altar.

As you pray to and adore Jesus, please pause to offer thanksgiving for Our Lady's continual intercession at the throne of her Son for our Diocese, for our Bishop and for all the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Duluth. Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!



1179





CALVARY CEMETERY

4820 Howard Gnesen Road, Duluth, MN



Calvary Cemetery is the consecrated ground in the Diocese of Duluth in which many Catholics are buried, including several Bishops who led with courage and vision, dozens of priests who ministered with charity and perseverance, and scores of the lay faithful who practiced their faith in season and out.

Additionally, note the Shrine for the Unborn and the Soldier's Rest area. Say a prayer for these souls and all the souls of the faithful departed.



SAINTS MARY AND JOSEPH CHURCH

1225 Mission Road, Sawyer, MN

Saints Mary and Joseph Log Church, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1884 at the heartfelt request of a group of Catholic Native Americans and a group of French-Canadian loggers both of whom lived in the area. It was originally called the Guardian Angel Mission, later renamed to honor the favorite saints of two donors. It has also been known as the Old Log Church in the Woods.

It had been neglected for some time when in 2012 new energy for once again restoring the historic church grew. Among other work undertaken, the original wood altar, bell and belltower and Stations of the Cross were restored, logs were replaced, and new windows and doors were installed. The Diocese thanks Don Berthiaume and the group of parishioners who began the work and Deacon Bryan Bassa for his instrumental support. It is once again a fitting and beautiful place to worship the Lord.

On the grounds is a shrine to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks, (*birth: 1656, death: 1680*) in the state of New York. She clung to her faith despite many serious obstacles and was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012. Research St. Kateri to learn her remarkable story and why she is revered among so many Catholic faithful. For 400 years, her bravery, fortitude and faith have encouraged countless thousands.

As we marvel at this church which has stood fast since 1884, reflect on the faithful who brought this church to fruition and have worshipped the Lord here generation after generation. Pray for our universal church that we might honor all members of the Body of Christ in true charity, recognizing that each of us is made in the image and likeness of God and deeply loved by Him. And like St. Kateri, may we cling ever more tightly to the Lord. (*There is a second shrine to St. Kateri in the Diocese of Duluth. It is located at St Joseph Church in Ball Club, MN and was built in 1980 by area Ojibwe Catholics to celebrate St Kateri being declared a "blessed".*)



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, in your life you experienced pain, sorrow and hardship. Yet in all things you found joy and peace in believing in Jesus, present to us in the Eucharist and in His love expressed to us on the Cross.

O great Lily of the Mohawks, I ask you to take my intentions to the foot of the Cross.

Ask Jesus, our loving Savior, to bring healing to those who are heavily burdened.

May my intentions, through your intercession, be granted, if such be the will of God. By your prayer, help me to always remain faithful to Jesus and to his Church. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us!

Amen.

Original oil painting of St. Kateri by Fr. Henry Yzermans, a Crosier priest, 1938. It is on display in the modern church adjacent to the log church.

