

Transcribed: June 9, 2002

RW: The Michigan Sesqui-Centennial Committee and the Upper Peninsula Catholic Historical Association would like to welcome you to this commemoration, the 350th Anniversary of the birth of Father Marquette. My name is Regis Walling. I'm the president of the UP Catholic Historical Association. The Marquette Senior High School Redmen Choral, directed by Mrs. Ellen Clement, will open our program with a selection, *I Will Lift Up My Eyes*

(singing)

RW: Thank you. As you can see, we have here to be unveiled, a new historical marker to honor Father Marquette. This marker has been financed by donations from the four Catholic parishes here in the city of Marquette. At this time I will call upon Bishop Mark Schmidt to dedicate this marker.

MS: Heavenly Father, today we gather to remember one of your special sons and servants, Father Jacque Marquette. Our community is named in his memory and his honor. We recall today how deeply he loved you and wished that your holy name be honored by everyone everywhere. In answering your call, he brought your word of love to the Native Americans who lived along these Lake Superior shores. We are reminded that we too, have that same call from you. Therefore, today I bless and dedicate this historical marker which reminds us of the life and work of Father Marquette. I dedicate it

to his memory. I dedicate it to our challenge. I dedicate it to your greater honor and glory. In the name of the Father and Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

RW: Thank you Bishop. The Redmen Choral will now sing *The Green Cathedral*

(singing)

RW: Thank you. We have some special guests with us this afternoon. I would like to present first, Mayor Robert Baraby II of Marquette.

RB: It's a great honor to be here today representing the citizens of Marquette. I can only think that if Father Marquette is looking down on us right now, I hope he's as happy with the place that he founded here, and that we founded in his name, as we are to live here. My wife and I were talking yesterday, and we don't know a better place in the world that we'd like to raise our family. So our family is here today celebrating this on behalf of all the families in the city of Marquette. Today is Father Marquette Day in the city and I'd like to read the following proclamation. "Whereas the Upper Peninsula Catholic Historical Association has grown from a handful of people since early 1976 to 77 members, and whereas the association is dedicated to the gathering, preservation and publication of the Catholic history in the Upper Peninsula, and whereas the association is the only such organization in the Upper Peninsula and is dedicating a historical marker today, May 31, 1987, to honor Father Jacques Marquette, the Jesuit priest and explorer for which the city was named after, now therefore I, Robert Baraby, mayor of the city of

Marquette, do hereby proclaim today, May 31, 1987, as Father Marquette Day in the city of Marquette and I urge all citizens to recognize this worthy dedication. Thank you.

RW: Thank you very much. I would only add that we are now 164 members. We've grown since we sent information over to the city. Our second guest is Mr. Timothy Low, Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners.

TL: It's a pleasure and honor to be here representing the people of Marquette County. I think that Mayor Baraby was commenting on that he couldn't think of a finer place to live and raise a family than in Marquette. I would have to echo that and Marquette County. I believe that Father Marquette's coming to the New World was done not only because of his duties and ministering to the Native Americans, but also, in a sense of optimism. I think that it's that optimism that is important for us to remember and continue and think of that when things aren't so great for us. This place does have some significant roots in Father Marquette.

RW: Representing the Marquette Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Michael Roach.

MR: Thank you Regis, Bishop Schmidt. Thank you for inviting us this afternoon on behalf of the Marquette area Chamber of Commerce and our president Joe Van Dine and also on behalf of the Marquette ambassadors, our welcoming arm of the Chamber. You'll recognize us with the coats on as well, and their leader, Mike Skidda. We do thank you for involving us this afternoon in this wonderful ceremony and in this rebirth

of the park and a celebration of a wonderful person who none of us knew, but who we know in spirit, Father Marquette. I think we can all at least imagine what it must have been like when Father Marquette traveled and did his exploring and what a wonderful time it must have been. This is something we can all appreciate more right now. I would sincerely like to congratulate the Catholic Historical Society, Russ Magnaghi, Diane Cordich, and all who helped prepare the park and the marker for this occasion. On behalf of the Chamber and the ambassadors we sincerely wish Father Marquette and all a Happy Birthday.

