

The magazine of The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion

CHAMPION

"I AM THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN."

championshrine.org | 2026 Issue 2



2026 ISSUE 2

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The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion

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God's peace to you!

It has been an exciting 2026 here at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. Adele Brice was named "Servant of God" in January, and the response by pilgrims to this news has been edifying, to say the least.

I see pilgrims praying at her grave on a regular basis, asking her to pray for their special intentions. Though we are only at the beginning of the investigation in to her life, Adele's story inspires the many who come and visit The Shrine. We began July with our Catholic Saints of America exhibit inspiring many to learn about the numerous holy Americans and how they helped shape America.

As we look forward to the rest of this year, there are several events that I would like to encourage pilgrims to take part in. The first being the Solemnity of the Assumption on Aug. 15. This tradition is one of the oldest here at The Shrine, and it was begun in 1861 by Servant of God Adele Brice herself.

In October, we also remember in a special way Our Lady's 1859 Apparitions. These days will be especially meaningful, as thousands of faithful throughout the country join The Shrine in prayer during the National Novena to Our Lady of Champion.

On Oct. 7, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary, a fitting day to gather in prayer here at The Shrine. The Rosary has always held a special place in the life of The Shrine and in the message entrusted to Adele.

On Oct. 8, we commemorate the Miracle of the Fire. This day is always a powerful reminder of Our Lady's protection and of the faith of those who sought refuge on these holy grounds. We are also grateful to partner with the Belgian Heritage Center to highlight the Belgian heritage of Servant of God Adele Brice and of the families and communities who surrounded The Shrine in its earliest days.

On Oct. 9, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion. This day brings the National Novena to a close and gives us another opportunity to honor Our Lady, thank God for the gift of her apparition here, and pray for the many pilgrims who continue to come to Champion seeking peace and healing.

As more pilgrims make their way to The Shrine throughout the remainder of this year, we look forward to welcoming them with the hospitality, prayer, and sacramental life that have always been at the heart of this holy place. May every pilgrim who comes here encounter the peace of Christ, the motherly care of Our Lady of Champion, and the encouragement to go forth, as Adele did, to teach the faith and draw souls closer to God.

Please know of our prayers for you and your intentions, and we hope to welcome you to The Shrine in the months ahead.

F. Anthony M. Stephens, CPM

Father Anthony Stephens, CPM



MADE NEW

The Veterans Grotto has been beautifully restored and updated thanks to the hard work of Ben Mathys of Troop 1173 (Boys) and Troop 6173 (Girls). His thoughtful and well-done project honors our veterans and helps create a peaceful place of prayer and remembrance for all who visit.



“Our Lady’s Perfect

BY FATHER ANTHONY
STEPHENS, CPM

S T. FRANCIS DE SALES ONCE WROTE, “GOD SO LOVES HUMILITY, THAT WHENEVER HE SEES IT, HE IS IMMEDIATELY DRAWN THERE.” IS IT ANY WONDER THAT GOD WAS DRAWN TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY? SHE WAS PERFECTLY HUMBLE.

C.S. Lewis



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What is humility? Humility is knowing the truth about yourself as you stand before God. Humility is the virtue that helps you know the truth about your strengths and weaknesses. C.S. Lewis

once wrote, “A humble man will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.” In other words, the truly humble man or woman is busy fulfilling God’s will. In the case of the Blessed Virgin Mary, She was deeply in love with God and His plan. She never became proud of the fact that she was called to be the Mother of God. She did not stay in Nazareth with the expectation that she should be treated with privilege.

The sin of pride is opposed to the virtue of humility. St. Thomas Aquinas defined pride as a disorder of the will that leads humans to elevate themselves,

desiring an excessive and unfit excellence. This disproportionate self-love leads us to seek self-sufficiency, separating ourselves from God and others.

St. John Vianney, the Curé of Ars, who was often harassed by the devil, once related something the devil said to him. “I can do everything you do,” said the devil. “I can also do your penances; I can imitate you in everything. There is one thing, however, that I cannot do; I cannot imitate you in humility.” The devil’s pride prevented him from being humble. He said, “I will not serve.” What a stark contrast to the decision of Mary, who took Jesus out and went to serve Her cousin Elizabeth as soon as possible.

God will aid us in rebuking the devil and combatting our pride with prayers for humility. Humility makes us like the Lord Jesus, who “humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a

St. John Vianney



By George Deshayes, Public Domain

cross.” (Phil 2:8) We may fear the humiliations that inevitably help us grow in humility, but Our Lady will help us through our fears, if we just ask for Her help.

“
... the truly
humble man
or woman is
busy fulfilling
God’s will.”

St. Francis de Sales



By Benjamin Casarido, Public Domain

Humility”



WALK TO
MARY

Steps of Faith

Everyone has a different reason for why they do the Walk to Mary.

