



Spring 2015

Sister Mary Funge

Sister Mary Funge is a long-time contributor to the Bridges Foundation. She is a member of the Society of Helpers, a Roman Catholic order of nuns with U.S. headquarters in Chicago.

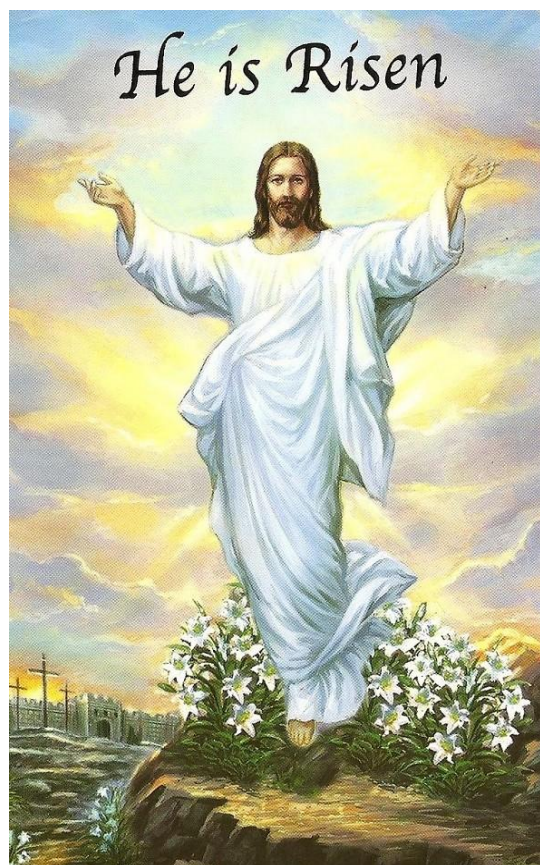
In 1991 Mary was introduced to the Week of Guided Prayer while she was living in Liverpool, England. She served in eight of these retreats over the next two years, and brought the concept back to Chicago when she moved there in 1993. While on a visit to the St. Louis area she heard about the Bridges Program. She moved to St. Louis in 1995 and became involved with the Bridges Retreat and became acquainted with many in the Bridges Prayer Companions program. She contacted parishes to set up Week of Guided Prayer programs. Over the next ten years Mary guided thirty-five of these retreats, as well as three retreats for women in prison, and was aided by a number of people involved with Bridges and its Prayer Companions program.

In 2003 Mary met Clarence Heller, who was studying at the time at Aquinas Institute of Theology. Clarence became involved in the Week of Guided Prayer and in 2005 took over as its director, a position he holds to this day. The program later became Week/Month of Guided Prayer. It has grown to be a viable retreat program in the St. Louis Community.

Sister Mary Funge has been active for many years with the Christian Life Community of the United States of America, serving as Office Administrator. Now the time has come for her to return to Chicago this year. We wish her well and thank her for her service to Bridges in the St. Louis area.

Joyous Easter

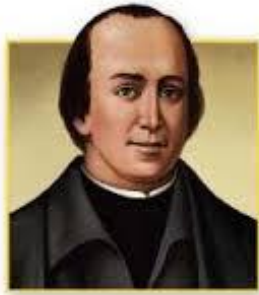
The Bridges Foundation wishes you a blessed and joyous Easter.



Jacques Marquette, S.J. (1637-1675)

Jacques Marquette was a French Jesuit priest and missionary whose exploration of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers with Louis Jolliet is a notable part of American history.

Jacques Marquette, also known as Père (French for Father) Marquette, was born on June 1, 1637, in Laon, France. His father was a seigneur of Laon, and as such, a man of rank during his time. Jacques entered the Jesuit novitiate at Nancy in 1654 and initially worked as a teacher. He started his theological studies in 1665 and soon realized that he was not suited to studying theology, and would much prefer life as a missionary. He was sent to New France, arriving in Quebec in September, 1666. Marquette studied the Montagnais language at Trois-Rivières for nearly two years.



Jacques Marquette, SJ

He made his way by canoe to go from Montreal to join a mission at Sault Sainte Marie in May, 1668. He met Illinois Indians in 1669 when he founded a mission near the west edge of Lake Superior. He liked and admired the Illinois for their way of life. Bowing to pressure from the Sioux, the Illinois moved east. Père Marquette moved along with them, founding the mission of St.

