

"Accept this Scapular. It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger and a pledge of peace. Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire."

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel to Saint Simon Stock  
July 16, 1251



"One day, through the Rosary and the Scapular, I will save the world."

- Our Lady to Saint Dominic

"Let it [the Brown Scapular] be your sign of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which We are particularly urging in these perilous times."

- Pope Pius XII

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# OUR LADY'S GARMENT

A SIGN OF  
SALVATION &  
PROTECTION



## THE BROWN SCAPULAR



# Our Lady's Garment, The Brown Scapular

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### THE BROWN SCAPULAR, A MOST POWERFUL SACRAMENTAL

*“Accept this Scapular. It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace. Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire.”*

— Our Lady of Mount Carmel to Saint Simon Stock  
July 16, 1251

Such is the extraordinary promise Our Lady makes to those who faithfully wear Her Brown Scapular. Who, then, could be so foolish as not to wear, with profoundest gratitude and reverence, this abbreviated form of the Carmelite habit?

This ‘Garment of Grace’ is a tangible sign of our Blessed Mother’s love and protection for Her devotees and

of the devotee’s fidelity and love for the Most Holy Virgin.

### Wearing the Scapular Is a Form of Consecration

Wearing the Brown Scapular is a way to consecrate ourselves to Our Lady’s service. Through a religious ceremony, *consecration* sets apart a person, place, or thing for a holy



purpose in the service of religion. Every Catholic should be consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, for She is our Queen and we are called by God to be Her faithful servants.

On October 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared at Fatima holding the Brown Scapular in Her hand, indicating (as the child-seer Lucia dos Santos well understood) that She wants all of us to wear Her Scapular. A few years later, in 1936, Our Lord told Sister Lucia that He wants His entire Church to recognize the Consecration of Russia as a triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in order that, thereafter, devotion to His Mother's Immaculate Heart be placed alongside devotion to His own Sacred Heart.

So consecration to Mary, as a means of giving Her greater honor and love, is *God's Will for us*. In no way does it detract from His honor; quite the contrary, it renders greater glory unto God.

By wearing the Scapular faithfully, we tell Mary that we venerate Her, love Her, and trust Her every moment of the day. Saint Alphonsus Liguori, the Moral Doctor of the Church, says:

**"The Most Holy Mary is pleased when Her servants wear Her Scapular as a mark that they have dedicated themselves to Her service, and are members of the Family of the Mother of God."**

## History of the Brown Scapular

The Scapular devotion dates from the time of the prophet Elias in the 9th Century B.C. The Israelites were then steeped in idolatry, adoring Baal (a demon who encourages all manner of lust and unnatural perversion). To bring the people back to God, Elias prayed for a drought, which the people would understand as a sign of Divine displeasure (see 3 Kings 17-18).

God therefore withheld rain for three and a half years, after which time Elias went up to the top of Mount Carmel and, prostrating himself on the ground, begged God to send rain. He then sent his servant to see if rain was coming. The servant went and looked to the sea, but reported that he saw nothing. So Elias prayed again, yet still the servant saw no sign of rain. Six times Elias prayed. Each time, there was no rain.

Then Elias prayed a seventh time. This time the servant saw a little cloud coming out of the sea in the shape of a foot. And from that one cloud, there came the rain that appeased the drought afflicting the entire land.

Now Elias understood that this cloud represented God's Mother-to-come,

the Blessed Virgin. The cloud was in the shape of a foot; and he knew the prophecy of Genesis, that the Woman would crush the serpent's head with Her foot (see Gen. 3:15).

Saint Bonaventure tells us that every page of the Old Testament mentions the Blessed Virgin Mary in one way or another. Tradition holds that there are two other reasons why this cloud represented the Blessed Virgin:

1) The sea was salt water but the cloud was fresh water. The cloud represented Our Lady's **Immaculate Conception**. Our Lady arose out of sinful humanity, but She alone was conceived without sin.

2) The cloud also represented the Blessed Virgin as **Mediatrice of All Graces**. The rainwater represents grace. All of the rainwater that fell on all the parched land came from the one cloud. It came through Her who is the Mediatrice of All Graces.

Elias, being a prophet, decided to commemorate this event; and so he founded a community of hermits on Mount Carmel to prepare for the coming of the Savior and His Mother, the Blessed Virgin.

## The Mantle of Elias: Precursor to the Carmelite Habit

At the end of Elias' time on earth, God called him to cross the river Jordan. The prophet struck the river with his mantle and the waters were divided, allowing him and his companion Eliseus to cross on dry ground (4 Kings 2:8). And then, as Elias was about to be taken up into the heavens, Eliseus asked him to impart his prophetic spirit unto him in a doubly abundant degree. Elias responded, "If thou see me when I am taken from thee, thou shalt have what thou hast asked."

Scripture tells us that Eliseus' request was granted. A fiery chariot drawn by fiery horses came between the two men, and Eliseus saw Elias taken up into the heavens by a whirlwind. Eliseus then donned the mantle which Elias had let fall, and with it repeated the miracle of crossing the Jordan dry-shod (4 Kings 2:13-14).

The disciples of Elias and Eliseus remained on Mount Carmel for hundreds of years, devoting their lives of prayer and penance to the Mother of God as they begged God to send the Messias.





On Pentecost, ten days after Jesus ascended into Heaven, the spiritual descendants of Elias came down from Mount Carmel. They were the first to accept the message of Christianity and be baptized by the Apostles. When, at last, they were presented to Our Lady, and heard sweet words from Her lips, they were overcome with a sense of majesty and sanctity which they never forgot. They returned to their holy mountain, and founded the first chapel ever built in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From that time, devotion to God's Mother became the treasured spiritual legacy of the hermits on Mount Carmel.

### Our Lady Gives Saint Simon Stock the Scapular

It was to the head of the successors of these hermits that Our Lady appeared centuries later. On account of Moslem aggression, the Carmelite community had been transferred in 1241 from Mount Carmel in Palestine to Aylesford, England. Saint Simon Stock was made Superior General of the Order for men in 1245. Weighed down by external persecutions and internal dissensions which threatened to destroy the Order, the 90-year-old saint had retired to his cell alone. On July 16, 1251 he poured out his heart to the Blessed Virgin Mary — the Flower of Mount Carmel (*Flos Carmeli*) — asking Her to help him and all the Carmelites.

Then, accompanied by a multitude of angels, the Blessed Virgin appeared to him, holding in Her hands the Scapular of the Order. It was made of brown wool, about 14 inches wide, and was to be worn down to the knees in the front and back. Our Lady said:

**"This shall be to you and to all Carmelites a privilege that anyone who dies clothed in this [Scapular] shall not suffer eternal fire."<sup>1</sup>**

Saint Simon established the Confraternity of Mount Carmel shortly after this apparition, and thus the promise of eternal salvation was also extended to Carmelite Confraternity members who died wearing the Carmelite Scapular. Pope Urban IV, in 1262, extended special blessings to these Confraternity members.<sup>2</sup>

Already by 1276, an abbreviated form of the Scapular had come into use among the Confraternity members (the Scapular size seen on page 5). We know this from the still-preserved small Scapular worn by Pope Gregory X, who died that year and was buried wearing his Scapular. Almost 600 years later, in 1830, the Scapular was found intact in his tomb, and it is still preserved in the Arezzo (Italy) museum today. There are also historical records of Carmelite Confraternity meetings of lay people in Florence, Italy in 1280 AD.

### A Sign of Salvation and Protection

Wearing the Brown Scapular is a sign of predestination just as is praying the Holy Rosary, and it is similarly *a key Marian devotion for our modern times*. When Our Lady appeared to Saint Bernadette in 1858, She chose July 16, the anniversary of Her apparition to Saint Simon Stock, for Her 18<sup>th</sup> and final apparition at Lourdes, and She came dressed as Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The Scapular also represents Our Lady's protection and Her care for us. She promised to Saint Simon Stock:

**"It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace. Whosoever dies wearing this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire."**

Our Lady has kept this promise, as demonstrated in numerous miracles associated with the Brown Scapular (some are described beginning on page 11).