As Father Rocky, a co-founder, often says while expressing why people should sign up for the Walk to Mary: “If you want a house, if you want a spouse, if you want a baby, don’t say maybe!” The phrase encourages people to place their trust in prayer, and it has inspired many to take part in the annual Walk to Mary.

Over the years, we have heard countless stories of prayers offered and prayers answered during the 22-mile walking pilgrimage. But for the Jedwabny family, the visit was not about asking for something: it was about giving thanks.

In 2024, 15-year-old Brett Jedwabny suffered a traumatic brain injury in a power washer accident. His father, Tyler Jedwabny, recalled that Brett needed an emergency craniotomy before being flown to Children’s Hospital in Milwaukee. The freak accident cracked Brett’s eye socket and sent debris into his brain, damaging part of his right frontal lobe.

By God’s divine providence, Brett’s mother, Nicole, who was supposed to be away from home, unexpectedly returned just in time to call for help.

Even with immediate care from first responders and emergency surgery, they were told Brett would not live another 24 hours. His family and community turned to prayer, especially the Rosary. Brett’s former classmates and their families at St. Pius X Parish in Appleton immediately gathered to pray. They prayed the Rosary, a prayer Tyler admitted he had not been very familiar with at the time.

Brett survived those first 24 hours, and many more after that.

Later, a doctor told Brett’s parents, “It’s written right in his chart: ‘No medical explanation why he’s alive.’”



Since then, the Jedwabny family has prayed the Rosary every night as they navigate a new future with Brett. This year, they came to The Shrine and led the Children’s Walk, the 1.7-mile option, in thanksgiving, praying the Rosary, Brett’s favorite prayer.

While about to cross the finish line at The Shrine, in a powerful moment of grace, Brett stood up from his wheelchair and walked the final steps, holding his father’s hand.

We often seek prayers to be answered, but how often do we remember to thank Our Mother for her care for us?

With each step, the Jedwabny family were witnesses to others of their faith and answered prayers. They came here to Her Shrine to thank our Blessed Mother for the grace they received.

People Magazine

The Jedwabny family’s inspiring journey during Walk to Mary was featured in People magazine.

[Read the full story here](#)



Save the date!

The next Walk to Mary is May 1, 2027.
[Learn more here!](#)



12 HOURS *for* OUR LADY

BY KIM MAY, VOLUNTEER & EVENTS COORDINATOR

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CHAMPION WELCOMED A MEANINGFUL AND HISTORIC VISIT FROM THE LIFE-SIZE STATUE OF THE PILGRIM MOTHER, OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE. THE STATUE, WHICH ORIGINATES FROM THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE IN MEXICO CITY, IS TRAVELING AS PART OF A WORLDWIDE TOUR IN PREPARATION FOR THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE'S APPARITIONS TO ST. JUAN DIEGO ON TEPEYAC HILL IN 1531.

For pilgrims visiting The Shrine, the experience carried special significance. Here, at the site of the only approved Marian Apparition in the United States, the arrival of Our Lady of Guadalupe created a powerful spiritual connection between two sacred Marian Apparition sites.

Behind the scenes, this sacred atmosphere was supported by the generous hands of more than 150 joyful volunteers.

Among the many who helped facilitate the historic visit, there were 11 students from Skutt Catholic High School in Omaha, Nebraska, led by Deacon Bart Zavaletta. The group made a pilgrimage to The Shrine during their spring break. After driving all day from Omaha and sleeping on the floor of a school, they arrived, ready to volunteer as greeters, guides, and ushers.

In a beautiful tribute to Our Lady of Guadalupe, they chose to work 12 hours that day in honor of her feast day, Dec. 12. This was not something asked of them. It was something they wanted to do. A touching tribute to our Blessed Mother.



At The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, the visit of Our Lady of Guadalupe was more than a stop on a tour. It was a meeting of Marian Apparitions, a bridge between nations, and a call to renewed faith made even more beautiful by the volunteers who served with open hearts for their Blessed Mother.



Volunteer

Can you give even an hour to Our Lady?

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion is always seeking volunteers to assist our 200,000 visitors each year.

If you want to share your gifts with The Shrine, visit championshrine.org/volunteer or contact volunteer@championshrine.org.



Lights, Camera, ADELE

Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) arrived with cameras, a crew, and a mission: to share the story of Our Lady's message and the life of Servant of God Adele Brice with viewers across the country.

In just one day of filming, EWTN captured two full television episodes. The first will be featured on "Hidden Gems," a program that highlights sacred places of beauty and faith. This episode will focus on The Shrine itself: the holy ground where the Blessed Mother appeared.

The second episode will air as part of "They Might Be Saints," hosted by Michael O'Neill, known to many as "The Miracle Hunter." This episode will turn its focus to Servant of God Adele Brice, her simple faith, humble obedience, her mission to teach the faith, and her path toward sainthood.

The timing of EWTN's visit could not have been more meaningful and providential. Since Servant of God Adele Brice officially began her path to sainthood this past

January, important work for the Cause has begun. The inquiry's officials for her Cause for Canonization have taken their oaths and are now hard at work uncovering the life, witness, and spiritual fruits of Adele Brice. Through letters, testimonies, and historical records, they are gaining a deeper understanding of her holiness.