Ignace (named for Jesuit founder Ignatius of Loyola) on the north shore of the Straits of Mackinac in 1671, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



Louis Jolliet

Louis Jolliet (1645-1700) was a French-Canadian who had been raised near Quebec City. He spent a great deal of time with natives and travelers in the area, which was a thriving center for fur traders. Joliet studied philosophy and theology in Jesuit schools as a child and entered the Jesuit novitiate. After several years he decided to leave his studies for the priesthood and become a fur trader. Along the way Jolliet (sometimes spelled Joliet) learned the Aboriginal language of some of the groups in the area, as well as French, English and Spanish.

The French had acquired some knowledge of the rivers from the Indians in present-day Illinois and were desirous of exploring them further. Joliet received a commission from Quebec to explore the rivers to the west and in December, 1672 he arrived in St. Ignace, where he met Jacques Marquette for the first time. The two spent that winter planning an expedition to explore the area along those rivers, in the hope of finding a trade route to China. In May, 1673 the two left on their illustrious journey, taking with

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Jacques Marquette, S.J.

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them two canoes and five *Métis* (French-Indian *voyageurs*). The group went across the northern edge of Lake Michigan, then down along the Lake's western edge, to Green Bay, and on up the Fox River. They carried their canoes overland ("portage") for approximately two miles before putting in at the Wisconsin River (near what is appropriately named today Portage, Wisconsin), which they followed to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin where they moved the canoes into the Mississippi River.



They went approximately 800 miles to the south from St. Ignace, past the site of present-day Memphis to as far as the point where the Arkansas River flows into the Mississippi. Much like the Lewis and Clark Expedition would do more than a century later, they encountered various Indian tribes along the way, some hostile, some friendly. At a point where they believed (mistakenly) that they were some 150 miles from the sea, they decided in mid-July that they must turn around and go back to the Great Lakes area. In reality, they were some 435 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. The reason for turning back was that although

Jolliet spoke and understood six different Indian languages, they had gone about as far as they could and still communicate with the natives that they encountered, and those relationships were becoming increasingly hostile. In addition they were beginning to see more natives carrying European trinkets, and feared a confrontation with Spanish colonists. They paddled up the Mississippi until they reached the Illinois River, where locals told them that the Illinois provided a shorter route back to Lake Michigan. Then it was on to the Chicago portage, and they finally arrived back at Lake Michigan in September of 1673.

Louis Jolliet continued on to Sault Sainte Marie and spent the winter of 1673-74 there before continuing on to Quebec in the spring. As for Père Marquette, he had some recurring problems with dysentery. He traveled to the mission of St. Francis Xavier at Baie des Puants (Green Bay) and stayed there for a year before heading south to spend time with his beloved Illinois Indians in October, 1674. He experienced further health problems as well as encountering bad weather, and spent that winter just outside of the present-day Chicago area. Along with two companions who accompanied him, they became the first Europeans to live in the Chicago area. He was visited there by some of the Illinois and in the spring of 1675 he attended a joyous gathering of Indian braves and chiefs on the Illinois River, near present-day Utica, Illinois. Marquette headed back toward St. Ignace but never quite made it. His health gave out and he died near present-day Ludington, Michigan, on May 18, 1675. Marquette is buried in St. Ignace. Jolliet

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Map of 1673 Marquette-Jolliet Expedition

Jacques Marquette, S.J.

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returned to Quebec and married. He was granted the Island of Anticosti, where he established a fort. In 1694 he led another expedition, lasting nearly six months, along the coast of Labrador. While returning to Anticosti in 1700 he disappeared and was presumed dead, never to be heard from again. His body was never found.

A great deal about the geography, terrain, inhabitants, weather and other aspects of the expedition was accumulated by Marquette and Jolliet and shared with others. Over the years many schools, hospitals, towns, parks, rivers, and a university would bear the name of Marquette or Jolliet. Jacques Marquette, S.J. is renowned as a great Jesuit explorer.



This is the newsletter of the Bridges Foundation of St. Louis. The newsletter is published quarterly and distributed as a PDF file via email, free to anyone who would like to receive it. Thank you to the contributor to this issue: Tom Simon.

Quarterly issues are sent late in the months of March, June, September, and December. The deadline for submission of material is on the 15th day of each of those months for inclusion in the issue to be mailed later that month. Look for your next issue around the time that the seasons change.

The deadline for submissions to the next issue of the Bridges Newsletter is June 15, 2015. Please send articles, letters, mailing list additions and deletions, and other correspondence to: Tom Simon, Editor, 1730 Derrynane, Manchester, MO 63021, or by email to tsimon@tsimon.com.