

## THE SCAPULAR MEDAL

On being petitioned by people in torrid zones who could not conveniently wear the cloth Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Saint Pius X permitted (Dec 15, 1910) the substitution of the Scapular Medal. Later this permission was extended to all Catholics.

While the use of Scapular Medal brings with it all the privileges conceded to those wearing the cloth Scapular, Pius himself said: "I do not intend that the Scapular Medal should supplant the Brown Scapular in Europe and America. I wear the cloth; let us never take it off".

All his successors Pius XI and Pius XII, and especially his immediate successor, Pope Benedict XV, have expressed this preference with more or less vehemence. It was to express this preference that Pope Benedict XV provided that "in order that one may see that it is our desire that the Brown Scapular be worn, we concede to it a grace that the Scapular Medal shall not enjoy". He then proceeded to grant an indulgence for each time the Scapular is kissed.

The cloth Scapular has the tradition which is lost in the medal. Here is a sign which was used for seven hundred years..dear to such saints as Peter Claver, John of the Cross, Alphonsus Liguori, Francis Xavier, the Little Flower, Louis de Montfort, Claude de la Colombiere, and so many other countless souls who linked the Scapular with the Rosary in their devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Sacrifice is a part of the devotion..and Our Lady promises so much for the use of the Scapular...and the sacrifice of wearing it is so, that to make the substitution of a medal for any but a good reason is to betray even the very little sacrifice Our Lady asks for.

### SCAPULAR REGULATIONS

The Scapular may be made by any individual, or may be purchased. It is important only that the Scapular be valid. The colour of the Scapular is usually brown, but may be any shade between brown and black. The cords which join the two pieces of wool may be of any decent material (even chains may be used) and of any colour.

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Ornamentation or pictures on the Scapular are not necessary. The Scapular must be worn over the shoulders in such a manner that one part hangs in the front of the body and the other in the back. Worn in any other way, it carries no indulgences. It is not necessary to wear the Scapular next to the skin-it can be worn over one's clothes.

The Scapular may be enclosed in some sort of metal case (metal plastic, etc.) Provided the cords be actually joined to the woolen cloths, so that, were the covering removed, the Scapular would be intact. "It is permitted to sew one of the four edges of the rectangles (the top edge) to the top edge of any Scapular (eg. Of a Third Order). Then one set of cords is required, but the cords must be put in between the two Scapulars, so as to be sewed directly to each other.

### POPE JOHN PAUL II

"I have loved our lady pf Mount Carmel since I was a young boy. I began to wear her Brown Scapular then, and I still wear it out of love for her. Every mother wants to see her children well dressed and our lady is no different. She has given us this little garment of her protection. Wear it and know she always watches over us" Pope

John Paul to youth group, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Rome)

### ENROLLMENT REGULATIONS

Any priest in Australia who has the faculties to hear confessions can enroll you in the Brown Scapular. The following enrolment ceremony is taken from "The Roman Ritual" authorized by the Hierarchy of Australia. If you wish to be enrolled, show this to the priest.

### THE BLESSING AND CLOTHING WITH THE SCAPULAR OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

This is a shorter form, for the greater convenience of the priest; it may be used, when the ceremony is performed privately, or when a considerable number of persons are to be received.

While the person to be clothed with the habit kneels before him, the priest, vested over cassock in a surplice, says:

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V. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Lord hear my prayer R. And let my cry come onto you V.

The Lord be with you. R. And also with you

**Let us pray.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, with your own hand sanctify + this habit which your servant is to wear for the love of your Virgin Mother Mary of Mount Carmel. Through the prayer of that holy Mother Mary may he (she) wears it be protected from his (her) soul's enemy and remain in your grace until death. Who live and reign forever.