Bishop David L. Ricken, Father Anthony Stephens, CPM, and many others were interviewed, sharing testimonies about Adele's life and the process of making a Saint.

UPDATE ON THE CAUSE

Recently, a powerful line from a translated letter book of Adele's, transcribed by one of her companions, was rediscovered: *"We must submit ourselves to the holy will of the Good God."*

Those words still echo today. In this first year of the Cause, prayer and growing devotion remain essential. With EWTN's visit, Adele's story and Our Lady's message will now reach countless homes, inviting hearts everywhere to listen, pray, and trust in the holy will of God.



Tune In

These special episodes will air this October, around the anniversary dates of the Apparition. Stay tuned for more details, and be sure to watch.

**Support Servant
of God Adele
Brice's Cause for
Canonization here!**



Family of prayer

Inside the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary

For centuries, Catholics have turned to the Rosary as a powerful prayer. According to tradition, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Dominic in 1214, presenting him with the Rosary and encouraging its use as a spiritual weapon against heresy. Since then, the Dominican Order has helped spread the Rosary throughout the world, inviting the faithful to walk with Mary through the mysteries of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

One of the most beautiful fruits of this devotion is the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary, a spiritual association of the Catholic Church more than 500 years old. Its members strive to pray the Rosary each week, while also praying for the intentions of all other members, living and deceased. This commitment does not constitute a sin if you forget for a week or stop; rather, it unites each member with a worldwide family of prayer.

St. John Vianney captured the beauty of the Confraternity when he said, "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."

The Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7, a feast rooted in the dramatic Battle of Lepanto in 1571. At that time, Christian Europe faced a serious threat from

the Ottoman fleet. Pope St. Pius V called the faithful to pray the Rosary, asking for Mary's intercession. Against all odds, the Christian fleet won the battle on Oct. 7, and the victory was attributed to Our Lady's help. The feast became Our Lady of the Rosary originally known as The Feast of Our Lady of Victory, to remind us that the Rosary is not a passive prayer but a confident act of faith.

Here at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, the Rosary holds a special place in our heart and mission. Servant of God Adele Brice and the local faithful prayed the Rosary the night of the Peshtigo Fire, just as they did during the Battle of Lepanto asking for Mary's intercession.

Five years ago, in 2021, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, a sodality of the Rosary Confraternity was established at The Shrine by the Dominican Order,



Par Yvelkroyade, Travail personnel, CC BY-SA 4.0

granting the rector of The Shrine the ability to enroll new members into the Confraternity. Since then, on the first Sunday of each month, pilgrims have been invited to enroll and become part of this global family of prayer.

Since that first enrollment, only five years ago, The Shrine is now celebrating the enrollment of our 20,000th member. That means 20,000 people connected to The Shrine are committed to praying the Rosary and lifting up the intentions of countless brothers and sisters throughout the world.

On Oct. 7, we will celebrate with an enrollment in the Rosary Confraternity, a Rosary procession, and more. It will be a day of gratitude, prayer, and joyful celebration not only of a number, but a reminder that the Rosary is powerful.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!



Participate

Join the Confraternity
of the Most Holy
Rosary today!



“
SAVE US FROM THE
FIRES OF HELL.”

BY FATHER ZACHERY FELDKER, CPM

October is a very memorable time of the year! It is the month dedicated to the Rosary, and it is full of cool crisp evenings, playoff baseball, and several prominent feast days. Here at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, October is made especially venerable by the anniversary of the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who revealed herself as the Queen of Heaven to Servant of God Adele Brice on Oct. 9, 1859.

Twelve years later, on Oct. 8, 1871, The Great (Peshtigo) Fire, the deadliest fire in American history, ravaged Northeast Wisconsin, and burnt millions of acres. The fire's flames were like a fiery tornado, leaving catastrophe everywhere in its path.

The people of the surrounding areas knew of Adele and the apparition here at The Shrine and came seeking Our Lady's protection. As the fire burned all around The Shrine, they knew only a miracle would save them. Throughout the night, together with Adele

Brice, they processed around the grounds praying for divine intervention, just as the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho. But instead of blowing trumpets and carrying the Ark of the Covenant, the refugees from the flames prayed the Rosary while carrying a statue of Our Lady, who is the Ark of the New Covenant.

In the morning, the miracle they hoped for arrived. On Oct. 9, 1871, rainfall came. Although the fire had reached the outer side of the fence posts and destruction was all around, all who



*“Save us
from the
fires of
hell.”*

sought Our Lady’s protection were left unharmed. After the fire, as one account puts it, the holy grounds stood out as “an emerald isle in a sea of ash.”

Following in the footsteps of those who fled from the flaming

inferno to the protection of the Blessed Virgin, The National Shrine of our Lady of Champion hosts an annual all-night vigil on Oct. 8 during which pilgrims process and pray the Rosary.