RW: A couple weeks ago, many of you saw on tv and some of you were even present for the opening of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee. With us today is the director of the museum, Mr. Thomas Friggens, and also representing the Michigan Bureau of History. Tom.

TF: Thank you Regis. Good afternoon. I'm very pleased to represent Dr. Mark Bigelow, director of the Bureau of History at this dedication of the Michigan Historical Marker commemorating the life and life work of the Jesuit missionary and explorer, Father Jacque Marquette. Michigan Historical markers serve as a reminder to the people and the events which have shaped all our lives. As a newly ordained priest, Father Marquette traveled thousands of miles through the heart of North America serving it's Native American population and building a record of achievement which is still admired today. It is especially appropriate that this marker is dedicated on the 350th Anniversary of his birth. Since 1955 the Bureau's state historic marker program with the tireless help

and assistance of individuals in communities throughout Michigan has marked over 800 historically and architecturally significant sites. Dr. Bigelow and the entire Bureau staff join me today in extending our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Catholic Historical Association for your efforts in this successful project. Congratulations Regis.

RW: Thank you Tom. Representing the Marquette County Historical Society is Mr. John Maitland. He's also been involved in the establishment of the Marquette Maritime Museum. So he has both feats in history. John.

JM: President Walling...Bishop Schmidt, distinguished visitors and guests, including the Rotary Exchange folks from the Philippines who are here today. I just happened to notice that some of them are in the crowd. It is indeed a privilege as well as a pleasure for the Marquette County Historical Society to be asked to participate in this event. I wonder how many of you would know, or even dream how the name Marquette has progressed since he was born back in the 1600s. I know of 5 or 6 cities in the United States that are named Marquette. There are 3 counties that I am aware of. There is a river, the Pierre Marquette. There is a railroad and last but not least, the Buick Motorcar Company in 1929 and '30 came out with an automobile called the Marquette. So his name has been spread far and wide. We applaud the efforts of the Catholic Historical Society...or Association, and the Marquette County Historical Commission stands ready to be of help to you in any way we can. Thank you.

RW: While John was naming all those things for Marquette, I heard somebody over here say don't forget Marquette University. Our last guest is Dr. Russ Magnaghi. He is the secretary of the UP Catholic Historical Association, the Upper Peninsula Chairperson of the Michigan Sesqui-Centennial Commission. It was he and his crew including Mr. Arnold Mosler who is standing over here, who are responsible for the fact that this park has been made so beautiful. The sidewalks have been cleaned, flowers have been planted and it's on it's way. Russ.

RM: Thank you Regis. Bishop, guests...and citizens, I represent the Marquette County Sesqui-Centennial Agency. It's a pleasure to be here today at this community event. We're celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Michigan Statehood and also the birthday of Father Marquette. It was the idea of the Sesqui-Centennial to have communities organize and put on events such as this. One of the important things is to remember our past and to preserve our past. This marker is going to do that. Besides the marker, we have further development here in that the park has been renovated. It's been worked on for a number of years. We have the Adopt-A-Parent here today. I'd like her to stand. Diane Cordich. Give her a hand. She's been maintaining the park. In the last few months the members of the UP Catholic Historical Association have come down and really gave her a great deal of help moving sand and debris and so on. As a result we have the park reactivated. I would ask you to promote the fact that the park is a pleasant place to visit now. It's going to be maintained and we can see all this as an offshoot of the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration. Thank you.

RW: This dedication of our marker and park is the first part of our day's celebration. Following this event we will be having our first annual meeting at St. Peter's Hall. That meeting is open to the public. The main speaker at the meeting will be Fr. Herman Muller, a Jesuit from Detroit. Father Muller would you stand please? We also have another Jesuit who's come from Cleveland to be part of this celebration, Fr. John Maday. After the meeting we will be having a mass at St. Peter's Cathedral and at that mass we will be using the chalice which belonged to Fr. Marquette and everyone is also most welcome to attend that service. We thank you for your presence here today. Our program will conclude with the Marquette Senior High School Redman Choral singing *A Gaelic Blessing*. That will be followed by *God Bless America*. I would invite everyone who is present to join in. Thank you.

(singing)