



THE GOOD NEWS

News and Events from the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion

Fall 2023 Issue #69





RECTOR'S WINDOW

Fr. Joseph Aytona, C.P.M

Praying for Priests within the Sacred Liturgy

Dear Friends in Christ,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Since I have been assigned as *Rector* of the National Shrine of our Lady of Champion, I have been able to attend some of the Diocesan Events in the Diocese of Green Bay, WI. One event that I had a chance to participate in was the annual *Chrism Mass* during Holy Week, where Priests renew their promises and the holy oils are blessed. A specific part of that Liturgy that stood out to me was the formal request from the Bishop asking the laity to pray for their priests:

“As for you, dearest sons and daughters, pray for your Priests, that the Lord may pour out his gifts abundantly upon them, and keep them faithful as ministers of Christ, the High Priest, so that they may lead you to him, who is the Source of salvation.”

In response to the Bishop's request, the laity gathered at the Chrism Mass responded, “Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.”

I find it reassuring that within her Sacred Liturgy, Holy Mother Church has a special place directly from the Bishop (who represents Christ within a Diocese), to exhort her children about the importance of praying for her priests. Although there are many ministries and religious orders

throughout the Church that pray for Priests, to do so from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is very meaningful. Interestingly, the request from the Bishop to the laity comes immediately after the Priests renew the promises made during their ordination.

We also read in the history of the Apparition of Our Lady of Champion, Adele Brise was counseled by **her priest** to ask the *mysterious woman in white*: “In the Name of God, who are you and what do you wish of me?”. The message of our Lady to Adele began with praying for the conversion of sinners, by receiving the

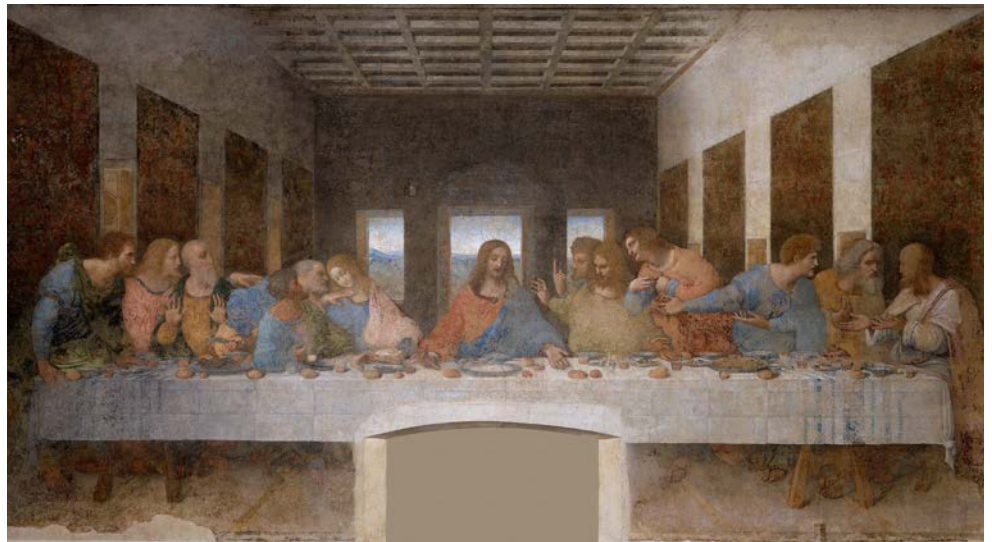
sacraments of Confessions and the Holy Eucharist.

Thus, as we strive to unite ourselves to Jesus, especially His Real Presence in the Eucharist, let us be reminded: No Priest? No Eucharist. No Eucharist? No Jesus. No Jesus? No Salvation.

In the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus,

Fr. Joseph Aytona, CPM

Fr. Joseph Aytona, CPM



Leonardo da Vinci - *The Last Supper* (1495-1498)

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary

By Fr. Joseph Aytona, C.P.M

Since being assigned as the Rector of the *National Shrine of our Lady of Champion*, I have had the blessing of enrolling over 6,000 Catholics to the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary. The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary is an international association of faithful Catholics who strive to pray the Rosary each week for each other's intentions. The Confraternity is a ministry of the Order of Preachers, also known as the Dominicans. If you already pray the Rosary (maybe even every day), I highly recommend you join the Confraternity, since there are many blessings attached to its members.

Each member of the Rosary Confraternity strives to pray the Rosary each week (i.e., 3 Rosaries, 15 decades: the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious), and must have his/her name inscribed in the register of the Confraternity. Members should also pray for the intentions of the other members (living and deceased). The benefits of joining the Confraternity are as follows:

- † A share in the prayer of countless thousands of members the world over, and this **even after death**.
- † A share in the prayers, Masses, and apostolic works of the entire Dominican Order.
- † Various plenary and partial indulgences.