LILY OF THE

MOHAWKS

ST KATERI TEKAKWITHA

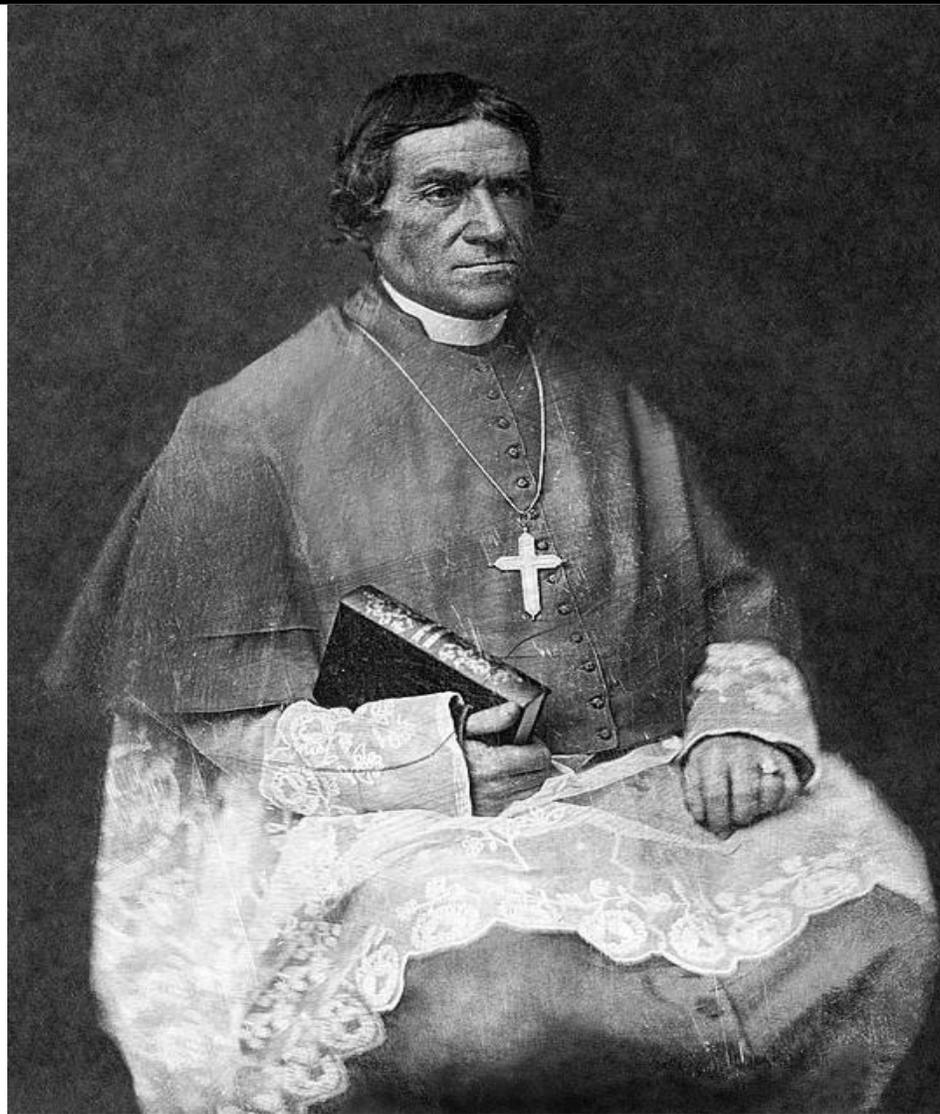


FATHER BARAGA'S CROSS

Highway 61, just north of Schroeder, MN

On an August day in 1846, similar, perhaps, to the one pictured on the previous slide, Bishop (then Father) Baraga and his guide, Louis Gaudin, set out in a wooden sailboat to navigate the waters of Lake Superior from Madeline Island, WI to Grand Portage, MN, quite a distance in a small boat. As they made their way in the cold waters, strong winds and high waves abruptly blew up forcing them north. Imagine the suspense of searching for hours in vain for a safe harbor in a rocky and unforgiving coastline, the fatigue of sailing on and on in stormy weather, the knowledge that one is completely alone in a vast wilderness. Of course, though, they were not alone as no Christian ever is: Father Baraga and Louis Gaudin sang hymns in Ojibwe to God, confiding their lives to their loving Lord who was sailing right along with them. As things became more harrowing by the moment, they were quite unexpectedly blown into the calm waters of a small bay at the mouth of what came to be known as the Cross River. Like Christ's disciples in a similar situation 1800 years before, the Lord saved the lives of Father Baraga and Louis Gaudin in a miraculous way. To thank the Lord for preserving life and limb, the priest and guide immediately erected a wooden cross on the spot of their landing. The story of their journey that day was told over and over in the wilds and woods of the north, until it became one of the many stories surrounding the amazing ministry of Bishop Baraga, the "Snowshoe Priest," so known as he traveled mile after mile from mission to mission courageously and faithfully spreading the truth, beauty and goodness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This native of Slovenia ministered for 30 years to the people of Minnesota and Wisconsin ending his life serving as a Bishop in Michigan, loved and revered.