The Scapular is Our Lady's esteemed garment. She held it out to us at Fatima, wanting us all to wear it and to offer it to others. By putting on the Brown Scapular *we place ourselves under Her mantle*.

Saint Alphonsus tells us: "Modern heretics make a mockery of wearing the Scapular. They decry it as so

much trifling nonsense." Yet, we know that many of the Popes and Saints have approved and recommended it.

Two great founders of Religious Orders, Saint Alphonsus of the Redemptorists and Saint John Bosco of the Salesians, were devoted to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and both wore Her Brown Scapular. When they died, each was buried in his priestly vestments and Scapular. Many years later, their graves were opened; their bodies and the sacred vestments in which they were buried were dust. *But the Brown Scapular which each was wearing was perfectly intact*. The Scapular worn by Saint Alphonsus is displayed in his monastery in Rome.



**"The Rosary and the Scapular are inseparable."**





# Basics of the Brown Scapular

## The Brown Scapular Is a Prayer

Holy Mother Mary taught us the value of the Brown Scapular. When we use it as a prayer, Our Lady draws us to the Sacred Heart of Her Divine Son. It is well, therefore, to hold the Scapular in your hand while praying to Our Lady — doing so makes your prayer far more powerful. It is especially in time of temptation that we need the powerful intercession of God's Mother. The evil spirits are utterly powerless when a Scapular-wearer facing temptation fervently calls upon Mary with this sacramental in hand. *"If thou hadst recommended thyself to Me earlier, thou wouldst not have run into such danger,"* was Our Lady's gentle reproach to Blessed Alan de la Roche, when he had delayed to invoke Her aid in a certain trial by virtue of the Brown Scapular.

We should kiss the Scapular devoutly when rising in the morning, throughout the day as the Holy Ghost may prompt us, and certainly every

time we put on a new Scapular. For this gesture of reverence, the Church under Pope Benedict XV granted an indulgence of 500 days.

When kissing or holding the Scapular, we are also encouraged to pray to Our Lady: *"Preserve me this day from sin and the occasions of sin."*

Another laudable prayer for such an occasion is: *"By Thy pure and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, keep my body pure and my soul holy. Amen."*

## Physical Description and Use of the Brown Scapular

The Brown Scapular consists of two pieces of brown wool, in a rectangular or square shape, held together by two strings, ribbons, cords, or chains. The color of the ribbon, string, or cord does not matter. What does matter is that the two pieces of brown (or black) cloth be 100% woven wool (not felt). Most Brown Scapulars have pictures on the two pieces of brown wool, but various holy images are acceptable, and in fact no pictures are even necessary.<sup>3</sup>

The Brown Scapular is supposed to be worn in a manner which mirrors the Carmelite's religious habit. Thus, the Scapular is placed over the head and the strings rest on the person's shoulders, with one string on each shoulder. One piece of brown wool



cloth hangs down in front and the other piece of cloth hangs down in back. Each string or cord must be one continuous piece of material connecting the two pieces of brown wool, with no interruption in the material or string.

To obtain the Scapular promise, a Catholic must be enrolled in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular and must be wearing the Brown Scapular when he dies. Only a priest may enroll people in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular. Through this enrollment (also called *investiture*), the person becomes a Third Degree member of the Carmelite Order.

Only the Scapular used for enrollment must be blessed, and it is to be blessed by the priest performing the investiture. From then on, the blessing is *attached to the enrollee* by virtue of their membership in the Carmelite Order. Therefore, replacement Scapulars do not need to be blessed as the blessing adheres to the enrollee *for life*. However, there is no harm in having a priest bless a new Scapular.

If the Brown Scapular becomes worn out or torn, it must be disposed of with reverence by burning or burying it. As soon as possible, one must replace a Scapular where even one string or cord has been cut or torn away from the Scapular.

## The Sabbatine Privilege

One of the most renowned aspects of the Brown Scapular is the "Sabbatine (or *Saturday*) Privilege." This great personal grace is a promise by Our Lady to speedily free souls from Purgatory on a Saturday, that day of the week which Catholic tradition dedicates to Her. This unique and wondrous privilege rests upon four very important conditions, which every Catholic is encouraged to fulfill. Those who faithfully abide by them should have complete confidence that Our Blessed Mother will fulfill Her promise.

These four conditions are:

- [1] Being in the state of grace at the moment of death;
- [2] Habitually wearing the Scapular and having it on at the moment of death;
- [3] Observing chastity according to one's state in life;
- [4] Daily recitation of the *Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary* (though priests are authorized to change this last condition to daily praying five decades of the Holy Rosary).<sup>4</sup>

After the grace of final perseverance, this "special protection after death" is the greatest of all the benefits of the Brown Scapular devotion, excepting the essential benefit of the close bond which the Scapular devotion creates between our hearts and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Here we do well to recall the words which Pope Benedict XV addressed to the seminarians of Rome:

**"[T]he Scapular of the Blessed Virgin Mary... enjoys the singular privilege of protection even after death."**

To which Pope Paul VI added: "Ever hold in great esteem the practices and exercises of devotion to the Most Holy Virgin which have been recommended for centuries by the Magisterium of the Church. And among them we judge well to recall especially the Marian Rosary and the religious use of the Scapular of Mount Carmel."

(February 2, 1965)

## Authorization for the Sabbatine Privilege

The Sabbatine privilege is based upon *Sacratissimo Uti Culmine*, a papal Bull issued on March 3, 1322 by Pope John XXII. The privilege is frequently understood to mean that those who wear the Scapular and fulfill the specified conditions will be *freed from Purgatory on the first Saturday after death*.<sup>5</sup> However, the Church has never used her supreme authority to guarantee this interpretation.

Rather, on several occasions<sup>6</sup> the Church has formally decreed that those who fulfill the conditions of the Sabbatine Privilege will be released from Purgatory, through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, *soon* after death, and *especially on Saturday*.

At a time when both the origin and nature of the Sabbatine Privilege were under serious question, Pope Paul V (†1621) issued this official statement: "It is permitted to preach... that the

Blessed Virgin will aid the souls of the Brothers and Sisters of the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin of Mount Carmel after their death by Her continual intercession, by Her suffrages and merits and by Her special protection, especially on the day of Saturday, which is the day especially dedicated by the Church to the same Blessed Virgin Mary..."



In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Pope Benedict XIV, one of the greatest scholars to sit upon Saint Peter's throne, declared that he believed the vision of Saint Simon Stock. He also stated that he fully accepted the revelation by which the Holy Virgin promised John XXII to rescue from Purgatory the souls of the members of the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular *as soon as possi-*



ble, especially on the first Saturday after their decease.<sup>7</sup>

In his letter of March 18, 1922, commemorating the sixth centenary of the Sabbatine Privilege, Pope Pius XI said: "It surely ought to be sufficient merely to exhort all the members of the Confraternity to persevere in the holy exercises which have been prescribed for the gaining of the indulgences to which they are entitled and particularly for the gaining of that indulgence which is the principal and the greatest of them all, namely that called the Sabbatine."

## No Empty Promise

Here are two tragic examples which demonstrate that hardened sinners are not permitted to make a mockery of Our Lady's promise of salvation to those who die clothed in Her garment.

During the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s, seven Communists were sentenced to death for their crimes. A Carmelite priest tried to prepare the men for death; they refused. As a last resort, he brought the men cigarettes, food, and wine, assuring them that he would not talk religion. In a short while, they were all friendly, so he asked them for one small favor: "Will you permit me to place a Scapular on each of you?" Six agreed; one refused. Soon all Scapular wearers went to Confession. The seventh continued to refuse. Eventually, only to please his

six converted friends, he put on a Scapular, but he would do nothing more. Morning came, and as the moment of execution drew near, the seventh man made it clear that he was not going to ask for the priest.

