

Dear Marilyn,

Last Sunday, a couple of folks at church suggested that I email from time to time with an update and some photos from along our route, so here's a first shot at this; please pass it on, along with our warm regards to all.

Wednesday, May 18; Wawa, Ontario. We took a layover day today on our way across Ontario, over the top of the Great Lakes. The Canadian Shield is impressive — endless boreal forest, countless lakes and rivers, ancient rock everywhere. We went for a hike in Lake Superior Provincial Park. The trail took us past Orphan Lake, one of these thousands of pristine lakes. In the first photo, we're looking down at Orphan; the blue you are seeing in the distance is Lake Superior. The trail took us along the shore of Orphan Lake and then, about a half mile further (and several hundred feet lower), to the shore of Superior itself. The trail down was steep; at one point it leveled off and we thought we must be about to emerge onto the shore because the trailbed had turned sandy. It turned out we had another drop of about another hundred feet; that sandy terrace was from an earlier lakeshore when Superior was much larger. The second photo shows Eleanor sit-



ting on the pebble-and-cobble beach; a couple of small, close-inshore islands appear off the point. Elsewhere in this vicinity, headlands drop down steep bluffs to a rocky shore. Lake Superior is immense; by surface area it is the largest freshwater lake in the world. It's a beautiful day; the temperature here is about 58 degrees. The trail back up led us past waterfalls along a river rushing on its way to Superior.

The forest was partly balsam-and-spruce; on the portions that were deciduous, the forest floor was a riot of Trout Lilies and Spring Beauties.

It all was incredibly beautiful. Our Baptismal rite refers to “the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.” Indeed.

Tomorrow we resume our trek across Ontario; we expect to re-enter the States at International Falls, Minnesota.

Blessings,

John