If anyone has the happiness of being in the Confraternity of the Rosary, he has in all corners of the world brothers and sisters who pray for him.

— St. John Vianney

The Confraternity's obligations do not bind under the pain of sin. Pope Leo XIII stated in his apostolic constitution on the Confraternity, "Whenever a person fulfills his obligation of reciting the Rosary according to the rule of the Confraternity, he includes in his intentions all its members, and they, in turn, render him the same service many

times over" (*Ubi Primum*, 1). Although we can pray the Rosary individually and privately, the benefits of joining the Rosary Confraternity raises our "private devotion" to a formal ecclesial group of Catholics. Many saints have joined the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary: St. John Vianney, St. Louis de Montfort, and St. Alphonsus Ligouri, to name a few.



To join and enroll in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary, please scan this QR Code, visit championshrine.org/confraternity or call the Shrine of our Lady of Champion: (920) 866-2571.

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

Servants of the Good Help

By Chelsey Hare, Director of Communications

I'd like to share a beautiful witness story of the Schmidt Family, who have been on mission in Peru under the title of "Servants of the Good Help." They are a group of lay Catholic missionaries who moved from Brillion, Wisconsin, to South America, committed to living the message of the Queen of Heaven given to Adele Brise.

The Schmidt family have dedicated their lives to serving the people in Peru by spreading the good news, stewarding God's creation, and finding sustainable farming solutions. In their latest mission update, the Servants of the Good Help just completed their new Mission Center for the community they are serving.

Their new Infant of Prague Retreat Center for the Servants of the Good Help is able to house 120 people in dormitory-style living spaces. In addition to this, their new multi-purpose building is able to offer a professional-grade kitchen, medical clinic, and multifunctional space that can be used as a dining hall, learning and assistance space, and chapel for Mass.

Our Lady's instruction to Adele fostered her love of evangelization and catechesis within the Northeastern Wisconsin Community. Now, inspired by Our Lady's same words, the Schmidt Family and the Servants of the Good Help are sharing this same good news with the

most unreached regions of Peru. To learn more about their mission, you can visit **thegoodhelp.com**.

May God continue to bless them on their mission and may Our Lady forever keep them close to her son, Jesus Christ.

Our Lady of Good Help, Our Lady of Champion, Pray for us!



INTERESTED IN STAYING UP TO DATE ON
UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS AT THE SHRINE?

Sign up for "Under Her Mantle" The Shrine's new monthly email update!

To sign up, scan this QR Code or visit championshrine.org/stay-in-touch



PILGRIMAGE CORNER

A Pilgrimage Season to Remember

by Kathy Ciha, Pilgrimage Coordinator

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother was celebrated on August 15 with nearly 2,500 in attendance. The Eucharistic Rosary Procession after Mass encircled filled the rosary path and we sold out of burgers and hotdogs for the family picnic that followed.

The season finished with the long-awaited event of the year, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion, on October 9. October 7 started the weekend off with the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary. We enrolled over 150 people in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary on Saturday, bringing our total to over 12,000 since our first enrollment in 2021. Sunday, we were Blessed to have Archbishop ListECKi celebrate the 11:00 a.m. mass with over 800 pilgrims in attendance. That evening, over 1,200 Miracle of the Fire Candles illuminated the rosary path with intentions from pilgrims around the world.

After months of planning, the Inaugural Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion was upon us! The day started out at a brisk 40 degrees. As early as 8 a.m., pilgrims started arriving at the Shrine to get a seat for the Outdoor Mass behind the Apparition

Chapel. A traditional rosary procession was led around the grounds as people started filling in the grassy space. The beautiful choir sang hymns leading up to the Mass, and right before the opening procession, an incredible sun phenomenon took place for all to see! Five bishops, 45 priests, 25 servers, and 3,500 pilgrims participated in the Mass! The first reading was proclaimed in Walloon, the spoken language of Adele Brise. Bishop Ricken gave a beautiful homily based on the message of the Blessed Mother to Adele, and following Mass, a meal was served for all in attendance in Mother of Mercy Hall.

A Year of Blessings

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion had a very blessed year! To date, the Shrine has served 225 pilgrim groups, which consisted of 74 parishes, 29 schools, and many religious and private pilgrimages. A significant increase was seen in the number of pilgrims coming on buses this year. Most buses were at full capacity of 40 or more. Mother of Mercy Hall was a great place to host these pilgrimage groups, which allowed space for private Masses, history talks, and lunches.



