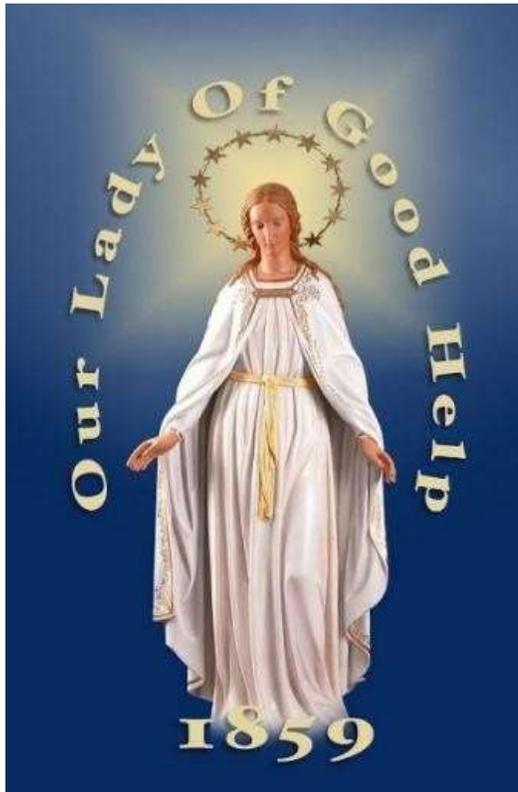


Lesson 17: Our Lady of Good Help

Please click twice to watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDbZ5t7p3UE>



The Blessed Virgin Mary has appeared to her children many times:

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico,
1571 Our Lady of Lourdes, France,
1858 Our Lady of Fatima,
Portugal, 1917

Our Lady of Good Help, Champion, Wisconsin,
1859

YES, WISCONSIN, USA

The Story of the Apparitions

In the early part of October, 1859, Adele Brise, a young Belgium immigrant, saw our Blessed Mother for the first time.

Walking through the wilderness, to the mill four miles from her home, Adele saw a lady all in white standing between two trees, one a maple and one a hemlock. She was frightened and stood still. The lady slowly disappeared. When she told her parents, they wondered what it could possibly mean. Maybe a poor soul who needed prayers?

The following Sunday, on her way to Mass, accompanied by two companions, Adele saw the lady again. She stopped and was frightened. Her companions saw nothing.

After Mass, she spoke to her confessor about the apparitions. He told her not to fear, if it were a heavenly messenger, she would see it again and it would not harm her. He said to ask the lady, “In God’s name, who was she and what did she desire of Adele.”

When she appeared for the third and final time, Adele asked, “In God’s name, who are you, and what do you want of me?”

“I am the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners and I wish you to do the same. You received Holy Communion this morning and that is well. But you must do more.

Make a general confession and offer Communion for the conversion of sinners. If they do not convert and do penance, my Son will be obliged to punish them.”

“What more can I do, dear Lady?” said Adele weeping.

“Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation.” “But how shall I teach them when I know so little myself?”

“Teach them their catechism, how to make the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing, I will help you.”

Adele devoted the rest of her life to spreading Mary’s good news. Her commitment continues to be as inspiring as it is humbling to the thousands of visitors that journey to the Shrine every year.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help is now the only Marian shrine in the United States on the site of an approved apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A MIRACULOUS PRESERVATION, OCTOBER 8, 1871 THE GREAT PESHTIGO FIRE

During the winter of 1870, there was scarcely any precipitation and summer yielded little or no rain. Rivers, streams, and ravines dried up. As an ally, men set fires to clear the land, while the Lord used the forces of nature to accomplish His ends. Thus was paved the way for one of the greatest conflagrations known in history. Mary said “If they do not amend their lives and convert themselves, my Son will be obliged to punish them.”

On October 8, 1871, the Belgium community was visited by the same whirlwind of fire and wind that overwhelmed Peshtigo.

Here, as across the Bay, the forest fires had crept on for weeks and months, and on the same Sunday night, it came whirling over to the Lake and Bay counties. A terrible, ten-fold wind sprang up from the southeast and fanned smoldering fires into a mighty wave, submerging the whole peninsula into a raging sea of fire and smoke.

The hour struck and the great forest rocked and tossed simultaneously. Before expectation could give way to horror, the black-curtained sky burst forth into great clouds of fire. An ominous dread gripped the minds and hearts of every living creature. Men and beast fled in terror before a great consuming roaring fire circling all within its fiery grasp. The roaring blaze sounded like the distant roar of the sea giving place to thunderous fury mingled with a tornado of fire.

The fire devoured everything in its path. The area burned was not less than fifty miles in length and twenty average miles wide. Nothing could be done to stop its forward march, and the Chapel of Our Lady of Good Help lay in its path.

Adele and her companions were determined not to abandon Mary's Shrine. The children, the Sisters, and the farmers and their families, took shelter in the sanctuary of the Shrine. They were now encircled by a raging inferno with no means of escape.

They raised the statue of Mary and went in procession, saying the Rosary, around the sanctuary. After hours of horror and suspense, the heavens sent relief in the form of a downpour. Mary heard their prayers. Everything around them was destroyed. The Convent, school, and Chapel and the five acres of land consecrated to the Virgin Mary shone like an emerald isle in a sea of ashes.

The fire in the Bay Area and in Peshtigo killed 1500 to 2500 people. That same night, the Great Chicago Fire raged killing 300 people.

