

NATIONAL NOVENA – YEAR C

— 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
by Fr. Edward Looney;
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A beautiful icon, written and gifted by the
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IMPRIMATUR:

Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL

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 Brice 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 Brice 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 Brice, 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 Brice 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 intentions related to Mary's message and Adele's life, 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:

FOR THE SICK, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO SUFFER WITH EYE DISORDERS



Today we pray for those who are sick, especially those who suffer with eye disorders. During her childhood, Sister Adele carried the cross of being without one eye because of an accident. Moreover, Adele also had a great concern for the sick. On her death bed she told a close friend, Josie, to be kind to the sick and the old. Today we exercise that kindness by praying for them.

Dear Lady of Champion, I come to you today with complete confidence in your intercession. I bring to you all those who suffer because of illness. I pray especially for those in hospitals and nursing

homes, and for those who have no one to visit them. Grant them peace in their suffering. I pray also for those who suffer from any sort of eye disorder, be it cataracts, glaucoma, or blindness. As the sick bear these crosses in their lives, I pray that they will unite their suffering to the cross of Christ for the salvation of the world.

For us too, dear Lady, please intercede. Ask the Lord to give us the grace to respond generously to those in need by our prayers, help, and support. Through your intercession, Mary, may the Lord bestow blessings upon those who work in hospitals and nursing homes as they care for the sick and the suffering, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See page 29 for additional prayers.

DAY 2: FOR IMMIGRANTS



Today we pray for all immigrants to the United States. In 1854, Lambert and Catherine Brice decided to immigrate to the United States and settle in Red River, Wisconsin. They came seeking a better life, and it was here in the United States, in Champion, Wisconsin, where Our Lady appeared to a Belgian immigrant.

Dear Lady of Champion, I come to you today with complete confidence in your intercession. I bring to you all those who have had to leave their native country and seek refuge and asylum here in the United States. Some have come in order to work and send money back home to care for their families

and others come with the hope of a better life. As they suffer separation from their families, grant them peace of mind. Help them to obtain all the necessities of life and proper care and treatment. Through your intercession, Mary, may the Lord bestow blessings upon these immigrants and their families, through Christ our Lord. Amen

See page 29 for additional prayers.

DAY 3: FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS



Today we pray for the conversion of sinners. On October 9, 1859, Our Lady told Adele that she was the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners. She exhorted Adele to do the same by offering her Holy Communion for that intention. We, too, are called to this mission of prayer, prayer for ourselves and the whole world.

O Mary, you are the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners; please pray for me, my family, my friends, and the world. The lure of evil is all around us, consistently tempting us to sin and break God's commandments. You have appeared throughout time to remind us about your Son and

His immense love and mercy. You echo the Gospel call to repentance and invite us to return to a more regular practice of the sacraments of the Church. Please pray for our world that we will return to the ways of God. Through your intercession, may sinners be granted the desire to turn away from sin and embrace the message of the Gospel.

O Mary, you are the Lady of Champion; help us, in our time of temptation, to turn toward Jesus and away from sin. This day I offer my prayer for the conversion of sinners and I make reparation for the sins I have committed and for those of the whole world. Through your intercession, Mary, may sinners be granted the desire for conversion, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See page 29 for additional prayers.

DAY 4: FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Today we pray for Catholic schools and religious education programs, for their teachers and catechists. In addition to praying for the conversion of sinners, Our Lady told Adele to gather the children and teach them their catechism. To this end, Adele founded a Catholic school in order to fulfill this mission. She was a teacher of the Catholic faith to many young people. Let us pray today for those involved in the work of catechesis.

O Queen of Heaven, you told Adele to gather the children and teach them their catechism. I pray today for all programs of religious instruction in

Catholic schools and religious education programs, especially for their teachers and catechists. Through your intercession, may those who make decisions for these institutions always keep in mind their Catholic identity. Let their goal be the promotion of Catholic teaching that is faithful to the Magisterium. Please ask your Son to grant a rich harvest of teachers and catechists who love their Catholic faith and ardently desire to share it with young people. Make them effective teachers of the Gospel. Through your intercession, Mary, may Catholic schools and religious education programs be blessed with an abundance of students, teachers, and catechists, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See page 29 for additional prayers.

DAY 5: FOR STUDENTS



Gathering the children was the instruction given to Adele by Our Lady. Today we pray for students, that they may be open to the gift of faith.