Although wearing the Scapular, he was determined to go to his death an enemy of God.

Finally, the command was given, the firing squad did its deadly work, and seven lifeless bodies lay sprawled in the dust. Mysteriously, a Scapular was found approximately 50 paces from the bodies. Six men died *with* Mary's Scapular; the seventh died *without* the Scapular.

Saint Claude de la Colombière gives us the solution to the mystery of the missing Scapular: "You ask, 'What if I desire to die in my sins?' I answer, 'Then you will die in your sins, *but you will not die in your Scapular.*'" He also tells the story of a man who tried to drown himself three times. The man was rescued against his will. At last, he realized that he was wearing his Scapular. Determined to take his life, he tore the Scapular from his neck and leaped into the water. Without Mary's protective garment, he accomplished his wish, and *died in his sins*.

Saint Claude also said: Because all the forms of our love for the Blessed Virgin and all its various modes of expression cannot be equally pleasing

to Her, and therefore do not assist us in the same degree to reach Heaven, I say, without a moment's hesitation, that the *Brown Scapular is the most favored of all!*"

He adds, "No devotion has been confirmed by more numerous authentic miracles than the Brown Scapular."

When Pope John Paul II was shot and operated on in 1981, he told doctors not to remove the Brown Scapular he was wearing.<sup>8</sup> We should do the same if we are injured or become ill. We must advise family members and healthcare workers not to remove our Brown Scapular for *any* reason.

## The Scapular Medal

The Scapular medal was granted an indult by Saint Pius X for people living in places such as the Amazon, where the humidity and heat make the cloth Scapular deteriorate quickly. The indult was likewise extended to those unable to wear the cloth Scapular for legitimate health reasons. Hence, one should not opt to wear a Scapular medal rather than the original cloth Scapular for reasons of fashion or comfort. Most noteworthy is the fact that *there have not been any miracles attributed to the Scapular medal* on record. Thus, while we trust the Scapular promises remain attached to the medal through the papal indult, it is abundantly clear

that Our Lady wants us to wear the cloth Brown Scapular if we possibly can.

# Miracles of the Brown Scapular

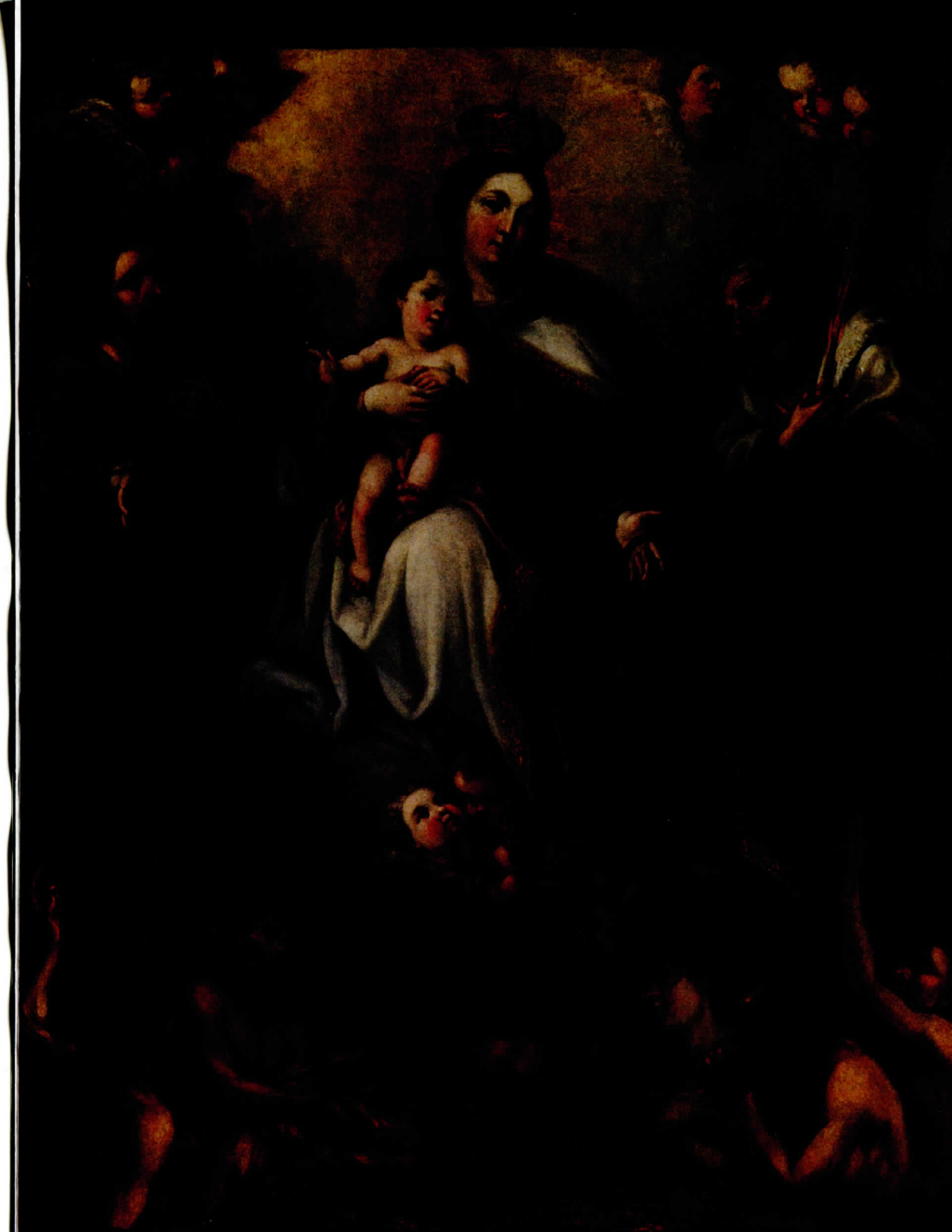
The devotion to the Brown Scapular was confirmed by miracles. God uses miracles as a witness to the truth of His promises and those of His Mother. Miracles are used by God to assure the solid foundation of the devotions that the Church proposes to the faithful.<sup>9</sup>

The greater the number of miracles obtained by a particular devotion, the more it draws our attention to this devotion and authenticates the truth that the practice is pleasing to God. Of all the devotions adopted by the Church, none has been confirmed by more authenticated miracles than that of the Brown Scapular. What follows is a small sampling of the reported miracles.<sup>10</sup>

## Miracles of Grace

A priest relates that one day in a town near Chicago he was called to the bedside of a man who had been away from the Sacraments for many years. "The man did not want to see





*"Mary promises to make easy by grace that which is difficult to nature, and to help us with more than ordinary graces as long as we wear this sign of our consecration to Her."*

— Father Howard Rafferty, O. Carm.

me: he would not talk. Then I asked him to look at the little Scapular I was holding. 'Will you wear this if I put it on you? I ask nothing more.' He agreed to wear it, and within the hour he wanted to go to Confession and make his peace with God. This did not surprise me, because for more than 700 years Our Lady has been working in this way through Her Scapular."

On the very day that Our Lady gave the Scapular to Saint Simon Stock, he was hurriedly called by Lord Peter of Linton: "Come quickly, Father, my brother is dying in despair!" Saint Simon Stock left at once for the bedside of the dying man. Upon arrival, he placed his large Scapular over the man, asking Our Blessed Mother to keep Her promise. Immediately the man repented, and died in the grace of God. That night the dead man appeared to his brother and said, "I have been saved through the most powerful Queen and the habit of that man as a shield."