(The original wooden cross has been replaced twice. This cross was dedicated in 2012 by Bishop Paul Sirba.)



Bishop Frederic Baraga
Missionary
1797- 1868

O Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga, pray for us! We ask for your intercession to help us pour out our lives as you did in acts of heartfelt love and heroic service to our neighbors, no matter the cost. Amen.



Crow Wing Chapel

3124 State Park Road, Brainerd, MN

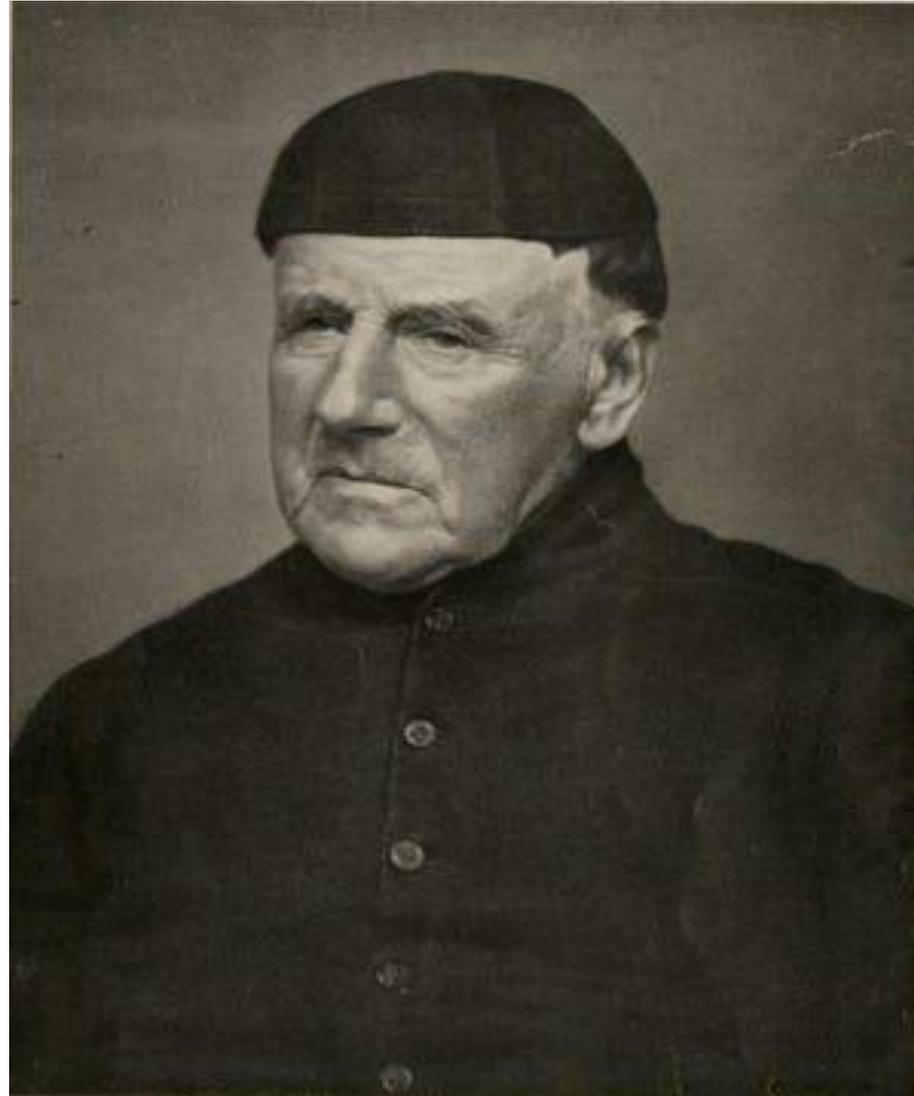
The Crow Wing Chapel, also known as the Fr. Pierz Chapel, is an excellent site at which to pray in gratitude for the courageous, stalwart and extraordinary men and women who planted the Catholic faith in the north country. Fr. Pierz came to America at the urging of Bishop Baraga to minister to the Native American people who were hungry to know and love Jesus Christ. Fr. Pierz had developed a thriving ministry in his native Slovenia but after 5 years of prayer and correspondence with Bishop Baraga, he pulled up stakes at 50 years of age and ventured to the wilds of Michigan and Minnesota. After a few months here he wrote to friends back home: *“It is a great pleasure to plant the seed in such fertile ground. Indeed, I experience more heartfelt joy and pleasure in my work during these few months than I have during all my twenty-years’ ministry in the old country.”*