O Lady of Champion, today I entrust to your intercession all students of Catholic schools and religious education programs. Please ask Jesus to open their hearts to the teachings of the Church. Please wrap your mantle of protection around our young people. Keep them safe from the danger of sin and the enticement of evil. Help them to fall deeper in love with Jesus and the Church. Through your

intercession, Mary, may young people be granted the desire to follow Jesus in their daily lives, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See page 29 for additional prayers.

DAY 6: FOR FAMILIES



Today we pray for families. Adele was blessed to have the support of her parents after the apparition. Her father helped to build the first chapels commemorating Our Lady's apparitions. Let us pray for holy families.

O Lady of Champion, today I bring to you the families of the world. Today there are so many broken families. Divorce is rampant, husbands and wives are unfaithful to each other, single parenthood is on the rise, and there are fatherless homes, among so many other problems. The family is under attack. Please intercede especially for any families I know that are going through a difficult time. Help them to overcome their difficult situation. O Mary, please

pray for the sanctification of families. May family prayer once again be a part of each household. Through your intercession, Mary, may there be many holy families and from those families, vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See page 29 for additional prayers.

DAY 7: FOR PRIESTS



Today we pray for priests. Through Adele's life, she worked closely with priests. It was under the guidance of Fr. Verhoef that Adele founded a tertiary group of Franciscan sisters. After Adele had prepared individuals for the sacraments of Confession and Eucharist, she presented them to a priest for admission to the sacraments. When approached by the bishop, she obediently followed his directive. Whenever she encountered a perplexing situation, be it her immigration to the United States or the mysterious woman she had seen twice, she sought out the guidance of the local priest.

O Lady of Champion, today I bring to your intercession all priests and bishops. It was by your fiat, your yes, that we were given our eternal priest, Jesus Christ. We pray for our priests, that they will conform their lives to the will of God through obedience to their bishop and the Magisterium. May they be men of prayer who are dedicated to serving the Lord and the people entrusted to their care. In times of loneliness and doubt, grant them comfort and peace in knowing that they are doing God's will. Through your intercession, Mary, may all priests be granted the grace of a missionary heart and zeal for souls, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See page 29 for additional prayers.

DAY 8:
FOR THE RETURN OF THOSE AWAY
FROM THE SACRAMENTS AND
FOR A RENEWED RELIGIOUS FERVOR



Today we pray for the return of those away from the sacramental life of the Church and for a renewed religious fervor among the Catholic faithful. Adele was instructed to make a general confession and offer her communion for the conversion of sinners. She was called to participate in the sacramental life of the Church and to bring others to the sacraments through catechesis. Adele was also told to gather the children and teach them how to approach the sacraments.

O Lady of Champion, today I entrust to your intercession those who are away from the practice of their Catholic faith and for a renewal of religious fervor among all Catholics. Throughout all your many appearances, you have always directed your children to the sacraments. Often at these holy sites, people return to the sacrament of Penance, perhaps after being away for many years. There is a spiritual hunger in our world that can only be satiated by Christ, the sacraments, and the Word of God.

O Mary, please touch the hearts of all those who have fallen away from the sacraments; grant them the desire for Confession so that they can worthily receive your Son again in the Eucharist. O Mary, please pray also for a renewed religious fervor among the Catholic faithful. May we never take the sacraments for granted, especially the Eucharist,

and may we always receive your Son worthily in Holy Communion. Please accept my prayers as reparation for those who receive the Eucharist without examining their conscience. Through your intercession, Mary, may God's holy people realize again the treasure of the sacraments of the Church, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See page 29 for additional prayers.

DAY 9: FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATIONS



Today we pray for the New Evangelization that the popes of the modern era have initiated. In the Gospel of Matthew, before His ascension, Jesus instructed the disciples to “Go forth and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” This is the call to spread the faith and evangelize our world. Juan Diego evangelized an entire country, Adele Brice evangelized the area around the Door Peninsula, and today we are called to bear witness to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to those around us.

O Queen of Heaven, you appeared in the New World to Juan Diego and gave him the tilma—your image. Through this miraculous image, millions of Native Americans converted to the Catholic faith. To Adele Brice, you gave a blue print for catechesis—gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they need to know for salvation, their catechism, how to sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments.

O Mary, you have been hailed as the Star of the New Evangelization. Guide the Church as she embarks on this mission of spreading the Gospel. May the Lord bless the Church's laborers and those to whom she ministers. Grant to them, through your intercession, receptivity to the message of Christ. Open their hearts and their minds to the Gospel. O Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, please pray

for the Church, and through your intercession may many more members be added to her flock, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See page 29 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**