In October of 1952, an Air Force officer in Texas wrote the following: "Six months ago, shortly after I started wearing the Scapular, I experienced a remarkable change in my life. Almost at once I started going to Mass every day. After a short time I started to receive Holy Communion daily. I kept Lent with a fervor that I had never experienced before. I was introduced to the practice of meditation and found myself making feeble

attempts on the way to perfection. I have been trying to live with God. I credit Mary's Scapular."<sup>11</sup>

### **Miracles Demonstrating Our Lady's Promise of Protection**

One day in 1944, a Carmelite missionary in the Holy Land was called to an internment camp to give the Last Rites. The Arab bus driver made the priest get off the bus four miles from the camp because the road was dangerously muddy. After two miles, the missionary found his feet sinking deeper and deeper into the mire. Trying to get solid footing, he slipped into a muddy pool. Sinking to his death in this desolate place, he thought of Our Lady and Her Scapular. He kissed his great Scapular — for he was wearing the full habit — and looked toward the holy mountain of Carmel, the birthplace of devotion to God's Mother. He cried out: "Holy Mother of Carmel! Help me! Save me!" A moment later, he found himself on solid ground. Later he said: "I know I was saved by the Blessed Virgin through Her Brown Scapular. My shoes were lost in the mud, and I was covered with it, but I walked the remaining two miles, praising Mary."

### **Saved from the Sea**

In the late summer of 1845, the English ship *King of the Ocean*, on its way to Australia, not far from Cape Hope, found itself engulfed in a hurri-



cane. As wind and sea mercilessly lashed the ship, a Protestant minister, with his wife and children and other passengers, struggled to the deck to pray for mercy and forgiveness, as the end seemed at hand. Among the crew was a young Irishman, John McAuliffe. On seeing the urgency of the situation, the youth opened his shirt, took off his Scapular, and, making the Sign of the Cross with it over the raging waves, tossed it into the ocean. At that very moment, the wind calmed. Only one more wave washed over the deck, bringing with it the Scapular which came to rest at the young man's feet.

All the while the minister (a Mr. Fisher) had been carefully observing McAuliffe's actions and their miraculous effect. Upon questioning the young man, he was told about the Holy Virgin and Her Scapular. Mr. Fisher and his family became determined to enter the Catholic Church as soon as possible, and thereby enjoy the same protection of Our Lady's Scapular. This they did shortly after landing in Australia.

### **Saved from the Elements**

In May 1957, a Carmelite priest in Germany published this unusual story. An entire row of homes had caught fire in Westboden, Germany. The pious inhabitants of a home in the middle of this row, seeing the fire, immediately fastened a Scapular to the main door of their house. Sparks

flew over it and around it, but the house remained unharmed. Within 5 hours, 22 homes had been reduced to ashes. The one structure which stood undamaged amidst the destruction was that which had the Scapular attached to its door. The hundreds of people who came to see the place Our Lady had saved are eyewitnesses to the power of the Scapular and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the year 1647, Roveredo, Holland was in dire peril of being wiped out from storm surges breaching the dikes. The flooding had already claimed the lives of several people and a large number of cattle. The increasing fury of the waves presaged the entire town's sure and imminent ruin. Seeing the hopelessness of their situation, the townspeople applied themselves in fervent prayer. Meanwhile, in sight of them all, the Prior of the Carmelite Convent went to the water's edge and cast a Brown Scapular into the raging sea. No sooner had he done so than the waters receded. Recourse to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, through Her Brown Scapular, had saved the town.

Father Lejeune was conducting a Lenten Mission in St. Aulaye, France in 1656. One evening his preaching was interrupted by a cry of fire. A nearby house was seen to be already engulfed in flames. The holy priest calmly instructed a pious young boy: "Take your Scapular and cast it into

the fire. We will see that the fire will be extinguished through Our Lady's power, as evidenced by Her Garment!" The youth dutifully complied, and the roaring conflagration was visibly overcome by his fervent and confident obedience. The flames rose into the air like a raging whirlwind, and then slowly fell and died away. On the following day, the boy's Scapular was discovered lying among the charred ruins — *perfectly intact and unscathed*.

### **Saved from an Explosion**

In 1955, a miracle occurred in the Midwestern United States. A 3rd-grader stopped at a gasoline station to put air in his bicycle tires, and at that very moment an explosion occurred. The boy's clothing was burned off, but his life was miraculously spared and his Brown Scapular remained unaffected, as a symbol of Mary's protection. Today, although he still bears a few scars from the explosion, this man has special reason to remember the Blessed Mother's protection in time of danger.

### **Saved in a Plane Crash**

A Jesuit missionary in Guatemala relayed the following incident of Our Lady's Scapular protection. In November 1955, a plane carrying 27 passengers crashed. All died except for one young lady who, when she saw that the plane was going down, took hold of her Scapular and called on Mary for help.

### **Saved from a Bullet**

A French priest on pilgrimage to Einsiedeln, Switzerland was on his way to Mass when he remembered that he had forgotten his Scapular. Although late, he returned to his room for it.

While saying Mass, a young man approached the altar, pulled out a revolver and shot him in the back... but the priest continued to say Mass.

In the sacristy the abbot, helping the priest to unvest and seeing a hole in the back of the chasuble, exclaimed, "I thought the man missed you!" When the vestments were removed, the bullet was found adhering to the priest's little Brown Scapular.<sup>12</sup>

In 1622, the town of Montpellier, France was in a state of siege when a miracle occurred in sight of the entire army. In a general assault, one of King Louis XIII's officers, Champrond de Beauregard, received a bullet wound in the chest. The wound should have been fatal; but the bullet, after piercing the clothing, flattened out against his Scapular. The unharmed and astonished officer displayed the miracle to all around him.

The news eventually reached the monarch's ear. Louis XIII examined the facts very carefully. After having convinced himself with his own eyes of the reality of the wonder, he wanted



to dress himself in this heavenly armor. He received the Brown Scapular from a Carmelite priest and was enrolled in their Confraternity.<sup>13</sup>

### **Saved from Lightning**

On August 27, 1602, Bartholemi Lopez, a Spanish soldier on duty in the Castle of Saint Elme in Naples, was saying prayers in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, whose Scapular he was wearing. Suddenly, lightning and thunder exploded above his head. The lightning bolt hit his shoulder and, without making any sort of injury, left on his shoulder the print of a cross. It was a sign of salvation demonstrating that it was to a special help from Heaven that he owed the favor of having been preserved from the terrible effects of the lightning.<sup>14</sup>

### **Saved From Poison**

In 1834, an elderly soldier living in Angouleme, France, no longer able to bear certain sorrows, resolved to take his own life. He chose poison thinking it would better hide his act. Suffering from the quick-acting poison, he went to a nearby hospital. But the medical supervisor would not admit him without an administration pass — which would mean discovery of his attempted suicide. Thus, the unhappy soldier refused the pass. While pondering his situation, he suddenly heard a voice telling him to go to Saint Peter's church and confess to Father X.

Yet Father X, overcome with fatigue, told the soldier to wait — it was three o'clock in the afternoon of a Lenten fast day and he had not yet had a bite to eat. The soldier implored the priest more fervently, insisting that it was a matter of life and death. When the penitent confessed he had poisoned himself, the confessor explained his own obligation as a priest before God, which included divulging the penitent's secret.<sup>15</sup> The soldier, touched by this grace, gave the priest permission. But his inner turmoil and despair remained, and it tormented him no less than the fire which now burned his insides. It also left him in a state of complete hopelessness.

The charitable priest took the soldier to the hospital and requested the proper antidote. While it was being prepared, he took the pulse of the sick man. He no longer found any; only a deathly pale complexion, misty eyes — everything heralded the coming death.

Full of confidence in God's mercy, the fervent priest threw himself to his knees, and recited the Litany of Loreto. At the first invocation, the dying man's pulse returned. A few invocations later, the soldier said in a weak voice, 'O my good Father, pray, pray some more!' The soldier joined the priest by saying: 'Holy Mary, pray for me!' His full consciousness soon returned.

