

THE BROWN SCAPULAR DEVOTION



“The rosary is your weapon and the scapular is your armor.”



A scapular is worn around the neck, and has two little pieces of fabric, one in the front that rests on your chest and one in the back that rests on your back, both attached by a thin little rope or fabric cord. Some of them say things on it, some have images, some are just blank. There is no requirement for your scapular to have anything on it- the only necessity is that it has the little square of official brown wool on the side against your skin on both the front piece and the back piece.

The “original” or the first scapular is the brown scapular, and similarly to the miraculous medal, the scapular and its design were given to St. Simon Stock from an apparition of the Blessed Mother herself, an apparition that we now refer to as our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

The Scapular Promise:

The wearing of the Scapular fosters a true devotion to Mary that is based on her supernatural mission in the redemption of mankind. Two

Marian doctrines are proposed in the devotion of the Brown Scapular: Mary’s Spiritual Maternity and her Mediation of Grace. The Scapular teaches a practical confidence in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin to obtain for its wearer the grace of final perseverance, or a happy death. This reliance on Mary’s intercession for the gift of final perseverance derives historically from our blessed mother’s promise to St. Simon Stock, that all who die wearing the Scapular will not suffer the eternal flames of hell.

A few general conditions to obtain the Scapular Promise are as follows:

1. Honor Mary by wearing the Scapular faithfully until death
2. Recite the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary OR pray the rosary daily
3. Endeavor sincerely to lead a Christian life
4. Have a priest pray the blessing of investiture over you and your scapular. Once this blessing is done, it does not need to be done again.

PROCEDURE FOR BLESSING AND INVESTITURE

Priest - Show us, O Lord, Thy mercy.

Respondent - And grant us Thy salvation.

P - Lord, hear my prayer.

R - And let my cry come unto Thee.

P - The Lord be with you.

R - And with your Spirit.

P - Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, sanctify + by Thy power these scapulars, which for love of Thee and for love of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Thy servants will wear devoutly, so that through the intercession of the same Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and protected against the evil spirit, they persevere until death in Thy grace. Thou who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

THE PRIEST SPRINKLES WITH HOLY WATER THE SCAPULAR AND THE PERSON(S) BEING ENROLLED. HE THEN INVESTS HIM (THEM), SAYING:

P - Receive this blessed scapular and beseech the Blessed Virgin that through

Her merits, you may wear it without stain. May it defend you against all adversity and accompany you to eternal life. Amen.

AFTER INVESTITURE THE PRIEST CONTINUES WITH THE PRAYERS:

P - I, by the power vested in me, admit you to participate in all the spiritual benefits obtained through the mercy of Jesus Christ by the Religious Order of Mount Carmel. In the name of the Father + and of the Son + and of the Holy Ghost. + Amen.

May God Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and earth, bless + you, He who has deigned to join you to the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin of Mount Carmel; we beseech Her to crush the head of the ancient serpent so that you may enter into possession of your eternal heritage through Christ our Lord.

R - Amen.

THE PRIEST THEN SPRINKLES AGAIN WITH HOLY WATER THE PERSON(S) ENROLLED.