



COURT CEDAR RAPIDS 1768 · ST. THERESE, THE LITTLE FLOWER

Wisconsin Bus Pilgrimage

Thank You for Joining Us!

A few members from Court #1768 began planning for this pilgrimage over a year ago. This is the first time we have planned travel for a large group, so we had a lot to learn. We are happy with what we have come up with for our first pilgrimage and hope you enjoy the next two days. We've probably forgotten something, but we trust that God will make everything work out just fine. Thank you for joining us on our journey to the two Shrines.

A Special Thank You to ...

- Sue May, Lorraine Bailey, and Virginia Pilcher, three Catholic Daughters who helped get the ball rolling on this pilgrimage.
- Kit Umscheid, who has kept us “technically” updated through our Court website. Don't forget to share your photos & see Kit if you need help.
 - I encourage you to visit the Court website and check out the links to the Shrines and the hotel.
 - www.catholicdaughterscr.org
- My husband, Chris, for his support during the many months of preparing for the pilgrimage.
- All who helped promote the pilgrimage, especially by sharing on your Facebook page.
- The ladies of Court #1768 who have supported our efforts throughout the last year.

First Aid Kit Available if Needed

We have the following items available, if you should need them:

- Bandages, Neosporin, Gauze pads, hand cleaning wipes
- More Purell wipes (there is one in your packet)
- Extra Strength Acetaminophen
- Ibuprofen, Aspirin
- Tums, Pepto Bismol, Imodium A-D
- Ginger candy, mints

ALSO Available:

- Bottles of Water on ice, under the bus
- Snacks (GF Monster Cookies, other snacks)
- Air freshener for the restroom. 😊

June 25, 2025

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Thank you to Fr. Chris Podhajsky...

... for all of his words of wisdom over the last 8+ months. Since he has been to both Shrines before and lead many pilgrimages, he had a wealth of knowledge to share.

In your trip packet, you each received a **Miraculous Medal**. The **Medal** is a gift from **Fr. Chris Podhajsky** and it has been blessed.

Why do we wear the Miraculous Medal?

The Miraculous Medal is based on a directive from the Blessed Mother to St. Catherine Laboure in November 1830 in Paris:

Catherine saw Our Lady standing on a globe, with dazzling rays of light streaming from her outstretched hands. Framing the figure was an inscription: “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.” Then Mary spoke to Catherine: “Have a medal struck upon this model. Those who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck.”

The vision then seemed to turn to show the reverse of the Medal: the letter M surmounted by a cross with a bar at its base; below this monogram, the Sacred Heart of Jesus crowned with thorns, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary pierced with a sword.

With approval of the Catholic Church, the first medals were made in 1832 and were distributed in Paris. Almost immediately the blessings that Mary had promised began to shower down on those who wore her medal, and soon all of France was clamoring for what the people referred to as the “Miraculous Medal.” Use of the Medal spread from country to country and now blankets the world. Everywhere, the Medal is still drawing down from God blessings for body and soul.

From: www.catholic.com

What You Will Find in Your Packet:

- (2) Name Tags, (1) for each day with each of **your** lunch selections under your name for that day
- Our 2-Day Trip Itinerary (full)
- Bus Itinerary
- Dyersville, IA - Restaurants with map
- *Prayers for the Journey* (impromptu) prayer booklet
- An **envelope** to tip your driver for a job well done.
 - You may put your tip in the envelope at any time and give it to me (Roberta).
 - I will make a final collection of the envelopes on our trip back to Dyersville on Day 2.
 - The “rule of thumb” is \$2/person per day or to make it easy, just throw a \$5 in OR more if you prefer.
- A blessed Miraculous Medal from Fr. Chris Podhajsky.
- A few mints and a Purell wipe
 - More available of each if you need them.

Our Transportaion: Windstar Lines

Get to know our driver! Our driver will be joining us for our meals and as much of the pilgrimage as he/she chooses.

Food & Drink Policy:

Beverages must have a lid to prevent spills. Screw-on lids are encouraged, but not mandatory.

Food: Windstar allows food on their motor coaches, **BUT NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS!**

Smoking is not allowed on the motor coach at any time.