Father X asked the soldier if he had kept some pious practices. 'No, my Father, I have not said any prayers in a long time.' But after reflecting for a moment, he displayed a Scapular: 'Here is the only sign of piety that I have preserved.' — 'Ah! My friend,' noted the priest: 'I am no longer surprised by the miracle which just occurred. It is Mary who protected you; it is to Her that you owe being alive.'

The attending doctor explained that since the poison was so potent, only supernatural power could have prolonged his life for more than two hours. Yet, *five hours* had passed since the fatal moment! The doctor proposed to record a statement attesting to the miracle. But the humble priest, fearing some would attribute the miracle to his prayers, chose not to publicize it. It was told to me by others, that it may give you a new confidence in Mary.<sup>16</sup>

### **Food Provided in Time of Famine**

In the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, Spain faced a deadly famine due to a shortage of all sorts of grains. A general procession was ordered; and in the area of Spain in which the Holy Scapular was triumphantly shown, immediately abundance returned and joy and consolation were brought to the hearts of all.<sup>17</sup>

In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, in Sicily, a drought occurred like that which happened in the days of Elias the prophet. The people appealed to Our Lady, and the Brown Scapular was offered everywhere in the streets for veneration by the people. Suddenly the sky opened, the rain came, and soon the people had their lofts full with abundance.<sup>18</sup>

### **A Miraculous Healing**

In 1951, the ancient home of Saint Simon Stock at Aylesford Abbey in England was rededicated and a relic (part of the skull of the Scapular Saint) was returned to the holy site in which he had received Our Lady's Scapular promise. Since then, thousands of Scapular wearers have come to the holy house on pilgrimage.

In 1957, little Peter came. He was suffering with leukemia. His arms and legs were covered with ugly sores. He had only a few days to live.

That very evening, his mother noticed that the sores were gone and his strength had returned. His family realized that he was cured. Doctors confirmed his complete, immediate, and medically inexplicable cure.<sup>19</sup>

### **Miracles in Battle**

As part of the *Thirty Years War* that devastated so much of Europe, Maximilian, Duke of Bavaria and general of the Catholic imperial army,



was at war with revolutionary Hussites and Lutherans from Prague. In the year 1618, in order to acquire God's benediction on his armies, Maximilian put himself under the protection of the Blessed Virgin by receiving the holy Scapular with his whole army. Full of confidence in this precious shield of the Queen of Heaven, he made battle against Prince Palatin, who had usurped the crown from Ferdinand II. The Duke won a complete victory with very few losses of his own. Emperor Ferdinand II, desirous of giving public witness to Our Lady for Her protection, received — along with the Queen and the princes — the Blessed Scapular from the hands of Father Dominique, a Discalced Carmelite.<sup>20</sup>

Edward II, King of England (1307-1327), hearing about some miracles that were happening in all parts of his kingdom by virtue of the sacred habit, was one of the first princes to wear the Scapular. Shortly thereafter, he experienced the effect of the protection of the Blessed Virgin, to whom he was so devoted. His army, which had already suffered two defeats, was on the verge of complete surrender. He invoked Mary and promised Her that if She would assist their cause, he would establish a monastery of the Order of Mount Carmel.

Immediately, by a miraculous assistance, he won a complete victory over his enemies, who at that point thought they had already won the

battle. The king knew this was a precious proof of Our Lady's good pleasure and love. Wanting to perpetuate the memory of Her powerful protection and to keep his vow, Edward gave to the Carmelites his palace at Oxford to establish a monastery.<sup>21</sup>

### Protection Against the Devil

In 2005, Father Nicholas Gruner was giving a talk about the growth of satanic worship in the world. He explained how adults, and even young children, are becoming possessed by the devil through such things as the Ouija board, fortune tellers, and demonic incantations found in popular literature.

A lady in the audience asked Father Gruner how — beyond avoiding such obvious openings of the soul to the devil<sup>22</sup> — to protect oneself from demonic influence. Father Gruner answered, "Wear the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for protection from curses and the devil."

After hearing the following story of Venerable Francis Yepes (the brother of the great Carmelite reformer Saint John of the Cross, and himself a Carmelite tertiary), one can understand why the devil works against those who promote the Scapular. One day Francis' Scapular fell off. As he hastened to pick it up, the devil

howled: "Take off that habit which snatches so many souls from us! All those clothed in it die piously and escape us!" Then and there Francis made the devil admit that there are three things which the demons are most afraid of: the Holy Name of Jesus, the Holy Name of Mary, and the Holy Scapular of Carmel. To that list we could add: the Holy Rosary and the Sign of the Cross.

One day a young woman, before entering the religious life, went to see the Curé of Ars. During the conversation, he asked her: "Do you recall, my child, at the certain evening of dancing, where you were? There was a young man, very handsome, unknown, distinguished, admired, and all the girls wanted to dance with him." "Yes, I recall when he never came to ask me, I was sad, yet all the other girls were privileged to dance with that young man." "You would have liked to dance with him, wouldn't you?" "Yes."

"Do you recall, when that young man was leaving the dance hall, you saw under his feet two blue flames? And you thought it was an illusion of your eyes? When you saw that young man leave the dance hall, you saw fire under his feet! It was not an illusion of your eyes, my daughter. That man was a demon. And if he did not come to you to ask you to dance, it's for one reason: you were wearing the vestment of Our Lady of Mount Carmel."<sup>23</sup>

## A Grace for All

We should even give the Scapular to non-Catholics, for Our Lady will bring conversions to those who will wear it and pray one *Hail Mary* each day, as the following true story shows.

An old man was rushed to the hospital in New York City, unconscious and dying. The nurse, seeing the Brown Scapular on the patient, called the priest. As the prayers were being said for the dying man, he became conscious and spoke up: "Father, I am not a Catholic." "Then why are you wearing the Brown Scapular?" asked the priest. "I promised my friends to wear it," the patient explained, "and pray one *Hail Mary* a day." "You are dying," the priest told him. "Do you want to become a Catholic?" "All my life I wanted to be one," the dying man replied. He was baptized, received the Last Rites, and died in peace. Our Lady took another soul to Heaven under Her mantle through Her Scapular!

### Some Modern-Day Miracles

Father Gruner often relayed the following two accounts of Our Lady's protection for Her clients.

The first one occurred about 1980 in Ontario, Canada, in a small city near Toronto. "A woman whose son I had recently enrolled in the Brown Scapular relayed the following. She



told me that she was very grateful because I had enrolled her son in the Scapular. That same day, after the enrollment, she went somewhere with her son.

"She had put him in the back seat and closed the door and drove away down the highway. But she didn't close the door very well; and when she turned the corner, the door opened and her son rolled out onto the highway. She was terrified and horrified, and she came back to pick him up and discovered that he did not have a scratch on him. He was, of course, wearing his Scapular."

"There was a man in Baltimore who told me this himself in about 1990. As he was driving down the highway, someone threw a rock through his window. He didn't know where from. It knocked his glasses that were in his shirt pocket onto the seat beside him. He didn't need the glasses, so he left them where they landed. When he arrived home, he remembered his glasses. He went to pick them up to put them back into his pocket, but they wouldn't go in. He thought it was because the rock was still in his pocket. So he pulled the rock out, but it wasn't a rock. It was a bullet. He had been shot at. He was uninjured. He was wearing his Scapular."

## Returning to the State of Sanctifying Grace

A religious priest, Fr. Joannes, provided the following testimony during one of his sermons. In 2015, he was on a simple errand to buy groceries when his car began to give him trouble. He got the problem fixed at a local garage and at last resumed his shopping errand after that unexpected delay. Yet this was providential as a lady buying her own groceries, taking note of his cassock, asked the priest to visit her ailing father in the hospital. When Fr. Joannes arrived at the sick man's room, the gentlemen stated that he was already taken care of and was not lacking any spiritual care.