Before I was called to become a priest and enter the Fathers of Mercy, I was blessed to participate in one of these vigils while serving as a SPIRITUS missionary. That night, at the conclusion of each decade, as we prayed the Fatima prayer, I found profound meaning in the words: “save us from the fires of hell.”

The memory of keeping vigil that night is among my favorite moments from before I entered religious life. When I moved to Kentucky and began my initial formation, I greatly missed my Wisconsin friends and didn’t think I’d be able to return to Our Lady’s Shrine for quite some time.

How surprised I was, when, in my very first year of formation, our superior announced that we would be traveling to Wisconsin to stay at The Shrine for the final days of the October novena!

Once again, I found myself keeping vigil with Our Lady in the crisp night air alongside dear friends. I count the graces received during that visit as instrumental in encouraging me to persevere in following God’s call.

After being ordained a priest in June 2025, my first priestly assignment in the Fathers of Mercy was to return to Wisconsin as a chaplain for The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. Last October, in my first year as a priest, I found myself yet again keeping vigil with Our Lady, this time at the front of the Rosary procession leading the faithful as we prayed together, “save us from the fires of hell.”



Peshtigo Fire: Refuge in a Field, Copy of an oil painting by Mel Kishner, 1968

IGNITE THE FIRE OF PRAYER

Join us in the prayerful remembrance of the Miracle of the Fire by lighting a Miracle of the Fire candle. As the Rosary Path glows with hundreds of candles, your prayer intention will be placed before Our Lady of Champion and remembered throughout the night during Adoration, Rosaries on the hour, and the Candlelight Rosary Procession.

In 1871, the local faithful turned to Our Lady in trust as The Great (Peshtigo) Fire approached. Their prayers were answered, and the fire stopped just short of where they prayed. Today, your candle becomes part of that same witness of faith, hope, and intercession.



Light a Candle

Share your intention, light a candle, and help ignite a living fire of prayer on this sacred anniversary.

The evening begins at 7 p.m. with the Reading of the Miracle of the Fire in the Apparition Chapel, followed by the Candlelit Eucharistic Rosary Procession at 7:30 p.m. All-night Adoration continues from 8 p.m. to 7:45 a.m., with a walking Rosary prayed every hour. Contact our pilgrimage coordinator at 920.866.2571, ext.113 or pilgrimage@championshrine.org



Many Titles, One Lady

In 2023, The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help officially became The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. For many people, The Shrine is still lovingly known by other names: “The Chapel,” “Robinsonville” or “Our Lady of Good Help.” These names are part of The Shrine’s history, and they remain meaningful to the generations of pilgrims who have prayed here. Still, the name change has led many people to ask: why did The Shrine change its name? Is Our Lady of Champion the same as Our Lady of Good Help? And what does this mean for the faithful who come here seeking Mary’s intercession?

The answer begins with the apparition itself. In October of 1859, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Adele Brice in Champion, Wisconsin. When Our Lady spoke to Adele, she identified herself as the Queen of Heaven. She did not specifically call herself “Our Lady of Good Help.” That title, however, was already a beloved Marian devotion in France and Belgium at the time. Many of the early Catholic settlers in the area brought that devotion with them, and it became closely connected to The Chapel built at the apparition site. In fact, an older version of The Chapel bore the French title Notre-Dame de Bon Secours, meaning Our Lady of Good Help.



This history is beautiful and important. The title “Our Lady of Good Help” reflects the faith of the settlers, the devotion they carried from their homeland, and the trust they placed in Mary’s maternal care. But the title “Our Lady of Champion” points directly to the place where Mary appeared.

In the tradition of the Church, Marian apparitions are often named for the location where Our Lady appeared. We see this in Lourdes, Fatima, Knock, Akita and many other approved apparitions around the world. Following that same tradition, the apparition in Champion, Wisconsin, is now honored under the title Our Lady of Champion.

The name is especially meaningful because of Adele Brice’s own story. Before coming to America, while preparing for her 1st communion, Adele had promised Our Lady that she would serve her in Champion, Belgium. After immigrating to Wisconsin, Adele believed that promise might never be fulfilled. But years later, when the local community petitioned for its own post office, the town took the name Champion, Wisconsin, at Adele’s suggestion. In a providential way, Adele’s promise to serve Our Lady in Champion was fulfilled in this very place.

The 2023 name change also coincided with another major moment in the life of The Shrine: the institution of the Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion. A solemnity is the highest and most important rank of celebration in the Catholic liturgical calendar. While this solemnity is not celebrated universally throughout the Church, The Shrine received approval from the Vatican to celebrate

the anniversary of Our Lady’s Apparition at Champion each year as a local solemnity on Oct. 9.

There is only one Blessed Mother. Mary has appeared throughout history under different titles, in different places, and in ways that speak to the needs of each time and people. As we often say: same Lady, different dress.

