

NATIONAL NOVENA – YEAR A

— National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion —

Written By Fr. Edward Lee Looney



Prayers from
Our Lady of Good Help:
A Prayer Book for Pilgrims
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AN INTRODUCTION AND INVITATION



Forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus climbed the Mount of Olives and gave his final exhortation before ascending into Heaven in the sight of his Apostles, and traditionally depicted in iconography, the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the nine days that followed the apostles and the Blessed Mother gathered in the upper room, united in prayer for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit (See Acts 1:14). On the fiftieth day, Pentecost, tongues of fire descended upon them. This was the first novena or nine days of prayer in the Church.

Catholics throughout the world pray novenas as a form of devotional prayer, especially when an urgent need arises. Their days of prayer might be

directed to the Divine Mercy, a popular novena beginning on Good Friday and ending on Divine Mercy Sunday (the First Sunday after Easter). It was Jesus himself who requested the novena in a series of apparitions received by a Polish sister named St. Faustina Kowalska. Others turn to Mary or the saints, hoping they will intercede on their behalf before the throne of God.

Each year the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion commemorates the anniversary of Mary's 1859 apparitions received by Adele Brise with a special National Novena. The apparitions of Mary occurred more than a century and a half ago, but many Catholics in the United States and throughout world have never heard of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. They may know about Guadalupe, Lourdes, and Fatima, arguably the most popular apparitions in Catholicism, but Catholics in the United States might never have heard the name Adele Brise or the story of Mary's

three apparitions in Wisconsin. This is in part because it wasn't until 2010 that the apparitions received official Church approval.

Adele Brise, at the age of 24, immigrated to the United States in the 1850's and her family settled in Northeastern Wisconsin where a settlement of Belgian immigrants established their new life. While in Belgium Adele felt called to the religious life, but with her voyage to the United States, that dream would have to be realized in the country she now called home.

After their arrival, Adele helped her family by taking grain to the local grist mill along a wooded trail. In the early days of October 1859, for the first time she saw a woman, who stood between two trees (believed to be a maple and hemlock), who said nothing, and quickly vanished. The following Sunday, on what is believed to be October 9, 1859, the same woman appeared to Adele while

she was on her way to Mass. Again silent, she quickly disappeared. Adele sought the advice of a local priest, who instructed her that if she saw the woman again to ask her in God's name who she was and what she wanted.

As she walked home from Mass, Mary appeared for the third time, affording Adele the opportunity to ask the two questions. Mary identified herself as the Queen of Heaven, exhorted Adele to pray for the conversion of sinners and frequent the sacraments, and to teach the children what they needed to know for salvation. Until her dying breath, this is what Adele Brise did. After going door to door, she founded a tertiary order (third order) of sisters and started a boarding school. She relied on the providence of God, and during her life, saw miracles happen with her own eyes, such was the case of the 1871 Great Peshtigo Fire that devastated the area surrounding the shrine but Mary's prayer and the power of God spared the

sanctuary commemorating the Blessed Mother's apparition. The grounds of the Shrine were described as an emerald isle in a sea of ashes.

Today, Catholics from around the world visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion and pray to receive special graces. They sense the maternal presence of Mary and receive comfort from her prayers. Whether you physically visit the National Shrine or are a pilgrim from the comfort of your own home, you are invited to join in the National Novena for the United States' first and only (so far) Church approved Marian apparition.

This year's novena prayers present helpful titles of our Blessed Mother each day, allowing us an opportunity to pray with Mary and interiorize the life and mission of Adele. The novena begins on October 1 and ends October 9, the anniversary of Mary's message. Each day, there are two prayers: the Daily Novena Prayer and the Prayer to Our

Lady of Champion, composed by Bishop David Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay, which provides the opportunity for you to pray for whatever your intentions might be. Please prayerfully join Catholics throughout the world, in addition to the pilgrims who will visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, in praying this novena.



DAILY PRAYERS



DAY 1:
QUEEN OF HEAVEN



Today we ask the intercession of Mary under the title Queen of Heaven. When Adele asked her heavenly visitor who she was, the woman answered: “I am the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners.”