Fr. Pierz, like Bishop Baraga and all the early missionaries, experienced bone-chillingly cold winters and mosquito-ridden summers traveling by foot to visit the missions and tend to the sick, the physical labor of personally erecting churches and rectories and scarce financial and practical resources admixed with the great gladness of bringing many people to love and serve the Lord. Theirs was a difficult but immensely rewarding task.

Fr. Pierz built a log chapel at the Crow Wing Mission in 1852. It was replaced in 1867 by a frame church which stood until 1915. In 1958, the Knights of Columbus from several Minnesota dioceses together built the current chapel on the site of Fr. Pierz’s frame church of 1867 to honor him and his work in Minnesota. As you reflect on the daunting task that the early missionaries undertook in the northern wilderness, pray for a heart like theirs: fearless, fervent and faithful. May the good Lord bless you and may we all become holy saints!

Fr. Francis Pierz
Missionary
1785-1880

*May we find the joy
that Fr. Pierz found
in spreading the
truth, beauty and
goodness of the
Catholic faith.*





RESURRECTION CHURCH

301 Adams Avenue, Eveleth, MN

Resurrection Church embraces the memories of 3 distinct Catholic parishes in Eveleth: Holy Family, St. Patrick's and Immaculate Conception. Over time these three parishes were merged into the Holy Family church building. When that merger was complete, the name Resurrection was given to the new parish and church. (There is a fascinating history of the 3 parishes available on the Resurrection Church website.)

Resurrection began restoration work, both beautiful and meaningful, under the impetus of Fr. Michael Garry. The work was guided by three principles: honoring the Slovenian heritage of the parish, recovering the original beauty of the church and repurposing furnishings from other churches where possible.

First, note the large statues in the back of the church. They depict the Saints Methodius and Cyril, beloved saints of the Slavic peoples. You will enjoy researching the lives of these blood brothers and brothers in the faith. As all saints do, they suffered for the faith, clung to it with confidence and are remembered for their love of the Lord above all. On St. Cyril's statue note the Cyrillic script (aptly named for its creator) which reads: "beware of wolves in sheep's clothing". Take a moment to pray that the wisdom of the faith guides you always.

The statues in the high altar depict St. Mary Magdalene and St. Peter which stand on either side of the resurrected Jesus; very fitting for a church named Resurrection. St. Mary Magdalene, the Apostle to the Apostles, was given the honor of first seeing the Lord in the garden post-resurrection and announcing this astonishingly joyful news to the Eleven. St. Peter was given the honor of first witnessing the empty tomb, stone rolled away, head scarf in a bundle; the culmination of Jesus ministry and the salvation of the world! Imagine St. Mary Magdalene and St. Peter pondering these events for the rest of their lives. We, too, ponder, pray and preserve the faith in our minds, hearts and souls and look ever to the Lord with gratitude, hope and love.