The name Our Lady of Champion does not erase The Shrine’s past. Rather, it honors the apparition more clearly, follows the Church’s tradition, and celebrates the holy ground where Mary came as a mother to guide her children to Jesus right here in the United States of America.

That is why every year, on Oct. 9, we celebrate The Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion and honor when heaven touched earth here at our Mother’s Shrine.



Participate

Join us for the Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion on October 9th. Bring your family, parish, or prayer group on pilgrimage for this beautiful day of prayer and celebration.



Contact our pilgrimage coordinator at 920.866.2571, ext.113 or pilgrimage@championshrine.org

GRACE-FILLED GROTTO



ONE YEAR BEFORE OUR LADY APPEARED TO SERVANT OF GOD ADELE BRICE HERE IN CHAMPION, WISCONSIN, THE BLESSED MOTHER APPEARED IN LOURDES, FRANCE, TO ST. BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS IN 1858. LIKE OUR APPARITION IN CHAMPION, THE MESSAGE OF LOURDES CALLED PEOPLE TO PRAYER, PENANCE, AND THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS. SINCE THAT TIME, LOURDES HAS BECOME KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS A PLACE OF GRACE, HEALING, AND RENEWED FAITH.

Here at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, pilgrims also come seeking peace, prayer, and the loving intercession of the Blessed Mother. The Shrine is a refuge for those who seek peace. Throughout the grounds, the grottos offer quiet places for private prayer. One of the most beloved of these sacred spaces is the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, which honors a beloved Marian



► New Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

► Previous Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

apparition and connects The Shrine's story with the grace-filled history of Lourdes.

For many years, the Lourdes Grotto has served as a humble and peaceful place for pilgrims to entrust their needs to Our Lady. Over time, the original stone structure began to crumble, and the statues of Our Lady and St. Bernadette needed restoration after years of exposure to the weather.

Though simple, the grotto had become deeply loved by pilgrims, and its restoration became an important project for The Shrine.

Thus we began this sacred work of restoring this important grotto. A particularly touching part of this restoration came through the generosity of Sister Caritas Marie of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, a longtime

Shrine volunteer. Sister Caritas Marie donated her time and talents to carefully repair and repaint the statues of Our Lady and St. Bernadette, restoring them to their original beauty. Her work not only saved the project thousands of dollars, but it also added a personal and heartfelt tribute to the original grotto and to the generations of pilgrims who have prayed there.

Through the generosity of donors to Adele's Wish List, The Shrine raised the funds needed for the project. It has been beautiful to witness so many people come together to help create a renewed place of prayer on The Shrine grounds. This restored grotto

will continue to offer pilgrims a peaceful place to ask for Our Lady's intercession, and to reflect on the lives of St. Bernadette and Servant of God Adele Brice and the message given to them.

With continued support, the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto will remain a treasured place of prayer for generations to come.



Donate

Help us keep The Shrine a place of prayer and peace.





‘ORDINARY LIVES, EXTRAORDINARY VIRTUE

As we continue to celebrate America’s 250th anniversary in 2026, The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion invited pilgrims to look deeper into the lives of American holy men and women who have and continue to quietly shape the soul of our nation.

BY ASHLEY EBBEN,
COMMUNICATIONS
SPECIALIST

Our Lady’s message was to “gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation.” How fitting that we celebrated the birth of this wild country by assembling children here to learn about the lives of individuals who serve as our best examples of how to get to heaven: the American Saints, Blesseds, Venerables, and Servants of God.

The event included a first-of-its-kind exhibit highlighting American holy men and women who shaped the faith and continue to offer examples of Christian virtue. Pilgrims were also graced with the opportunity to interact with over 37 different shrines, guilds, and causes that traveled across the country to be here at Our Lady’s Shrine and listened to speakers to learn more about various Causes and Saints. Americans from across the nation also joined in communion to pray a Novena

for Our Nation, asking for blessings on its citizens and the prosperity of our nation itself.

While at The Shrine, pilgrims walked through stories of courage, missionary zeal, hidden suffering, priestly sacrifice, family holiness, service to the poor, fidelity in ordinary life, and so much more. The exhibit featured over 76 American Saints and candidates for sainthood, a symbolic number connected to 1776, the year of the birth of our nation. As thousands walked through the timeline and experienced each story, pilgrims were reminded that sanctity in America has never followed only one path. It has taken root in chapels and hospitals, battlefields and classrooms, farms and city streets, religious communities and family homes. Some of the stories were well known. Others were new to many pilgrims. Together, their lives formed a mosaic of American holiness.

“
*We gathered,
we learned,
we prayed,
and now we
are sent out to
become saints
ourselves.”*



A Special Day for Adele

On July 5, pilgrims gathered to remember Servant of God Adele Brice on her 130th anniversary of death. As Adele continues her own journey on the path to sainthood, her life remains a reminder that holiness often begins with simple obedience.

