



Basic Information on Apparitions

- An apparition is an appearance of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary or one of the Saints. Sometimes a message is given to the person who sees the apparition.
- Some well-known apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary are Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico in 1531; Lourdes, France in 1858; and Fatima, Portugal in 1917.
- All true apparitions point the way to Jesus Christ. None of the messages given in true apparitions contain anything new. They repeat what God has already revealed to us through Jesus Christ.
- Out of his care for us, God permits apparitions to remind us of the Gospel message and draw us closer to Christ.
- Like a good mother who reminds us of things that are important for our well-being, the Blessed Virgin Mary has appeared at times in history to remind us of elements of the Gospel for our own good and to lead us closer to her Son, Jesus Christ.
- The Bishop of a Diocese (not the Holy See nor the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops) is responsible for judging the authenticity of apparitions that are said to have occurred in his Diocese.
- Not all alleged apparitions are given Church approval. Examples of alleged apparitions in the United States that have been examined by the Church and formally declared to be false are Necedah, Wisconsin and Bayside, New York.
- No one can prove the supernatural. 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.
- Over the decades, the Bishops of Green Bay have supported the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help as a place of prayer and pilgrimage, but no formal declaration had been made regarding the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Adele Brise.
- On January 9, 2009, Bishop Ricken opened a formal investigation into the apparition and appointed a team of experts to study the matter.
- Today, December 8, 2010, Bishop Ricken has declared with moral certainty that the events, apparitions and locutions given to Adele Brise in October of 1859 do exhibit the substance of supernatural character, and approved these apparitions as worthy of belief (although not obligatory) by the Christian faithful.