If interested in bringing a bus of pilgrims, be sure to connect with the pilgrimage office to arrange your visit.

You can reach us by emailing kciha@championshrine.org or calling 920-866-2571 ext 113.

The Shrine hosted 5 major conferences, which began with the Esto Vir Men of Christ in March, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and the Shrine's second Marian Conference held in May, the Order of Malta in August, Flame of Love in September, and the Green Bay Diocese's "All School Mass" consisting of over 750 students from Grades 1-12. The Flame of Love saw its largest attendance of 400 people, since the start of hosting their Conference 4 years ago!

The pilgrimages and retreats held at the Shrine exemplified the mission of the Shrine: to bring pilgrims closer to God through our Blessed Mother.

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion continues to spread the message and mission entrusted to Adele by our Blessed Mother. This holy place serves as a place of refuge, where pilgrims come to find peace, protection, and growth in their faith. May the mission continue in 2024!



Looking Back

August 12, 2023 | Truly Alive - A Blessed Carlo High School Youth Day

Blessed Carlo's Youth Day at the Shrine gathered over 230 high school students from around the Green Bay Diocese and beyond for a day of prayer and fellowship. Students heard from great speakers like Jonathan Blevins, Fr. Joseph Aytona, Fr. Ben Pribbenow, and Fr. Mark Vandersteeg – all who spoke on Blessed Carlo's love of the Eucharist, Mary, and Confession. This event will be offered annually for high school students – to stay up to date on the next conference, visit championshrine.org/youth-day!



August 15, 2023 | Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Nearly 2,500 pilgrims from all over the country came to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption at Champion Shrine. Although the week leading up to August 15 was very rainy, a breeze came through the night before and dried up the land around the Shrine. Many commented on the clear-blue skies and mild temperature. Overall, it was a beautiful day to celebrate Our Blessed Mother!



September 16, 2023 | Belgian Harvest Festival

The Belgian Harvest Festival welcomed pilgrimage groups looking to learn more about the rich Belgian heritage surrounding the Shrine. Tractors and harvest items were blessed while visitors enjoyed traditional chicken booyah and Belgian desserts! A special thank you to the Belgian Heritage Center for bringing the many exhibits for pilgrims to experience.

October 7 & 8, 2023 | Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and Anniversary of the Great 1871 Fire

The Shrine's weekend leading up to the Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion saw thousands of visitors to the Shrine. On the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, hundreds of pilgrims were enrolled in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary and a beautiful rosary procession was led by Fr. Joseph Aytona. On October 8, the Shrine commemorated the anniversary of the Great 1871 Fire with an evening candlelit rosary procession. A record number of Miracle of the Fire candles were lit around the grounds, representing prayer intentions shared with the Shrine from around the world.



October 9, 2023 | The Inaugural Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion

This year the Shrine celebrated the first Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion on the grounds of the Shrine. Five Bishops, 45 priests, and 3,500 pilgrims were in attendance for the outdoor Mass behind the Apparition Chapel! It was a historic day for the Shrine. Those who were present for the celebrations shared how much they enjoyed the peaceful and beautiful day!



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 23, 2023

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Join Champion Shrine on a day of thanksgiving for all of God's blessings. Mass begins at 11 am!

December 9, 2023

Rorate Caeli Mass – Advent Candlelit Mass and Breakfast

Rorate Caeli, Latin for "Drop down, ye heavens," is an ancient liturgy celebrated in Advent to honor Our Lady. Mass begins at 6:30am with candles lighting the Chapel and continues as the sun rises, representing Mary through whom Light was brought into the world. A hot breakfast and Advent reflection will follow Mass. It's a wonderful opportunity to gather loved ones and share in the Eucharist, a meal, Advent reflection, and special tradition! Reserve your seat or host a table for 10 by emailing kciha@championshrine.org.

December 17-25, 2023

Novena for the Nativity of Our Lord

Join the Shrine in praying its annual Novena for the Nativity of Our Lord. Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find the prayer to Our Lady of Champion and a card in which you can include your prayer intentions for this Novena. For those interested in receiving a daily novena prayer reminder via email, visit championshrine.org/novenas.

December 24 & 25, 2023

Christmas Eve and Day Masses

The Shrine's celebration of our Lord's birth begins on December 24 with the National Shrine's midnight Mass, beginning at 11:59 pm. Christmas Mass during the day will be celebrated at 11 am with a Family Holy Hour and Lectio Divina following Mass.



Before making any plans to visit, please check the "Latest News" Section of our website at www.championshrine.org for the most up-to-date schedule and current guidelines.