The Catholic Saints of America event was not simply a tribute to the past. It was an invitation to the present. By the end of the nine days, the Catholic Saints of America event had become more than a historical exhibit. It was a reminder that we are in mission territory, and that every generation must receive the Gospel anew. The saints featured in the exhibit lived in different generations and faced different challenges, but each answered the same call to belong completely to Christ. Their lives were not perfect or easy. Some weren't always on a path to holiness. Yet each one allowed grace to take root in the ordinary circumstances of life. This is the greatest lesson these holy men and women offer America today: When ordinary people choose holiness, they can touch the hearts of many.

SUPPORT ADELE'S MISSION

Your generous support helps us carry on Our Lady's mission to teach the faith and share what children should know for salvation. There is no better example of this mission than the lives of the saints, who show us how to live holy lives. Through this Hall of Fame of Holiness, almost 10,000 pilgrims were inspired to follow their example.



All-American Picnic

On July 5, pilgrims were invited to join in community for an All-American Picnic presented by The Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 by Blessed Michael McGivney, an American priest who sought to strengthen men in their faith by providing mutual aid and financial protection.



Photo Album

View beautiful photos from the celebration honoring the Saints of America and Servant of God Adele Brice.



A Note ...

We hope you have enjoyed the second issue of our magazine.

There is so much happening here at The Shrine, and we are grateful to share with you. Each day, we see Our Lady at work in the lives of the pilgrims who visit this holy place. Their stories, prayers, and encounters remind us why the message given here is still so important today.

Our Lady's message was simple, yet powerful: "teach them what they should know for salvation." This magazine is one small part of that mission. Through these pages, we hope to share the story of The Shrine, the life and witness of Servant of God Adele Brice, and the many ways Our Lady continues to draw people to her Son.

No matter where you first saw this magazine — at your parish, on The Shrine grounds, or in your mailbox — if you found this issue meaningful, we encourage you to share it with friends and family. Anyone can sign up to receive the magazine for free at championshrine.org/stay-in-touch.

This newsletter is offered freely to homes because we believe Our Lady's message should be shared as widely as possible. It is our hope that each issue inspires readers to share this message with others.

We hope that in reading this issue, you learned something new and felt drawn closer to Our Lady.

We hope to welcome you to The Shrine soon.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support. They mean more than you know. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact us at media@championshrine.org.

With gratitude,

The Communications Team

Special Events

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

AUG. 15, 11:30 A.M.

One of The Shrine's longest running traditions! Pilgrims from across the country gather to celebrate Mass at 11:30 a.m. on the Solemnity of the Assumption, followed by a historic Eucharistic Rosary procession around the grounds. A picnic lunch will be available for a small fee.

Traveling Saints Relic Tour

OCT. 4 - OCT. 7

We are honored to host 18 sacred relics available for public veneration, including relics of Jesus' manger, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Michael's Stone, St. Philip Neri, St. Charbel, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and St. Dominic de Guzmán, O.P. The relics will remain at The Shrine through October 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

St. Francis Animal Blessing

OCT. 4, 3:30 P.M.

Bring your beloved pets to The Shrine for a special blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Join us on the grounds as we give thanks for God's creatures and ask for St. Francis' intercession over the animals who bring joy, companionship, and love into our lives.

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

OCT. 7, 11:30 A.M.

Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary at The Shrine as we honor Mary and mark a special milestone: five years of the Shrine Rosary Confraternity and more than 20,000 members united in prayer. Join us in gratitude for this growing community devoted to the Rosary and Our Lady's intercession.

Belgian Heritage Day

OCT. 8

Enjoy a day of Belgian heritage at The Shrine with history, booyah, and celebrations honoring the Belgian settlers, including Servant of God Adele Brice. Held just before the anniversary of the Miracle of the Fire, this day invites pilgrims to learn, remember, and celebrate the faith and resilience of The Shrine's earliest community.

Anniversary of the Miracle of the Fire

OCT. 8, 7 P.M.

On the anniversary of the Great Fire of 1871, The Shrine and the Belgian Heritage Center share the story of the Belgian settlers. That evening, thousands of candles light the grounds as the Miracle of the Fire is read aloud at 7 p.m. The night continues with all-night Adoration and hourly Rosary processions by candlelight.

Learn more at championshrine.org/oloc-solemnity.

Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion

OCT. 9, 11:30 A.M.

We celebrate the anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions to Adele Brice in 1859. Observed as a Solemnity at The Shrine, this is a day of highest honor for Our Lady of Champion and the pilgrims who come to commemorate this special moment.

Learn more at championshrine.org/oloc-solemnity.

St. Carlo Acutis Youth Day

OCT. 24

Calling all high school students! Join us for a powerful day to grow in your faith like never before. Spend the day rediscovering the beauty, truth and goodness of the Catholic faith. Confession, Adoration, and Mass will be available.

Learn more at championshrine.org/youth-day.

Advent Rorate Caeli Mass

DEC. 5

An ancient Advent liturgy honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary! The event begins in the darkness of the morning and as Mass is celebrated in candlelight, the sun rises and illuminates The Chapel. Hot breakfast and a special Advent reflection will follow Mass.