Not knowing if he had been visited by a priest or simply a 'lay minister,' the Traditional priest asked the sick man if he needed to go to confession. The man assured him he did not, everything was alright. Preparing to leave, Fr. Joannes asked if he was wearing the Brown Scapular. The gentleman did not have one and agreed to wear the one provided by the priest. As soon as the priest placed the Scapular upon the man there was an *instantaneous conversion*. The man's countenance changed and he immediately requested confession. It turned out that this was only the second confession of his life. The last time he had confessed was more than sixty years earlier, just prior to his First Holy Communion.



## Theology of the Brown Scapular

By Father Michael Rodríguez

On October 13, 1917, during the great Miracle of the Sun, Lucia dos Santos was granted visions of the Child Jesus, Our Lady, and Saint Joseph. In the final vision, Our Lady appeared vested as Our Lady of Mount Carmel. She held out the Brown Scapular, *offering Her Scapular to the world*.

The Brown Scapular is not a 'magical charm,' nor is it in and of itself an automatic guarantee of salvation. Rather, the Scapular is a *powerful sign* that one belongs to the Blessed Virgin Mary. By wearing the Scapular, we place ourselves under Her mantle. She offers Her mantle to us, but we have to place ourselves under it! And, ultimately, that mantle is union with Christ! **She draws us to Christ and brings Christ to us!**

## Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

On October 15, 1950, Sister Lucia attested to Fr. Howard Rafferty, a specially deputed representative of the Father General of the Carmelite



Order, "Our Lady held the Scapular in Her hands because She wants us all to wear it."<sup>24</sup> On another occasion, Sister Lucia also said, "Our Lady wants everyone to wear the Brown Scapular. **It is the sign of consecration to Her Immaculate Heart.**"<sup>25</sup> Pope Pius XII also referred to the Scapular as "the sign of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."<sup>26</sup>

Thus, wearing the Brown Scapular is a most excellent way of *living and daily renewing your consecration* to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is a sign that one has decided to follow Jesus after the example of the Virgin Mary, for **She always takes us to Her Son!** Saint Louis de Montfort teaches:

**"The strongest inclination of Mary is to unite us to Jesus Christ, Her Son; and the strongest inclination of the Son is that we should come to Him through His holy Mother. The holy Fathers, and Saint Bonaventure after them, say that Our Lady is the way to go to Our Lord."**<sup>27</sup>

And one draws near to Our Lady through the use of Her Brown Scapular — it is as if we are protected by Her own 'Garment of Grace'!

## Our Lord and His Mother

There exists an extremely close and unbreakable bond between Jesus Christ and His Mother. Saint Peter Julian Eymard (†1868) teaches, "We

*must never separate Jesus from Mary: we can go to Him only through Her... Without Mary, we shall never find Jesus."*

Now this unfathomable bond was decreed by God *from all eternity*. No one can call this bond into question, for it is *willed by God Himself*. God, Who is all-knowing, all-loving, and all-powerful, has forged this bond since the beginning.

It is God Who decreed *before time began* the Mystery of the Incarnation, and *essential* to this Mystery is Mary, the Mother of the Incarnate Word. There is no Incarnation without the most holy Mother of God, and there is no such thing as the salvation of souls — the salvation of *any* soul — without the cooperation of the same most holy Mother of God.

Pope Pius IX authoritatively taught: "For God has committed to Mary the treasury of all good things, in order that everyone may know that through Her are obtained every hope, every grace, and all salvation. For this is His will, that we obtain everything through Mary."<sup>28</sup>

Pope Leo XIII further explained: "Every grace granted to man has a threefold order: It is communicated by God to Christ, from Christ it passes to the Virgin, and from the Virgin it descends to us. Of the great treasury of all graces given to us by Our Lord, nothing comes to us except

through Mary's mediation, for such is God's Will. Thus, as no man goes to the Father but by the Son, so no one goes to Christ except through His Mother."<sup>29</sup>

## True Devotion to Mary

The faithful wearing of the Brown Scapular is a sign of one's complete surrender to the most holy Mother of God. The Blessed Virgin Mary, in turn, will guide you to what is most pleasing to Her Divine Son. She will lead you to appreciate the promises of your Baptism: to reject sin and all that leads to sin, to choose God, to live for God, to *believe* in God, *hope* in God, and *love* God, and to believe the truths of the Catholic Faith.

It is not so much that a piece of brown cloth worn about the neck can save a man from hell; rather, the power of the Brown Scapular is in **the intercession** of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and there are no limits to this power.<sup>30</sup> The Brown Scapular is the honored uniform or badge of those devoted to the Blessed Virgin. She has promised to save from hell by Her intercession anyone who dies wearing this Scapular. And the Queen of Heaven and Earth is able to keep Her promise.

The Brown Scapular is more than a sign of true devotion to Mary. As Saint Claude de la Colombiere (†1682) writes, "*Because of the alliance which Mary contracts with us and which we*

*contract with Her [through Her Scapular], no other devotion renders our salvation so certain.*"<sup>31</sup>

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel agrees to be our Mother and we agree to live as Her children! That's why we dress ourselves as She is dressed!<sup>32</sup>

Saint Conrad (†1894) was a German Capuchin lay brother who was invested in the Brown Scapular before he joined the Capuchin Franciscan Order. He continued to wear the Brown Scapular throughout his entire religious life. He spent many years as doorkeeper for the Capuchin Fathers at the German shrine of Our Lady at Altötting. He always gave scapulars to those who visited the shrine and urged them to wear it with great love for Our Lady.

Saint Conrad said: "I will always strive to have a deep devotion to Mary. I will strive especially to imitate Her virtues." Among Her most notable virtues are love of God, love of neighbor, faith, hope, humility, purity, poverty, obedience, patience, forgiveness, and a spirit of prayer. Every person who wears Our Lady's Scapular should likewise strive to imitate Our Lady's virtues. This is the *best way* of demonstrating love and honor to Our Queen and Mother.

## A Heavenly Garment

In the very act of taking us under Her mantle as a pledge of our salva-



tion, we see Mary giving Herself, opening Her arms out for us.

Authoritative writers and saints speak of the Brown Scapular as “Mary’s garment.” They mean that this ordinary piece of cloth, when assumed by us as the vehicle of Her Promise, can be said to be *Her garb*, because it has come to us from Her sacred hands and is hallowed by its intimate association with Her. The Scapular, in a profound sense, is a relic of the Queen of Heaven, and it has been hallowed by eight centuries of continuous wonders in every part of the world.

Our Lady has wrought miracles through the Scapular similar to those worked by Our Lord in His public life — e.g., restoring sight to the blind, curing cripples and paralytics, and even bringing the dead back to life. She has also used it to extinguish conflagrations, prevent shipwrecks, deflect bullets, and effect deathbed conversions.

When Elias was taken up from the earth, he let fall his mantle at the feet of Eliseus. Overflowing with gratitude, Eliseus hastened to pick it up; it was a relic of his master, the founder of Mary’s Carmel. And this action seems to have been prophetic of Mary, the true Foundress of Carmel, who was to come later, when Her family needed Her, and let fall Her mantle of salvation.

With Elias’ cloak, Eliseus struck the waters of the Jordan, which again divided to make way for him. Mary’s mantle, the Scapular, has been raised against every kind of destruction: from fire and storm to the attacks of animals, from physical attacks to spiritual attacks and temptation — all have melted away before Our Lady’s Scapular.

The Blessed Virgin Mary gave us the Brown Scapular primarily for our spiritual preservation and salvation. Surely, then, the very reason for which She works such numerous miracles with Her Scapular against our *visible* enemies, is Her desire to remind us that it is truly a safeguard against our *invisible* enemies.

### Mary’s “Sacrament”

As a powerful aid to salvation, the Scapular is in a category of its own.

First, we have the **Seven Sacraments** instituted by Our Savior Jesus Christ — these are the great channels of salvation. They confer the sanctifying grace they signify because Christ Himself and the Holy Ghost are at work in the Sacraments. It is *Christ Who baptizes* in the Sacrament of Baptism and *Christ Who gives us Himself* in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Secondly, we have what are called **sacramentals**, which are aids to salvation instituted by the Church, and

these derive their value from the prayer of the Church.