Charter Coach Amenities:

- **WiFi, PA System** (we will be using the microphone)
- **Onboard Restroom**
 - The restroom is small, so it is best to use it mostly for emergencies.
 - We have planned rest stops both days to allow us to use a public restroom and stretch our legs.
- **High back reclining seating**
- **DVD with flat screen TV** (we have a few DVD's we will show on the longer stretches of travel)
- **Reading lights**
- **GPS** navigation and tracking
- Individual & full **climate control**
- Under-floor luggage capacity
- **Overhead storage**
- **110 volt outlets**



Pray With Me to Our Lady of Champion

Late last summer, I found the following prayer online and made it a part of my evening prayer ritual. I firmly believe that Our Lady of Champion has been guiding us ever since, especially when we had to make the decision to move the trip from October 2024 to June 2025. Changing our dates allowed all of us to experience the two Shrines during the **2025 Jubilee Year**.

I hope you will join me in praying this prayer over these two days. ~ Roberta Peters, Regent

Prayer to Our Lady of Champion

O Dear Lady of Champion, you revealed yourself as the Queen of Heaven to your servant Adele. You gave her a mission to pray for the conversion of sinners, to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to others, and to prepare the children for the reception of the sacraments.

As we plan our journey to your shrine, guide us with your loving hand. Protect us on our travels and help us to grow in faith and love. May this pilgrimage bring us closer to God and strengthen our commitment to His will.

Amen.

Our Bus will be Locked

The bus will be locked during the day, so you may safely leave items on the bus during the day when we are at our rest stops and the Shrines.

However, **DO NOT** leave items on the bus overnight as you will **NOT** be able to access them.

The Shrine Gift Shops

The **Gift Shop** at Our Lady of Champion is a great place to purchase items that are *specific* to the Shrine. It is smaller than the gift shop at Holy Hill.

As per Fr. Chris, the **Holy Hill Gift Store** is HUGE! It is a great place to shop for ALL kinds of religious items. If you need to make purchases for birthdays, Christmas, weddings, etc., this is your place!

Blessing of Items - - Reminder

Fr. Chris is happy to do one mass blessing of all of your purchases when we are all on the bus heading back to Iowa.



1885 Schoolhouse Cafe

The 1885 Schoolhouse Cafe is located in the **1885 Schoolhouse** building, the oldest structure left on the Shrine's grounds and where **Adele Brise** and her fellow sisters housed and taught the children.

Upon arriving at Our Lady of Champion, we will enjoy our pre-ordered Box Lunches at the 1885 Schoolhouse Cafe in a room that we have reserved and where we will sit among historic photos of **Adele** and the sisters with the children.

The Box Lunches will already be prepared, but you will need to select your beverage. **Options include:**

- A selection of Coke products
- Bottled Lemonade, Iced Tea, & Water

Included with each lunch: beverage, bag of chips, and a cookie.

History Talk: Our Lady of Champion

After enjoying your lunch, please remain in the Cafe. A member of the staff will be joining us to give us a History Talk on Our Lady of Champion. This presentation is part of our pilgrimage program.

Areas of Interest at the Shrine:

Grounds & Oratory: Open 7 AM - 7 PM

Gift Shop & Cafe: Open 9 AM - 4 PM

History Center: Open 7 AM - 5 PM

Rosary Walk (outdoors)

Confession is available daily at 2 PM

The Champion Shrine Reliquary

The Grottos

Adele's Gravesite (next to Apparition Chapel)

Our Lady of Champion & St. Joseph Grottos

The Rosary Walk & Stations of the Cross

Contemplate the Life of Christ through our Blessed Mother's Eyes. The outdoor Rosary Walk is located behind the Apparition Chapel and **traces the footsteps taken by the faithful who prayed for the protection of Mary** during the horrors of the Great Peshtigo Fire in 1871.

The Apparition Chapel

The sacred space near the Apparition Chapel and the Oratory is believed to be where Adele saw the Blessed Mother in 1859.

The current Apparition Chapel is the fourth chapel to have been built on the grounds and was constructed in 1942. The original chapel was built in 1859, the same year the apparition took place, by Adele's father, Lambert Brise. Only 10 ft. x 12 ft., the small chapel was built for the Brise family to pray at.

The Apparition Oratory

A Place to Meet Your Mother

The apparition Oratory is an underground place of prayer located directly below the sanctuary of the Apparition Chapel.

The oratory was constructed to emphasize the experience of Mary's presence on the Shrine's sacred grounds. It revolves around Mary's appearance near that location, allowing pilgrims the chance to connect with God through the intercession of Mary. It is also a gathering place of prayer intentions from pilgrims around the world which are represented by the rows of candles lit in the oratory.