Monthly Events

Eucharistic Healing Services

LAST SATURDAY OF MONTH, 11:30 A.M.

After the 11:30 a.m. Mass on every last Saturday of the month, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in Adoration. This is followed by the Anointing of the Sick for those who need the Sacrament.

FEAST DAY RELIC VENERATION

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion is home to many beautiful relics of saints and blessed.

On their Feast day, The Shrine brings out the saints' relics for personal veneration the hour before 11:30 a.m. Mass. See our upcoming relic veneration dates:

St. Helena (8/18)

St. Pope Pius X (8/21)

St. Bartholomew the Apostle (8/24)

St. Teresa of Calcutta (9/5)

Relic of the True Cross (9/14)

St. Matthew the Evangelist (9/21)

St. Francis of Assisi (10/4)

St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (10/5)

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos (10/5)

St. Carlo Acutis (10/12)

St. Teresa of Avila (10/15)

St. Gerard Majella (10/16)

St. Luke the Evangelist (10/18)

Blessed James Strepar (10/20)

Pope St. John Paul II (10/22)

St. Simon the Apostle (10/28)

St. Jude the Apostle (10/28)

St. Francis Xavier Cabrini (11/13)

St. Cecilia (11/22)

St. Andrew the Apostle (11/30)

St. Barbara (12/4)

St. Anastasia (12/25)

St. John the Evangelist (12/27)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1/4)

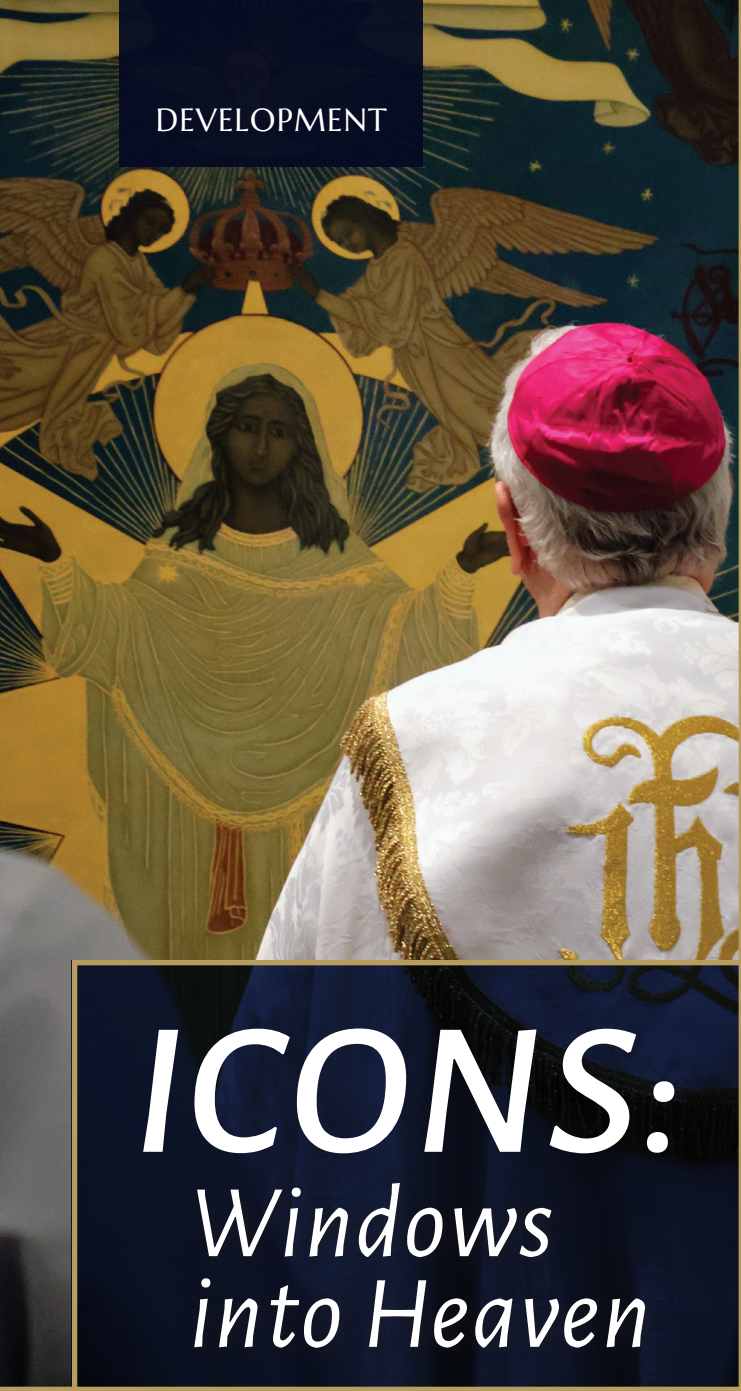
St. John Neumann (1/5)

St. Patrick (3/17)

St. Joseph Bilczewski (3/20)

St. Mark the Evangelist (4/25)

BY KELSEY DORNER, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



ICONS:

Windows into Heaven

For centuries, sacred icons have held a cherished place in the life of the Church. Icons are often described as "windows into heaven," inviting us to lift our hearts and minds toward God. Through their rich symbolism and sacred imagery, they draw us into prayer, deepen our understanding of the mysteries of our faith, and remind us of God's constant presence in our lives.

