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	<p><b>December 12th, 2010</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Revelation to Joseph</b></span></p>

**Abouna Dominique's Corner: Marian Apparition in the U.S. Worthy of Belief**

Our Lady Appeared in 1859 to Belgian Immigrant in Wisconsin. On December. 8, 2010 on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, apparitions of Our Lady in Green Bay, Wisconsin have been given official diocesan approval. Reading from his decree at a special Mass today at the Champion, Wisconsin, shrine, Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay stated, "I declare with moral certainty and in accord with the norms of the Church that the events, apparitions and locutions given to Adele Brise in October of 1859 do exhibit the substance of supernatural character, and I do hereby approve these apparitions as worthy of belief -- although not obligatory -- by the Christian faithful." Today's declaration makes Our Lady of Good Help at Champion the first and only site in the United States of an approved apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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<i><b>DIVINE LITURGIES</b></i>	<i><b>REQUESTED BY</b></i>
<u>Saturday, December 11, 2010</u>	Readings: Ephesians 1:1-14 & Luke 1: 39-45
5:00 PM For the Intentions of Jan Burk	Ann & Bob Hartle
<u>Sunday, December 12, 2010</u>	Readings: Ephesians 1:1-14 & Luke 1: 39-45
9:00 AM For the intention of the Shamatta Family	Eileen Chahrouri
11:00 AM For George Pharaon	Mona Rached
<u>Saturday, December 18, 2010</u>	Readings: Romans 1: 1-12 & Matthew 1: 1-17
5:00 PM For the Wellbeing of Peter Shamatta	Eileen Chahrouri
<u>Sunday, December 19, 2010</u>	Readings: Romans 1: 1-12 & Matthew 1: 1-17
9:00 AM Special Intentions	
11:00 AM Special Intentions	
<i><b>CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGIES</b></i>	
<u>Friday, December 24, 2010</u>	Readings: Hebrews 1: 1-12 & Luke 2: 1-20
5:00 PM	For the Intentions of the Parishioners
12 Midnight	For the Intentions of the Parishioners
<u>Saturday, December 25, 2010</u>	Readings: Hebrews 1: 1-12 & Luke 2: 1-20
11:00 AM	For the Intentions of the Parishioners
<u><b>THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS OFFERED BEFORE EACH LITURGY</b></u>	

## **Abouna Dominique's Corner: Marian Apparition in the U.S. Worthy of Belief**

(continues from page 1)

### **Dazzling**

The apparitions -- there were three -- occurred in 1859. Our Lady spoke with Adele Brise (1831-1896), a young immigrant from Belgium. It was early October when Brise saw Our Lady the first time: a lady clothed in dazzling white, with a yellow sash around her waist and a crown of stars around her head. The vision slowly disappeared after several moments, without speaking to Brise. The following Sunday, Oct. 9, Brise was on her way to Mass when the Lady returned. After Mass, Brise had the chance to ask her confessor about the apparitions, and he told her that if it were a heavenly messenger, she would see it again. He encouraged her to ask in God's name who it was and what it desired of her. On the return trip home, Our Lady again appeared and Brise did as her confessor had recommended. "I am the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same," the Lady responded to Brise's question. "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."

One of the women with Brise asked her with whom she was speaking and why they couldn't see anyone. "Kneel," said Brise, "the Lady says she is the Queen of Heaven." At this, the Lady looked kindly at Brise's companions and said, "Blessed are they that believe without seeing." The Lady continued, "What are you doing here in idleness while your companions are working in the vineyard of my Son?" "What more can I do, dear Lady?" Brise asked. "Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation." "But how shall I teach them who know so little myself?" Brise replied. "Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do," the Lady said. "Go and fear nothing. I will help you." Brise's father built a small chapel on the site and Brise went about fulfilling Our Lady's mandate, a mission she continued until her death in 1896.

### **Approval**

Bishop Ricken's approval comes after an almost two-year investigation of the events and their consequences, which he initiated in January 2009. The Diocese of Green Bay has published information on its Web site regarding apparitions in the Church. The statements clarify that it is a diocesan bishop and not the Holy See nor the episcopal conference that is responsible for judging the authenticity of apparitions that are said to have occurred in his diocese. The statements further noted that not all alleged apparitions are given Church approval, and in the United States, for example, supposed apparitions at Necedah, Wisconsin, and Bayside, New York, were examined and declared to be false. "No one can prove the supernatural," the statement recalled. "The Church judges apparitions on the basis of their consistency with sacred Scripture, sacred Tradition and the teachings of the Church, the subsequent spiritual benefits in the lives of people, and whether there is anything in the life of the seer that detracts from the credibility of the account."

## Miscellaneous Events & Announcements

***Welcoming Sister Rita:*** Sister Rita Al Haddad is visiting our parish this Sunday. She is in the process of building a house for the elderly in Lebanon (Kfar-Kidded, Ba-troun). She would appreciate any donations toward this project. During this season of giving, let us help Sister's endeavors.

***Maronite Catholic Formation Classes:*** There will be Sunday School on Sunday, December 19th @ 10:00.

***Men's Club Volunteer Day:*** All men of the parish are asked to help decorate the outside of the church for Christmas this Saturday, December 11 from 11-5p.m. Please pass by the church if you have an hour or two to spare. Lunch will be served. Contact Abouna Dominique or Habib Abi Sarkis for more info.

***Soccer Game:*** A soccer game between the men's of the golden age and the youth of our parish will be held on December 12th @ 2:00. If you are not afraid to wear shorts and chase the ball, please come and join the Golden Age group. For more information please see Raymond Sassine

***Saint Joseph Christmas Party:*** Our Parish Christmas Party will take place on Sunday December 19th after the 11:00 o'clock liturgy. The Liturgy on that Sunday will be served by the Junior Choir. Spaghetti Lunch, Santa and other surprises will follow the liturgy.

***Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Toy or Gift Drive:*** We are extending the deadline for the children's Christmas gifts to Sunday, December 12th. Last year we contributed 39 gifts and toys. Let's try to match that number again this year or even exceed it. Thank you for your wonderful concern for these hospitalized children. Gifts must be safe, sturdy and non-toxic. The age range of patients at Egleston's is from infancy up to 21 years old. Please leave your gifts in the receptacle provided for this purpose in the downstairs hallway. For further info, please contact Reem Ragy or Marie DiPaola.

***Letter to All the Parishioners:*** On Friday December 10, a letter with two enclosed documents was sent out to all the parishioners of Saint Joseph. The Letter explains the Centennial Celebration with an Ad application for the commemorative book and the survey. Within the next two weeks, those who do not receive the letter need to update their home address with Abouna.

***Junior Choir:*** There will be a junior choir rehearsal for children between 7 - 18 every Sunday after the 11:00 o'clock liturgy. George Moussa and Cecilia Romero will be in charge of the Choir. Please encourage the children to take part in this activity.

### *Christmas Novena*

The Christmas Novena starts on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and continues until Thursday, December 23<sup>th</sup>, every evening at 7:30 pm. The Christmas Novena is a great way to get prepared to welcome God among us. Please join us.

### *Thank you*

The parish family of St. Joseph would like thank the Ladies Altar & Rosary Society for the bake sale and the Parish Council for organizing the breakfast. Both events were very successful.

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL 2011**

Friday December 31, 2010 (8 PM to 3 AM)

**TICKET PRICE (Donation)**

Adults: \$75

Child: \$30 (5 yrs - 14 yrs)



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