For those with disabilities, the oratory is accessible around the back of the Apparition Chapel near the outdoor stations of the cross.

You will also find the **Champion Shrine Reliquary** here.

Our Lady of Champion Gift Shop

Deepen your faith with something from the Shrine. The Shrine's gift shop is located in the 1885 Schoolhouse building. It is filled with faith-centered books, clothing, and religious articles such as rosaries, prayer cards, medals, statues, and crucifixes.

Plan on visiting the Gift Shop **before** our 4:00 PM Mass with Fr. Chris Podhajsky as it closes at 4 PM.

If you want items specific to Our Lady of Champion, this is the place to find them!



Reminder:

Upon arriving at Holy Hill, take a quick bathroom stop and then proceed to the Basilica for 11:00 AM Mass.

We will have a reserved section of pews.

After Mass: Please remain in your seat for a history talk.

Lunch at the Holy Hill Cafe

Located in the unique atmosphere of the old **Monastery**. We will enjoy our pre-ordered Box Lunches at the Holy Hill Cafe in a room that we have reserved.

The Box Lunches will already be prepared, but you will need to select your beverage. Options include:

- A selection of Pepsi products
- Regular and Strawberry Lemonade
- Bottled Water, Gatorade, & Pure Leaf Tea

Included with each lunch: beverage and bag of chips.

You are welcome to make separate purchases from the cafe as you desire, but please choose them after everyone has made their drink selections as it will be a separate purchase.

A Few of Many Points of Interest at Holy Hill

Shrine Chapel

Located just off the **main Church**, the Shrine Chapel houses a rare statue of Mary. The youthful Virgin Mother offers her Son, Jesus Christ, to those who kneel before her. The statue was made by the Pustet Co. of Munich and was exhibited at the 1876 World's Fair in Philadelphia.

Chapel of St. Therese

Also called the **Lower Church**, this Chapel, located one level below the Main Church, is dedicated to St. Therese of the Child Jesus, popularly known as the **Little Flower**.

Considered possibly the most popular saint of recent centuries, she was a Discalced Carmelite nun from Lisieux, France who died in 1897.

Outdoor Way of the Cross

(Entrance is at the Eleventh Station and ends with it's 14th station just outside the lower Church. Includes almost life-size figures sculpted from Bedford stone by Joseph Aszklar of Milwaukee.

Scenic Tower

The Scenic Tower stretches 192 feet from its base to the tip of its spire. Those who complete the 178-stair climb will find a breathtaking panoramic view of the Kettle Moraine area.

Open 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, but will close under certain conditions.

For Your Viewing Pleasure

1. **Champion:** As we journey to **Our Lady of Champion**, we will take the time to watch an EWTN Explore documentary with The Miracle Hunter, Michael O'Neill. (30 minutes)
2. Two other DVD's will also be available for us.
 - a. **The Song of Bernadette:** A 1943 film that tells the story of Our Lady of Lourdes.
 - b. **PRAY The Story of Fr. Patrick Peyton** "The family that prays together stays together"

An Interesting Note:

"The family that prays together stays together" is the motto of the Holy Cross Family Ministries - one of the National Charities of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Faithful to Mary, the Mother of God, The Family Rosary encourages family prayer, especially the Rosary. Founded by Servant of God, Fr. Patrick Peyton, CSC, Family Rosary seeks not only to fulfil the need to share the message of prayer with those who are unfamiliar with the Rosary but also to strengthen the prayer life of the devout. Since Catholic Daughters has the Blessed Mother as our Patroness and we have a strong devotion to her, we have supported this worthy cause since 1977.

Basilica of St. Francis Xavier

The Basilica has been a Catholic treasure among the cornfields of Iowa for 125 years, welcoming visitors to an experience of both beauty and prayer. On Thursday, June 26th when we stop in Dyersville for dinner, the Church will be open. Stop in and visit.

Chad's Pizza is close by (a block away) if you want a close restaurant. Also, after dropping everyone off downtown, the bus will park in the Basilica parking lot. This is where we will board to return to Cedar Rapids.

Visit the Basilica website www.xavierbasilica.com

Contact Information:

Roberta Peters, Regent

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Court email: [catholicdaughters@gmail.com](mailto:crcatholicdaughters@gmail.com)

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*Thank you for helping and looking out
for each other.*