The Brown Scapular is a third category, “Mary’s Sacrament,” and it derives its excellence from *the prayers of Mary*. Thus, in one sense, it is similar to the sacramentals. However, it is placed in a unique category because, neither instituted by Christ like the Sacraments, nor by the Church like sacramentals, it was instituted by **Mary, the Mediatrix of All Grace**.

A pious priest, Rev. J.T. Savaria, says, “The Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the masterpiece, the *chief work* of the love of the Most Holy Virgin for mankind; it is the touching mystery of Her powerful intervention in applying the Infinite Merits of Her Divine Son.”<sup>33</sup>

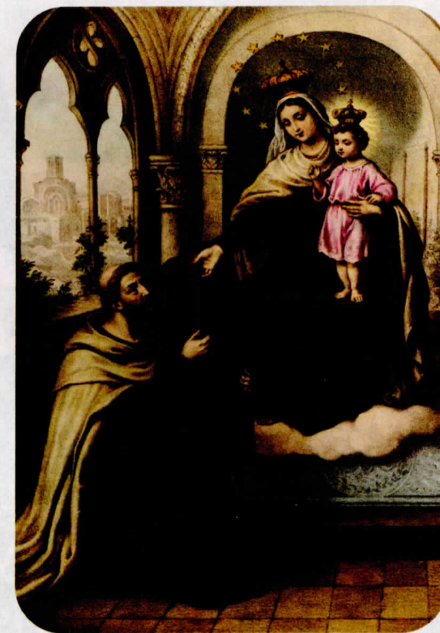
In the words of a devoted Franciscan priest, Fr. Laselve, “In the same way that Jesus wished that something visible would reveal in the Sacraments the invisible effects of His Grace, so also has Mary wished that the more particular protection which She accords to all those who serve Her with fidelity would be marked by an exterior sign, the Scapular.”<sup>34</sup>

### A Simple Conclusion of Catholic Faith

Dear Faithful, the Church’s teaching on the Brown Scapular can succinctly be summarized as follows. God chooses to manifest His infinite

power and love through the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Brown Scapular in turn manifests the Virgin Mary’s power and love. Mary’s power is omnipotent by grace and Her love is fathomless. It is because of Her love that She made the Scapular Promise, and it is by Her power that She keeps it.

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*Note: Father Michael Rodríguez explained this teaching in “Fatima and the Brown Scapular,” a conference given in Cleveland on May 14, 2017. Both a video and podcast of this can be found at The Fatima Center’s website.*



**Our Lady of Mount Carmel giving Saint Simon Stock the Brown Scapular.**



# Enrollment (Investiture) in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular

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In order to receive the special graces of Our Lady's Scapular promise, "*Whosoever dies clothed in this garment shall not suffer eternal fire,*" one must be a Catholic and must be invested (enrolled) in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular by a Catholic priest.

Through this investiture, a person becomes a Third Degree Carmelite. This means the person benefits from all the graces and merits earned by all the members of the Carmelite Order — including those living in the past, present, and future. For his part, the invested person agrees to live according to the four basic conditions of the Brown Scapular enumerated in the Papal Bull *Sacratissimo Uti Culmine* (listed on page 8).

Once a Catholic is enrolled in the Confraternity, he is enrolled for life. If a person does not wear the Scapular for many years after being enrolled, he may resume wearing the Scapular without needing to be re-enrolled or re-invested in the Confraternity. On the other hand, if there is any doubt about having been enrolled, there is no harm in being enrolled again.

When a person is invested in the Brown Scapular, the priest first blesses the Scapular. Then, while reciting the prayer of investiture ("*Receive this blessed Scapular,*" etc.), the priest places the Scapular on the enrollee's shoulders, with one piece of brown wool cloth hanging in the front and the other piece hanging in the back.

Since enrollment in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular makes a person an associate of the Carmelite Order, and since only Catholics are able to enter the Church's Religious Orders, it follows that only Catholics can be officially invested in the Brown Scapular. Nevertheless, non-Catholics should be encouraged to wear a blessed Scapular for the sake of the graces that Our Lady will thereby procure for them, especially the grace of their conversion. Everyone, including non-Catholics, should be taught that a Scapular should be handled with reverence and may not be thrown away, but should be burned or buried when worn out.



**“I am so happy you are wearing the holy Scapular! It is a sure sign of predestination, and over and above that, it unites you more intimately with your Sisters in Carmel.”**

— St. Thérèse of Lisieux, *The Little Flower*



## Rite of the Blessing and Investiture of the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

For the proper investiture (enrollment) of the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, take some holy water and this booklet to a priest and ask him to follow the procedure on the following two pages.

The Latin prayers on this page are taken from *Rituale Romanum*.<sup>35</sup>

P: Osténde nobis, Dómine,  
misericórdiam tuam.

R: Et salutáre tuum da nobis.

P: Dómine, exáudi oratióne meam.

R: Et clamor meus ad te véniat.

P: Dóminus vobíscum.

R: Et cum spírítu tuo.

P: Orémus.

Dómine Jesu Christe, húmáni géneris Salvátor, hunc hábitum, quem propter tuum tuáque Genitrícis Vírginis Mariæ de Monte Carmélo amórem servus tuus (ancílla tua) devóte est delatúrus (-a) délixtera tua sanctífica, ut eádem Genitríce tua intercedénte, ab hoste máligno defén-sus (-a) in tua grátia usque ad mortem perseverét: Qui vivis et regnas in sǎcula sǎculórum.

Amen.

*Deinde aspergat Habitum aqua benedic-ta, et postea illum imponat personæ, vel personis (cuilibet separatim) dicens:*

Accipe (Accípite) hunc hábitum benedíc-tum precans (precántes) sanctíssimam Vírginem, ut ejus méritis illum pérferas (perferátis) sine mácula, et te (vos) ab omni adversitáte deféndat, atque ad vitam perdúcat ætérnam. Amen.

P: Show us, O Lord, Thy mercy.

R: And grant us Thy salvation.

P: O Lord, hear my prayer.

R: And let my cry come unto Thee.

P: The Lord be with thee.

R: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of mankind, by Thy right hand sanctify this (these) Scapular(s) which Thy servant(s) will devoutly wear for love of Thee and of Thy Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, so that through Her intercession he (she / they) may be protected from the wickedness of evil spirits, and persevere in Thy grace until death. Thou Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

*The priest sprinkles the Scapulars with holy water. Then he places the Scapular over each enrollee's shoulders and says the following:*

Receive this blessed Scapular, and ask the Most Holy Virgin that by Her merits it may be worn with no stain of sin, protect you from all harm, and bring you to everlasting life.

Amen.

*Postea, subjungat:*

Ego, ex potestáte mihi concéssa, recípío te (vos) ad participatióne omníum bonórum spirituálium, quæ, cooperánte misericórdia Jesu Christi, a Religiósis de Monte Carmélo peragúntur. In nómine Patris, et Fílii, et Spíritus Sancti. Amen.

Benedícat te (vos) Cónditor cæli et terræ, Deus omnípotens, qui te (vos) cooptáre dignátus est in Confraternitátem beátæ Mariæ Vírginis de Monte Carmélo: quam exorámus, ut in hora óbitus tui (vestri) cónterát caput serpéntis antíqui, atque palmam et corónam sempitérnæ hereditátis tandem consequáris (consequámini). Per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Amen.