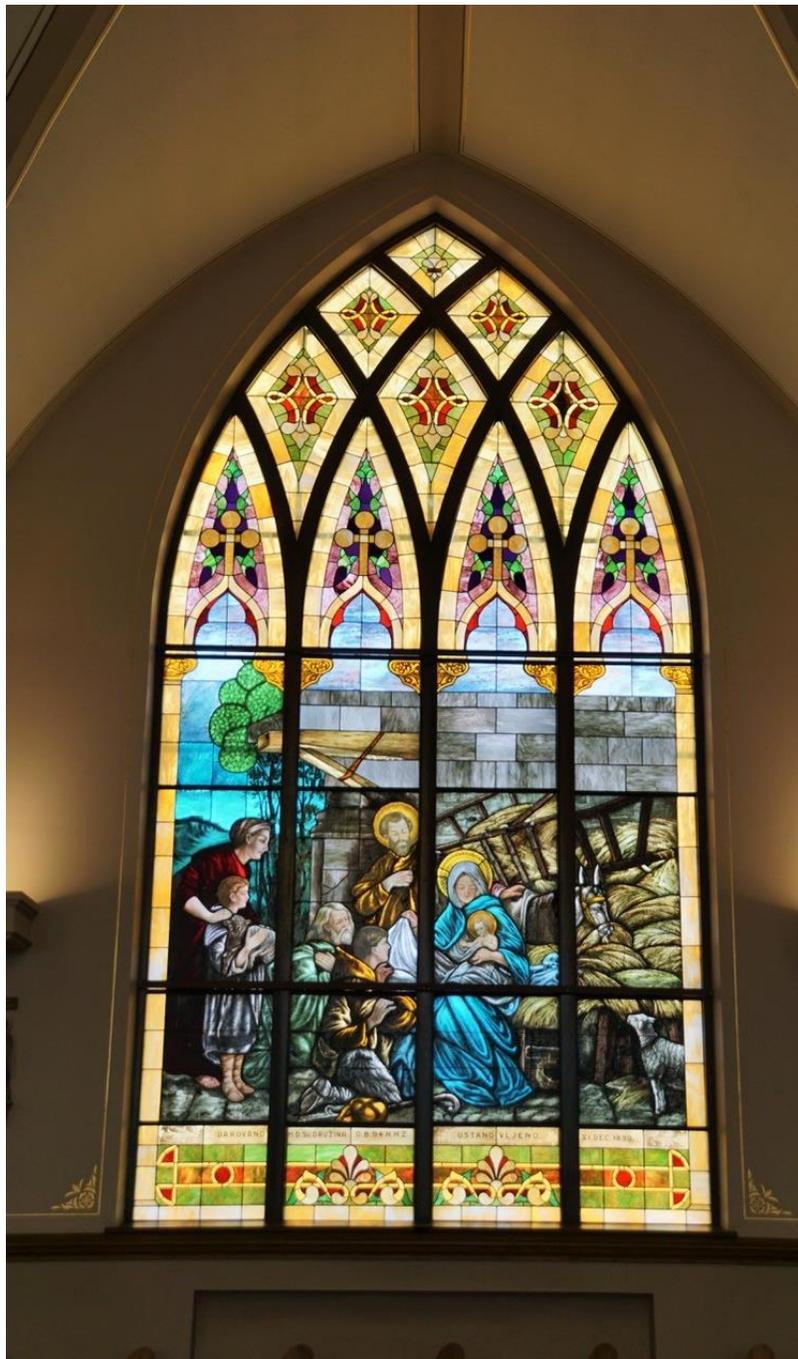


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Slides 1, 2, 15 & 18: Public Domain

Slide 11: St. Kateri Prayer Card, Diocese of Duluth: painting restored by Donald H. Johnson

Slide 13: AtlasObscura.com

Slide 16: Knights of Columbus Facebook page

Slides 21 & 22: Fr. Michael Garry, Diocese of Duluth

All other photos: Mary Rasch Photography, Diocese of Duluth

Other credits:

Slide 2: Passage adapted from "What is the Point of a Pilgrimage?", by Deborah Castellano Lubov, simplycatholic.com

Slide 11: Prayer adapted from Diocese of Duluth Pilgrimage Booklet, 2012-2013

Slide 17: Fr. Pierz quote from Pierzana II by Fr. Robert Voight, 1989

All other written comments: Margo Philbin, Diocese of Duluth, 2020
