



Office of the Mayor

James J. Schmitt
Mayor

His Holiness Pope Francis
Apostolic Palace
Vatican City

Most Holy Father:

With this letter, it is my deep and personal honor to extend an invitation to you, The Sovereign Pontiff, His Holiness Pope Francis. During your visit to the United States for the World Meeting of Families in 2015, I invite you to extend your visit to the greater Green Bay community and make pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help.

We are a salt of the earth community that understands the sacred bonds of family. For over 150 years, the hard working people of this City have recognized the importance of the human and social conditions of the family institution and the blessed nature of service to a greater cause. This is evidenced by the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help just outside of Green Bay, the first and only Blessed Virgin Mary apparition approved by the Catholic Church in the United States.

Our Bishop declared, "...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 by the Christian faithful."

The Blessed Virgin is an expression of the important bonds of family through the joining of herself with her maternal spirit to His sacrifice. We as a community are filled with a generous heart for having this connection to the Virgin Mary.

Dear Holy Father, your visit to the Green Bay community would be an estimable blessing that would continue to lift the lives of the people of Green Bay. I thank you and pray for your continued service in truth and love.

Your servant in Christ,

Jim Schmitt
City of Green Bay Mayor