R. Amen

He sprinkles the habit with holy water, and then clothes each person separately saying:

Take this holy habit. Ask the blessed Virgin that through her merits you may wear it and never dishonour it; that it may keep you from all evil and bring you to life everlasting. **R. Amen.**

Then he says:

Using the power given to me, I make you a sharer in all the spiritual good works, which, by the mercy of Jesus Christ, the Religious of Mount Carmel shall ever do. In the name of the father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **R. Amen.**

May Almighty God bless you +, He who made heaven and earth and now numbers you among the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Of her we ask that you come to die, she will crush the head of the serpent of old; that your birthright, the palm of victory and the crown of glory may be yours forever. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The one receiving the Scapular is sprinkled with holy water.

To bless the habit only, the vesicles and the first prayer are used.

## OUR LADY'S BROWN SCAPULAR

Sign of Consecration to Mary

"This most extraordinary gift of the Scapular-from the Mother of God to Saint Simon Stock - brings its great usefulness, not only to the Carmelite Family of Mary, but also to the rest of the Faithful affiliated to that family who wish to follow Mary with very special devotion". Pius IX

The Scapular devotion was established in the year 1251 when Our Lady appeared to Simon Stock, Prior General of the Carmelite Order and outlined the devotion.

"Whoever dies wearing this Scapular, shall not suffer eternal flames", the Blessed Virgin told St. Simon. That was the "first part" of her promise - preservation from Hell. The necessary conditions for obtaining this benefit are: 'To receive the Scapular originally from an authorized priest' and 'To wear it devoutly day and night over the shoulders', (the cords can be lengthened or shortened, and may be of any material or colour).

The Scapular is not a "**lucky charm**". It would be to presume that, just because we wear the Scapular, we will be saved. It is, rather, a sign of consecration to Our Lady. If we die practising this consecration, we can be sure of great help from the Blessed Virgin. Authorities have noted that an habitual sinner will not persevere in wearing the Scapular.

### SCAPULAR IS A SIGN OF CONSECRATION

In an official statement on the Scapular, His Excellency, don Jose Alves Correia da Silva, late Bishop of Leira diocese in which Fatima is located, said that the cloth Scapular is preferred to any others and the brown scapular was the one held by Our Lady in the final vision at Fatima on 13th October, 1917.

## SIGN OF CONSECRATION

The Scapular is a habit... Our Lady's habit. She appeared in it to Saint Simon Stock, holding the Scapular in her hand even as she was wearing it (full size). She appeared thus again, in 1917, in Fatima, where she promised the conversion of Russia. We recall the words of Saint Dominic spoken over seven hundred years ago in prophecy: "One day, by the Rosary and the Scapular, she will save the world".

When we wear the Scapular, we are wearing a garment which was woven on the looms of Heaven and bought to earth by Our Lady herself, in her own hands. In wearing the Scapular we wear what Our Lady herself was wearing when she made the promise... And when she appeared in the final vision of Fatima. It may well be that in this habit, she will come to us at the hour of death to keep her Scapular Promise. The Scapular is essentially a religious habit.

In 1950 Pope Pius XII wrote the famous words concerning the Scapular :

"Let it be the sign of consecration into the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which we are particularly urging in these perilous times".

Also in 1950, Sister Lucia was asked why our Lady held the Scapular in her hands in the final vision at Fatima, and she answered:

" Because she wants everyone to wear the Scapular".

When pressed for further explanation, Sister Lucia said: " Because it is our sign of consecration to her Immaculate Heart".

When the question about the insistence on the Scapular was raised in France, a few years ago it was the Bishop of Fatima himself who gave the answer.

"It was right to choose the Brown Scapular of Mount Carmel - and no other - as the sign of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary".

Fatima did not actually mention the Scapular, she did require consecration to her Immaculate Heart, and she did hold the Scapular in her Hands in the final Vision of Fatima.

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## THE SABBATINE PRIVILEGE

The greatest personal reward one may receive is "The Sabbatine" (or Saturday) Privilege and is based on a Bull said to have been issued on 3rd March, 1322 by Pope John XXII. The privilege is frequently understood to mean that those who wear the Scapular and fulfill two other conditions (which, according to the only copy of the bull in existence, were made by the Blessed Virgin in an apparition to Pope John XXII will be freed from Purgatory on the first Saturday after death.

