



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shrine to celebrate feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Dec. 3, 2015) – The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help will celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on Saturday, December 12 on the Shrine grounds, 4047 Chapel Drive, Champion, WI 54229. The day will begin with a bilingual “sunrise” rosary procession at 7:30 a.m. followed by a bilingual Mass at 8:30 a.m.

"It is truly amazing that something which happened in December of 1531 is still celebrated with overflowing joy in the 21st century! The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego as a brown-skinned Aztec woman, and she left an image of herself on Juan's tilma, an outerwear garment," said Fr. Peter Stryker, Rector at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. "Our Lady of Guadalupe won the hearts of millions of Aztecs who had been, in many ways, oppressed by their own fears and the fears of those who had conquered them. Our Lady of Guadalupe assured everyone who looked at her miraculous image that she is a Heavenly Mother who wants nothing more than to win our hearts, and to help all of us to be loving sons and daughters of God our Heavenly Father!"

Our Lady of Guadalupe (Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe) is the patroness of the Americas, and her feast day is December 12th. The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and is also the world's third most-visited sacred site. On December 9, 1531, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian (canonized on July 31, 2002, as St. Juan Diego by Pope John Paul II), on Tepeyac Hill, near what is now Mexico City.

Speaking in his native tongue, Our Lady of Guadalupe asked that a church be built on the spot she appeared. Juan Diego relayed this message to the local bishop, who demanded a sign to prove that it truly was Mary, the mother of God, who appeared. Returning to Tepayac Hill, Our Lady of Guadalupe told Juan Diego he would find his sign at the top of the hill. At the top of the hill, Juan Diego found Castilian roses, which were neither in season nor native to that region of Mexico. Once the flowers were arranged in his tilma (a cloak made of natural fibers), Juan Diego returned to the bishop. As he opened his cloak, the roses fell to the ground and revealed an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe imprinted on the tilma. Over 500 years later, this image is still venerated in the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City and is visited by millions of people each year.

All are welcome at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help to celebrate this day!

###

About the Shrine: On Oct. 9, 1859, the Queen of Heaven appeared to Adele Brise in Champion, Wisconsin, and said to her, "Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation. 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. Go and fear nothing. I will help you." On Dec. 8, 2010, Bishop Ricken granted formal Church approval to the Marian apparition at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. It is the first and only confirmed appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the United States. The announcement was made during a Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at the Shrine.

Contact: For more information, please contact the Shrine at 920-866-2571.