Last Saturday of Each Month

Eucharistic Healing Service

After 11 am Mass every last Saturday of the Month, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and presented among the faithful. This is followed by the Anointing of the Sick for those needing the Sacrament. The upcoming Eucharistic Healing Services will be held on November 25, December 30, and January 27.

On the 9th of Every Month

Anniversary Day of the Apparition

Every 9th of the Month, the Shrine celebrates the day that Mary appeared to Adele with an Anointing of the Sick blessing for those who need the Sacrament. Mass begins at 11 am.

November through April

Eucharistic Family Holy Hour with Guided Lectio

To emphasize the Catholic Church's call for Eucharistic Revival, the National Shrine will now have a Eucharistic Family Holy Hour with Guided Lectio from the Fathers of Mercy. The holy hour will occur after 11 am Mass every Sunday from November through April. This will take the place of the Shrine's outdoor Rosary Procession during the winter.



GIFT SHOP AND CAFÉ

Holiday Gratitude from the Shrine

By Andy Herson, Gift Shop and Operations Manager

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Advent Seasons with the anticipation of Jesus’ birth, I am reminded of how thankful we are that we have a blessed space of prayer and reflection at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion.

This past October, we celebrated the First Solemnity of Our Lady Of Champion here at the Shrine. The number of Pilgrims was incredible, and the graces received by many will be remembered for years!

So, as we pause to thank God and prepare for Jesus’ birth through the Advent Season, take some time to foster a sense of gratitude and bring that to our Blessed Mother, who can help all of us live with more grateful hearts and minds



GIFT SHOP & CAFÉ HOURS

920-866-2571 ext 101

Mon.-Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sundays 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

– CLOSED –

Thanksgiving Day, the Friday
after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day,
New Year’s Eve, & New Year’s Day

Share Something from the Shrine with Your Loved Ones

We are excited to add some additional items to the Shrine Gift Shop for our Pilgrims to help share the mission of the Shrine this holiday season. One of the new items we have this year for Christmas is our exclusive Our Lady of Champion Christmas cards, sold only at the National Shrine. These cards consist of some of our favorite scenes from the Shrine’s grounds – and have space for you to add your own note of glad tidings to your loved ones!



WHEN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

WHAT TIME	
6:30 AM	MASS
7:30 AM	ROSARY
8:15 AM	BREAKFAST
9:15 AM	ADVENT REFLECTION
10:00 AM	CLOSING

WHAT IS A RORATE CAELI MASS?

Rorate Caeli is Latin for “Drop down, ye heavens” and are the opening words from Isaiah 45:8.

A Rorate Caeli Mass is traditionally celebrated just before dawn in Advent as a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Mass is only lit by candles, representing Mary’s role in bringing the Light of the World into the darkness of the world.



HOSTING A TABLE

If you would like to host a table by inviting family and friends (8 to 10 people) – please email kciha@championshrine.org by November 24th. \$100.00 per table.

BREAKFAST TABLE THEME

If you are interested in hosting a table, we encourage you to decorate it with the annual theme: Candles
Theme: Candles!

INDIVIDUALS WELCOME!

If wishing to attend on your own - a \$10.00 fee per person is appreciated. Please register by email to kciha@championshrine.org by December 1st!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A Season of Gratitude and Giving

By Debbie Mercier, Pilgrimage/Volunteer Coordinator

Thanksgiving and Christmas are popular volunteer giving seasons, a time for goodwill and giving back. This is the time of year many find it within their hearts to donate food and other useful items or visit those who are away from their families. Volunteering at this beautiful time of year will put warmth in our hearts and positively impact the lives of many.

At the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, the season of giving doesn't only occur during Thanksgiving and Christmas, the kindness and generosity of the many volunteers who give of their time and talent happens all year round. It is through this generous giving that the message and mission of Our Blessed Mother given to Adele lives on. It is through this continuous and generous giving that warms the hearts of the pilgrims who visit, giving them a welcoming sense of peace and healing.

As we approach this wonderful and heartwarming time of year, may we find it within our hearts to give, to visit, and most importantly, to gather and give thanks to God for His bountiful blessings given all year through the birth of Jesus!



Learn how you can support the Shrine and its mission through volunteering.

Visit our website at championshrine.org/volunteer

Or contact our
Volunteer Coordinator
at 920-866-2571x123
or via email at
volunteer@championshrine.org

*Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good;
His love endures forever*

Psalm 118:1



FUND DEVELOPMENT

A Year Filled with Many Blessings

By: Kelsey Dorner, Development Director

As we approach the end of another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many blessings we have received at the National Shrine. We were blessed to welcome almost 200,000 pilgrims from around the world to the National Shrine this past year. Many sought a refuge where they could experience the comfort and healing that could only come through their encounter with Jesus in the Sacraments. Through intercessory prayers to our Blessed Mother, countless graces have been received in various forms.