However, all that the Church has ever officially offered in explanation of this on several occasions, is that those who fulfill the conditions of the Sabbatine Privilege, will be released from Purgatory, through the intercession of Our Lady, soon after death, and especially on Saturday.

The official statement was issued by Pope Paul V. At a time when both the origin and the nature of the Sabbatine were under question, The Pope said:-

"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 death-by her continual intercession-by her suffrages, 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".

This "special protection after death" is the greatest of all the benefits of the Scapular Devotion, excepting the essential benefit of the close bond which the Scapular Devotion creates between our hearts and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We recall again the words which Pope Benedict XV addressed to the Seminarians of Rome: "...the Scapular of Mary...enjoys the singular privilege of protection after death".

In this letter of 18th March, 1922 commenting on the sixth centenary of the Sabbatine Privilege, Pope Pius XII said: " It surely ought to be sufficient merely to exhort all the members of the

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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 the indulgence which is the principal and the greatest of them all-namely called THE SABBATINE.

### CONDITIONS

The conditions of the Sabbatine Privilege are:

1. Wear Brown Scapular faithfully;
2. Observe chastity according to one's state in life; and
3. To recite daily the Office of Our Lady

A Carmelite priest or any priest can give permission for the Rosary to be substituted for the 'Little Office of Our Lady'. For those who join the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima the Bishop has given this permission for members to recite the daily Rosary in place of the 'Little Office of Our Lady' should they so wish.

To gain any reward an effort on our part is required and so it is with the Sabbatine Privilege. Our Lady has promised a most generous reward for those who persevere as her special children, under the protective mantle of her Scapular. FATIMA AND THE SCAPULAR

Just when the wonder of Lourdes had thoroughly permeated the Catholic mind and we were plunged into the universal darkness of the first world war, Our Lady came again - at Fatima.

"Only the blessed Virgin can save the world", She said, before revealing her identity. Then after she appeared several times and given proof of her presence to all who were present, she said: "**IF THE WORLD IS CONSECRATED TO MY IMMACULATE HEART, RUSSIA WILL BE CONVERTED, AND THERE WILL BE PEACE**". She was saying: The reign of Christ will be established on the earth, if you will come to me"!

How dearest Mother? How can we be consecrated to your Heart?

What must we do?

"Say the Rosary and amend your lives", she said-and then the drama began.

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## THE MIRACLE OF THE SUN, 6TH FATIMA MANIFESTATION

Having told those present to say the Rosary, Our lady disappeared only to come back again in a tableau of the Joyful Mysteries: with Saint Joseph hold in his arms the Divine Infant. The tableau was immediately replaced with another depicting the other mysteries: She appeared as the mother of sorrows, and Our Lord appeared at her side raising His arm in blessing - as He must have done at the Ascension. After this Our Lady came again and this time she was standing in the middle of the sun which all the while had been whirling in the sky (seen by over 70,000 people). She was dressed in brown and white-reaching down towards the crowd with her centuries-old sign of affiliation-the Brown Scapular.

As she faded from the view, the sun loosed itself from the sky and began to hurtle towards the earth. That was the end of the sixmonth span of apparitions.

She had come to say that she would save the world. We remember the prophecy of St. Dominic: "One day, by the Rosary and the Scapular, she will save the world".

Unfortunately, there are too few "little souls". There are too few who are willing to believe that Our Lady would save the world by such "little things". They look to the big things - to organization, meetings, schemings and politics. There are too many "big" souls looking for Christ to come on a cloud to see that Our Lady is bringing Him forth in every heart on the earth that has reached out to her Rosary and Scapular. There are far, far too many "big" souls.

It is up to all little souls who hold up their hands to the Kingdom of Christ on earth, to fulfill Our Lady's simple request to the very best of their ability, and to persuade many other souls to fulfill them as soon as possible. Then will the Reign of Christ be established on the earth.! Then will the powers of Hell be dispersed by the immaculate! Then, and only then, will the King of Kings descend from His Cross to the throne of all human hearts!!! And there will be peace. **That is what Our Lady has promised.**

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