Queen of Heaven, we thank your son, the King, for sending you to us and blessing us with your presence and message. Today, we join you in praying for the conversion of sinners. Show us your good help and obtain from your son the conversion of our family members, friends, and the entire world. May your prayers, on our behalf, help all believers to follow the commands of the Lord and walk in His paths.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

DAY 2:
MOTHER OF MERCY



Today we ask the intercession of Mary under the title Mother of Mercy. Mary commended Adele for her reception of the Eucharist and encouraged her to make a general confession. Today many pilgrims to the Shrine seek God's mercy through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Mother of Mercy, we thank your son Jesus for shedding His blood on the cross and redeeming us from our sins. Today, we implore your intercession for those who have sought conversion in their life. They are the answer to your prayers and ours. To your motherly intercession, we entrust pilgrims' past, present, and future. As they experience God's mercy, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion and in their local community, may the grace of the sacrament of Reconciliation strengthen them in turning away from sin and remaining faithful to God. Show your good help to those who seek your son's mercy and forgiveness and obtain for them a firm purpose of amendment.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

DAY 3: HEALTH OF THE SICK



Today we ask the intercession of Mary under the title Health of the Sick. At the end of Adele's life, she told her friend Josie, "Be kind to the sick and the old, and continue to instruct the children in their religion." On account of Adele's passion for the sick, the Shrine today has become a place of prayer for healing for many pilgrims.

Mary, Health of the Sick, we thank your Son Jesus for the healing graces pilgrims have received at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. To your motherly intercession, we entrust pilgrims' past, present, and future as they seek healing in mind, body, and spirit. Show your good help to those who are sick and obtain for them healing, comfort, and consolation from your Son, Jesus.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

DAY 4: QUEEN OF FAMILIES



Today we ask the intercession of Mary under the title Queen of Families. Adele shared the news of the apparition with her family. Her father helped to construct the first chapel commemorating the apparition. Adele faithfully carried out her apostolate in those initial years following the apparition and entered the homes of many families to teach their children.

Queen of Families, we thank your Son Jesus for the family of Sister Adele and for all families who have visited the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. To your motherly intercession, we entrust all the families of the world: faithful families, faithless families, and broken families. Gather all families under your mantle of love and protection. Show to them your good help, and obtain for them from your son an increase of faith, hope, and love, and the graces of unity, healing, perseverance, and whatever else they may need.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

DAY 5: MOTHER OF DISCIPLES



Today we ask the intercession of Mary under the title Mother of Disciples. The Queen of Heaven exhorted Adele to gather the children and teach them their catechism. Let us pray in a special way for catechists, that as they live their life of discipleship, they may lead others to become disciples.

Mother of Disciples, we thank your Son Jesus for inviting us to become His disciples, and to your motherly intercession we entrust all catechists charged with the responsibility of forming disciples. Through the message you spoke to Adele, you invited her to a life of discipleship with your Son, and as we carry on her mission, the same is true for us. Through your motherly assistance, help all Christians become faith-filled disciples and followers of Jesus. Show us your good help and obtain for us the grace to always sit at the feet of your Son, and learn from Him.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

DAY 6: OUR LADY OF VOCATIONS



Today we ask the intercession of Mary under the title Our Lady of Vocations. Adele discerned the events of her life with various priests and she was obedient to the bishop's request. Several years after the apparition, Adele founded a tertiary group of Franciscan sisters.

Our Lady of Vocations, we thank your son Jesus for calling all people to follow you in their vocational path, and for the many priests you placed in the life of Sister Adele, helping her to respond to your will for her life. We give thanks also for the gift of consecrated religious who serve the Lord, and for the prompting and guidance of Adele to found a third-order of Franciscan sisters to fulfill Our Lady's mission for her. Please ask your Son to send more laborers into the vineyard, and intercede for your priests and consecrated religious, that they may remain faithful to their calling. Show your good help to the Church's priests and consecrated religious and obtain for them the graces they need to live their vocations faithfully and with great joy and love.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

DAY 7:
QUEEN OF PEACE



Today we ask the intercession of Mary under the title Queen of Peace. Mary appeared in 1859 to Adele, a few years before the Civil War in the United States. In her apparition, Mary told Adele she prayed for the conversion of sinners and wanted her to do the same. Peace can only happen when hearts begin to change.

Queen of Peace, we thank your son Jesus for the gift of peace which He has left us. We entrust to your motherly intercession our world, and its desperate need for peace. Change the hearts of those who seek to foster violence and division. Wrap your mantle of protection around those who serve in the military and armed forces. Bring them safely home and offer the gift of comfort to their families. Show us your good help, and obtain for us from your Son an end to terrorism, war, and violence.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

DAY 8:
STAR OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION



Today we ask the intercession of Mary under the title Star of the New Evangelization. Recent Popes hailed Mary under this title as the Church undertakes the task of evangelizing a new generation of Catholics. The 2010 approval of the Wisconsin apparition places Mary's 1859 message at the heart of the new evangelization.

Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, we thank your Son Jesus, for allowing us to live in this age of the Church and for the task He has entrusted to us. The mission you gave to Adele is a star which guides us to the sacraments and catechesis. Our time is just like Adele's, which was marked by a lax practice of faith. She needed your message then and we need your message now. Show to us, your devoted servants, your good help and obtain for the Church a renewal in belief and practice of the faith.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

DAY 9: OUR LADY OF GOOD HELP



Today we ask the intercession of Mary under the title Our Lady of Good Help. Adele Brise insisted on dedicating the chapels commemorating the apparition under this title. The devotion to Notre Dame de Bon Secours, which is centuries old, can be traced to France, Belgium, and Canada. In the province of Belgium where Adele grew up, the devotion was widespread.

Our Lady of Good Help, we thank your Son Jesus for the ways He has allowed you to serve as our advocate and intercessor, and for the graces you have obtained for us through this novena. As a mother, you wish to help all your children in their need as they cry out to you. Help those who are sick, homeless, and poor. Help the immigrants and refugees. Help families, priests, consecrated religious, and those who live in the single state. Help the Church in her work of catechesis and evangelization. O Queen of Heaven, do not despise the petitions we have offered, but show us your good help and obtain from your Son, what is in accord with His holy and wonderful providence.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF CHAMPION

by Most Reverend David L. Ricken, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay

O Dear Lady of Champion, You revealed yourself as the Queen of Heaven to your servant Adele. You gave her a mission to pray for the conversion of sinners, to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to others and to prepare the children for the reception of the sacraments. I trust that as you called Adele to holiness, you are calling me, in my station in life, to live a holy life, devoted to Jesus Christ with the help of your maternal love. I bring before you now my worries and anxieties. I abandon my attachments to them and place them at your feet. I ask you to hear the deepest longings of my heart as I pray most earnestly for: _____ (*your intention*).

Dear Lady, you told Adele and you say to all of us “Do not be afraid; I will help you.” Help me now as I place this intention with complete confidence and trust. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Our Lady of Champion, pray for us

THE OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil.

Amen.

THE HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

THE GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

LITANY TO OUR LADY OF CHAMPION

Penned by: Fr. Edward Lee Looney

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Christ have mercy.

V. Lord have mercy. Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

V. God the Father of heaven,

R. Have mercy on us.

V. God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

R. Have mercy on us.

V. God the Holy Spirit,

R. Have mercy on us.

V. Holy Trinity, one God,

R. Have mercy on us.

Response: Pray For Us

Holy Mary, Holy Mother of God,
Queen of Heaven, Star of the Sea,
Star of the New Evangelization,
Comforter of the Afflicted,
Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners,
Our Lady of Champion,

Response: Mary Help Us

In times of temptation,
In times of sickness,
In times of sorrow,
In times of confusion,
In times of persecution,
In times of failure,
In times of betrayal,
In times of weakness,
In times of discernment,
In times of war,

Response: Mary Help Them

For those who are unemployed,
For those who are homeless,
For those who struggle to make ends meet,
For those in troubled marriages,
For those contemplating abortion,
For those contemplating suicide,
For those who are sick,
For those suffering with physical handicaps,
For those trapped in a life of sin,
For those who suffer from addictions,
For those near death,
For those who do not believe in God,
For those who have rejected God's commandments,
For those who need our prayers,

For the immigrant,
For the poor souls in Purgatory,
For teachers and catechists,
For Catholic schools and universities,
For bishops, priests, deacons, and seminarians,
For consecrated religious,
For missionaries,
For all married couples and families,
V. Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Spare us, O Lord.
V. Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Graciously hear us, O Lord.
V. Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Have mercy on us.
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises
of Christ.

Let us pray, Grant O God, through the intercession and mediation of Our Lady of Champion, all the graces we need to live a life in accordance with your will. Come to the help of your servants who are in need of heavenly assistance. Incline your ear to the prayers offered by them through the intercession of the Queen of Heaven, through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

(With Ecclesiastical Approval)

Fr. Edward Looney is also the author of:

A Heart Like Mary's

A Rosary Litany

Our Lady of Good Help: Prayer Book for Pilgrims

A Lenten Journey with Mother Mary

How They Love Mary:

28 Life-Changing Stories of Devotion to Our Lady

For more information about the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, please visit its website at

ChampionShrine.org or call **920-866-2571**