Generosity Abounds

We were also blessed with the generous support of so many individuals and organizations this past year. With their help, the Shrine completed several

projects, like the main bathroom renovation project, the addition of two new confessionals in Mother and Mercy Hall, and the new landscaping around the Stations of the Cross area. Generous donors also helped fund the purchase of many items needed around the grounds, like six candle stands for the Apparition Oratory, a new tabernacle for Mother of Mercy Hall, and liturgical items for Mass.

Giving of Oneself

We continue to be blessed by the generosity of our volunteers. Their dedication and kindness make it possible for the Shrine to welcome pilgrims daily. Volunteers help throughout the grounds, from the gift shop to serving at Mass to helping at special events throughout

the year. Their devotion inspires us, and we ask that you join us in thanking our wonderful volunteers anytime you visit the grounds.

Join the Mission!

As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain committed to ensuring the National Shrine remains a beacon of hope for all pilgrims who visit. If you would like to help the Shrine continue the mission that Mary gave Adele all those years ago, to foster conversion, teach the children, and minister to the sick and old, we ask that you consider making a year-end donation or volunteering your time. Visit our website www.championshrine.org/give to learn how you can join the mission and answer Mary's call!





Adele's Wish List

Adele Brise was a visionary who had an unwavering faith in Jesus to help her carry out the mission entrusted to her by the Queen of Heaven here at Champion.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the countless stories of miraculous last-minute wishes for help and assistance granted to Adele. Be it food for the orphaned children, money to keep the school open for classes or to ensure the Chapel could be kept open and running, Adele would express her wish in the form of a prayer and put her faith in Jesus and His Mother to enlist foot soldiers in faith here on earth to provide.

In the spirit of that faith and trust, we humbly put forward "Adele's Wish List" for those items most needed by the Shrine at this time. To sponsor an item through a donation, simply send your check to our mailing address or go to our website and click "Make a Gift". If you would like to donate anonymously, please call (920) 866-2571 ext. 125.

Thank you and may God bless you!

Items Needed

- Chasuble with Inner Stole (\$160)
- Book of the Gospels (\$199)
- Tree for the Shrine Grounds (\$400)
- Bishop Lavabo Pitcher & Bowl (\$445)
- Processional Torches (\$605)
- Shrine Represented at the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress (\$4,500)
- New Our Lady of Champion Main Entrance Sign (\$6,900)
- Rosary Pathway Sound Upgrade (\$25,000)
- Inaugural Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion Mass & Social Gathering Special Day of Needs (\$65,000)

All donations made to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion are tax deductible, as permitted by law. Donations will be used, at the discretion of the organization, to further the purpose indicated by the donor.



DONATION FORM

Please fill out the following form and mail along with your check to:

The Shrine of Our Lady of Champion
4047 Chapel Drive
New Franken, WI 54229

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Phone Number

Email

Donation Amount \$

☐ General Donation

☐ Adele's Wish List

☐ Please contact me about including
The Shrine in my will or estate plan,
listing the Shrine as a life insurance
beneficiary or the sale of stock

How do you want to be acknowledged?

This newsletter is published by the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion to provide updates and news on the Shrine, continue the mission given to Sister Adele by Our Lady, and share the Catholic faith!

HOURS FOR SHRINE SPIRITUAL LIFE, GIFT SHOP, CAFE AND GROUNDS

Main: 920-866-2571

www.championshrine.org

Check our website for Holiday Schedules

Apparition Chapel, Apparition Oratory, and the Shrine Grounds

Daily 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Mass

Daily & Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday & Saturday 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday 5:45 p.m.

Sunday (May-Oct) 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Daily 10:00 a.m., 12:00 and 2:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:15 a.m.

Devotional Prayer

Rosary..... Daily 10:30 a.m.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy..... Daily 3:00 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Daily Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Fatima Devotions First Saturday after 8:30 a.m. Mass

Healing Service with Anointing of the Sick..... Last Saturday after 11:00 a.m. Mass

Outdoor Rosary Procession Sundays (May-Oct.) 12:00 p.m.

Family Holy Hour with Guided Lectio Divina .. Sundays (Nov.-Apr.) 12:00 p.m.

Adele Brise Day - Ninth of Each Month

Anointing of the Sick..... Immediately after 11:00 a.m. Mass

Gift Shop and Schoolhouse Café

Phone: 920-866-2571 ext 101

Monday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Welcome Center

May – October 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

November – April 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.