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The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help to Launch "The Shepherd Project" on May 1 *The nationwide campaign invites the faithful to join the Shrine in praying for the bishops across the country.*

(Champion, Wis.) – <u>The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help</u>, the first and only approved Marian Apparition Site in the United States, will be praying for the United States' bishops, one diocese a day, from May 1 until the end of October. The nationwide season of prayer, titled "The Shepherd Project," will begin with the dioceses closest to the Shrine's physical location and emit outward until each bishop in the United States is prayed for.

"As our world faces a shortage of peace and an increase in division and attacks within our families and the Church, our bishops are facing extreme challenges," said Rev. John Broussard, C.P.M. and Rector of The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. "This is what inspired The Shepherd Project - to pray, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, for our church leaders and ask our Lord to grant them the grace necessary to heroically guide our communities in these precarious times."

Pilgrims visiting the National Shrine in Champion, Wisconsin from May to the end of October will see a perpetually lit candle in the Apparition Oratory that is dedicated to all United States bishops, along with a sign indicating what bishop and diocese is being prayed for on that day.

For those interested in praying along day by day, the National Shrine has also launched a webpage that includes a special prayer for the Shepherd Project and the date lineup for each bishop's dedication. While just the ordinary bishop's names are included on the list, the prayers being offered also include each diocese's auxiliary bishops as well.

The Shrine is inviting all Christians to join its prayers for all bprecishops as they continue the good work within the communities they are entrusted with. For more information on The Shepherd Project or to pray along, visit <u>championshrine.org/shepherd-project</u>.

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About the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help

Located in Champion, Wisconsin, the <u>National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help</u> is the first and only Marian Apparition Site in the United States approved by the authority of the Catholic Church. The Shrine covers the peace-filled holy ground where Mary, the mother of Jesus, appeared to a Belgian immigrant woman named Adele Brise on October 9, 1859, identifying herself as "The Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners." Six years after the <u>2010 decree of authenticity was made</u>, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the site in Champion as a National Shrine.

For more information on the Shrine, its history and events, visit <u>www.championshrine.org</u> or follow along on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. To sign up for its newsletter, click <u>here</u>.

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