This year, The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion was blessed with two extraordinary icons created exclusively for The Shrine by renowned iconographer Fr. Paul Czerwonka.

The first is a magnificent Pentecost Icon, which will be permanently displayed in Mother of Mercy Hall. Depicting the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostles, the icon beautifully captures the birth of the Church and Christ's command to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. As thousands of pilgrims gather in Mother of Mercy Hall each year for Mass, conferences, and fellowship, this sacred image will serve as a constant invitation to pray for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The second is an Apparition Icon, commemorating Our Blessed Mother's appearance to Adele Brice in 1859 and the mission she entrusted to her: to gather the children, teach them what they should know for salvation, and lead them to the Sacraments. This icon holds profound significance because it will be presented as a gift from The Shrine to Adele's childhood parish, the Church of St. Martin in Doin-le-Val, Belgium. It symbolizes the enduring bond between the humble Belgian village where Adele's journey of faith began and the sacred ground in Wisconsin where Our Lady appeared and entrusted her heavenly mission.

On October 18, 2026, the Apparition Icon will be formally dedicated and blessed during a special Mass at St. Martin Church. Following the dedication, the local community will gather for a joyful celebration honoring Adele's life and the continuing impact of Our Lady's message.

Before these sacred icons can take their permanent places, they must be professionally framed using archival-quality materials that both protect and beautifully display these treasured works of sacred art. The cost to frame the Pentecost Icon is \$2,345, while \$3,345 is needed to frame and safely ship the Apparition Icon to Belgium.

Through Adele's Wish List, you can make these projects possible. Your generosity will help ensure that these sacred images are displayed with the dignity they deserve and will inspire countless pilgrims for generations to come. Every person who pauses before these icons will be invited into deeper prayer, greater trust in God's providence, and a renewed appreciation for the mission of Our Lady of Champion.

Thank you for helping preserve the beauty of The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion and for sharing the remarkable story of Adele Brice and Our Lady's message with pilgrims here in Champion and now, once again, in Adele's beloved homeland of Belgium.

ADELE'S WISH LIST



Adele Brice 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 answered prayers and pleas 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!

FALL WISH LIST 2026

- ▶ Liturgical Items for Mass (\$100)
- ▶ Adele Brice Prayer Cards (\$100)
- ▶ Ciborium Set for Mass (\$2,700)
- ▶ Pentecost Icon (\$2,345)
- ▶ Champion Icon (\$3,345)
- ▶ Catholic Saints of America Exhibit (\$15,000)
- ▶ EWTN Hidden Gems TV Episode (\$18,000)
- ▶ History Center Renovation (\$55,000)

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
Champion, 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?



The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion

4047 Chapel Drive
Champion, WI 54229-9462

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US POSTAGE

PAID

GREEN BAY, WI
PERMIT 1122

DAILY SCHEDULE

GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

Apparition Chapel, Apparition Oratory and Grounds	Daily 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
History Center	Daily 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Mother of Mercy Hall	Daily 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

GIFT SHOP AND 1885 SCHOOLHOUSE CAFE

Monday-Saturday	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday	10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Please note that the gift shop and cafe are closed on Good Friday, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, the Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

CELEBRATION OF MASS

Sunday	9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Additional Mass Sundays (April - October) at 8 a.m.
Monday - Saturday	11:30 a.m. Additional Mass (April - October) at 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday	Additional Mass at 5:45 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Daily	10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
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SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Adele Brice Day	Every ninth of the month Following 11:30 a.m. Mass
Last Saturday of the Month	Following Eucharistic Healing Service

DEVOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Rosary	Daily 10:45 a.m.
Divine Mercy Chaplet	Daily 3 p.m.
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	Daily 12:45 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Rosary Walk	Sundays (May-October) After 11:30 a.m. Mass
Holy Hour and Guided <i>Lectio Divina</i> Sundays	(November-April) After 11:30 a.m. Mass
Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus	First Friday After 11:30 a.m. Mass
Fatima Devotions	First Saturdays 10:40 a.m.
Eucharistic Healing Prayer Service	Last Saturdays of Month After 11:30 a.m. Mass
Blessing of Expectant Mothers	Every 8th of the Month Following 11:30 a.m. Mass
Stations of the Cross (Lenten season only)	Tuesday 8:45 a.m. Friday 5:45 p.m.

Blessings of religious articles will take place daily after the 11:30 a.m. Mass and daily at 1:30 p.m.



To get the newsletter
mailed to your home,
visit ChampionShrine.org/
stay-in-touch.