*Aspergatur persona aqua benedicta. Si plures simul recipiendi sint, mutetur numerus. Si Habitus solummodo benedicendus sit, tunc benedictio incipit a V. Osténde, et concluditur cum oratione Dómine Jesu Christe.*

*After placing each Brown Scapular, the priest continues with the prayers:*

By the power granted to me, I admit you to a share in all the spiritual works performed with the merciful help of Jesus Christ, by the Religious of Mount Carmel, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

May Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, bless you whom He has been pleased to receive into the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We beg Her to crush the head of the ancient serpent at the hour of your death and to obtain for you the palm and the crown of your everlasting inheritance. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

*The priest sprinkles those enrolled in the Scapular with holy water. If there is more than one person being enrolled then the priest uses the plural form of the enrollment formula. If the priest is simply blessing the Scapulars then he stops his prayer at the end of the prayer "Our Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of mankind... Amen".*







"The Most Holy Mary is pleased when Her servants wear Her Scapular as a mark that they have dedicated themselves to Her service, and are members of the Family of the Mother of God."

- *Saint Alphonsus Liguori*

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> *Viridarium Ordinis B. Virginis Mariae de Monte Carmelo*, Joannem Grossi (1389 AD), *Analecta Ord. Carm.* VIII, p. 124.
- <sup>2</sup> John M. Haffert, *Sign of Her Heart* (Washington, NJ: Ave Maria Institute, 1971), p. 257, footnote 28.
- <sup>3</sup> According to the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences, wool is necessary and exclusively to be used in the making of Scapulars. Cotton, felt, or wool woven into the fashion of lace will not suffice. A picture or decoration must never deprive the color of the Scapular of its predominance. (Taken from *The Scapular Devotion: Origins, Legislation and Indulgences Attached to the Scapulars* by Fr. Peter Elias Magennis, O. Carm., 1923.)
- <sup>4</sup> The faculty to substitute the *Little Office* for the Rosary, or some other pious work, was granted to all confessors by Pope Leo XIII in the Decree of the Congregation of Indulgences in June 1901.
- <sup>5</sup> According to the only copy of the Bull in existence, Pope John XXII explained that Our Lady appeared to him, listed the conditions, and said: "I, the Mother of Grace, shall descend on the Saturday after their death and whosoever I shall find in Purgatory, I shall free, so that I may lead them unto the holy Mountain of life everlasting."
- <sup>6</sup> The Sabbatine Privilege was confirmed by Gregory XIII (Sept. 18, 1517), Clement VII (Aug. 12, 1530), Saint Pius V (Feb. 18, 1566), and the Roman Inquisition under Paul V (Jan. 20, 1613). It was given a definitive ratification yet again by the Holy See in 1908.
- <sup>7</sup> From Pope Benedict XIV's *Treatise on the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin* (II,

Book, c. vi.) as quoted at <http://www.scapularofmountcarmel.com/history.html>

- <sup>8</sup> *Inside the Vatican*, July 10, 2001.
- <sup>9</sup> In his *Commentary on Saint Matthew's Gospel* (7:15-29), Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches that demons cannot perform miracles. He explains: "But they perform some things which seem to be miracles, and, nevertheless, are not miracles. The former are called miracles, when the effects appear, and the causes are hidden... Since demons may know natural things in a truer manner, they can do things which seem to us to be miracles." Properly speaking, a miracle is an event perceivable by the senses and caused by God alone, outside the laws of nature. Miracles are inexplicable by science because they can only be accomplished by *supernatural* power. The devil only has *preternatural* power to perform "lying wonders" by illusion, deceit, or even manipulating physical matter, but his angelic nature does not have the power to perform true miracles (Cf. 2 Thes. 2:9). Thus, Church approved and authenticated miracles are clear signs of God's divine intervention.
- <sup>10</sup> Though we do not know whether any of these reported miracles have been officially authenticated by the Church, the miraculous nature of each is self-evident.
- <sup>11</sup> Taken from *Stories of the Brown Scapular* by Rev. Howard Rafferty, O. Carm. Published by Ave Maria Institute (Washington, New Jersey).
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>13</sup> Taken from *Vertu Miraculeuse Du*



*Scapulaire* by R.P. Huget, Paris, 1869.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> The penitent had the moral obligation to seek the necessary medical help to save his own life. But if he were to lose consciousness before being able to reveal to the hospital staff that he took poison — and what it was — the priest would need to tell them of these matters on his behalf.

<sup>16</sup> Told by Father Michaud in *The Month of Mary* and recorded in the book, *Vertu Miraculeuse Du Scapulaire*, pp. 30-32.

<sup>17</sup> *Vertu Miraculeuse Du Scapulaire*, p. 5.  
<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Taken from *Stories of the Brown Scapular* by Fr. Howard Rafferty, O.Carm.

<sup>20</sup> Taken from *Vertu Miraculeuse Du Scapulaire*.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> Every mortal sin actually opens the door to satan, though in His mercy, God often limits the devil's power. Yet, the more serious the sin and the more frequently it is committed, the greater the power which satan receives over the sinner. Overt violations of the First Commandment — such as idolatry, occult practices, voodoo, necromancy, witchcraft, devil worship, etc... — far more readily open the door of the soul to demonic obsession and possession.

<sup>23</sup> Taken from *Vertu Miraculeuse Du Scapulaire*.

<sup>24</sup> *Fatima and the Scapular*, by Howard Rafferty, O. Carm.

<sup>25</sup> See the article "80 Years ago, Pius XII Proclaimed Assumption — and Saw Miracle of the Sun," published on the *National Catholic Register's* website

on August 14, 2020.

<sup>26</sup> Letter *On the Scapular to the Carmelite Order*, dated February 11, 1950.

<sup>27</sup> *True Devotion to Mary*, No. 75

<sup>28</sup> *Ubi Primum*, February 2, 1849, No. 5.

<sup>29</sup> *Iucunda Semper Expectatione*, September 8, 1894, No. 5.

<sup>30</sup> Saint Alphonsus Liguori, citing various saints, explains that while Jesus Christ is all powerful by virtue of His nature, Our Lady is all powerful by virtue of God's grace; i.e., in His perfect wisdom and all-powerful providence, God has chosen to grace the Blessed Virgin Mary with this singular privilege (see *The Glories of Mary*, Part 1, Chapter VI, No. 1, "Mary is an Advocate Who is Able to Save All").

<sup>31</sup> Cited in John Haffert's *Mary in Her Scapular Promise* (Refuge of Sinners Publishing, 2011), p. 57.

<sup>32</sup> The original Brown Scapular is the habit of the Carmelite Order. This is the Religious Order that, more than any other, *belongs to Mary*. Nine centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ, the Carmelite Order had its beginnings with the Prophet Elias. He and his followers mystically dedicated themselves to God's Mother-to-come.

<sup>33</sup> (See page 3 of this booklet.)

John Haffert, *Mary in Her Scapular Promise*, p. 59.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 63

*The Roman Ritual*, published under the authority of Pope Pius XI, 1926, p. 589.

## FLOS CARMELI

*This prayer, "Flower of Carmel," is the prayer of Saint Simon Stock to the Blessed Mother. For eight centuries it has never been known to fail in obtaining Her powerful help.*

O beautiful Flower of Carmel, most fruitful Vine,  
Splendor of Heaven, holy and singular,  
who brought forth the Son of God,  
still ever remaining a Pure Virgin,  
assist me in this necessity.

O Star of the Sea, help and protect me!  
Show me that Thou art my Mother.

O Mary, conceived without sin,  
Pray for us who have recourse to Thee!

Mother and Ornament of Carmel, Pray for us!  
Virgin, Flower of Carmel, Pray for us!  
Patroness of all who wear the Scapular, Pray for us!  
Hope of all who die wearing the Scapular, Pray for us!  
St. Joseph, Friend of the Sacred Heart, Pray for us!  
St. Joseph, Chaste Spouse of Mary, Pray for us!  
St. Joseph, Our Patron, Pray for us!  
O sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation!

## Other Prayers to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech Thee from the bottom of my heart, to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand Thy power. O show me herein Thou art my Mother.

O Mary, conceived without sin,  
pray for us who have recourse to Thee.

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Thy hands.

