

**The Statue of
Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

Donated to OLQM Church
by Mary Anne Lyons

Blessed and installed in the
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by Father Passenant




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The Church recognizes the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a particular sign of acceptance of Mary as Mother.

When Jesus spoke to St. John from the Cross, "Behold your mother," He gave to us the masterpiece of the Father's mercy and charged us to receive her in the role of our tender loving mother, especially at the hour of our death as a protection against damnation.

Entrustment to Mary is a faithful response to this gift of Jesus from the Cross. The scapular, received and worn in living faith, promises her protection. According to a pious tradition, on July 16, 1251, Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock, an early prior general of the Carmelite religious order. She was holding a Brown Scapular, and she promised: "Whosoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire."

By the end of the 15th century, this devotion included the tradition of the Sabbatine privilege, which holds the belief that the Blessed Mother would effect the release from Purgatory on the Saturday after death of those souls who practiced the Brown Scapular devotion during their lives.

Many popes have since confirmed this devotion. Saint John Paul II said, "The sign of the scapular points to an effective synthesis of Marian spirituality, which nourished the devotion of believers and makes them sensitive to the Virgin Mother's loving presence in their lives" (Message of John Paul II to the Carmelite Family, March 2001). The faithful who receive the Brown Scapular are received into the family of the Carmelite Order. As such, they participate in the spiritual benefits of the Carmelite Order. These include the intercession of Carmelite saints, certain indulgences, and the Holy Masses, prayers, and good works of the Carmelites.

Obligations for Gaining Graces through the Scapular

The scapular devotion has two major truths. The first pertains to the graces that Mary wants to obtain for us. The second pertains to our cooperation with these graces. Graces attached to the scapular will be fruitless without our cooperation.

Only when Mary sees our openness and sincere readiness to receive her maternal love does she take the initiative to become our teacher and our most reliable guide. The heart of the scapular devotion, then, is imitating the example of the Mother of Jesus. It isn't just a matter of words. What matters is how we live authentically our devotion to Mary every day, who then will lead us to Jesus in sincerity and truth.

We are led to an ever more perfect entrustment to Mary's maternal heart. In the sign of the scapular, Mary as a mother wants to bring us incomprehensible graces which, thanks to her, will provide us with many spiritual benefits. We should strive at all times to imitate Mary, the Mother of Jesus, the very model of our lives. This will give us the blessed assurance of a happy death.

The wearer should not regard the Brown Scapular as a talisman or magical sign that would automatically ensure salvation. This belief has nothing to do with true devotion; such an attitude is destructive superstition. The scapular devotion requires one to live in total cooperation with Mary. The scapular will not immediately solve or, in a magical way, dissolve our human problems.



Belonging to Carmel, a Heart for Others

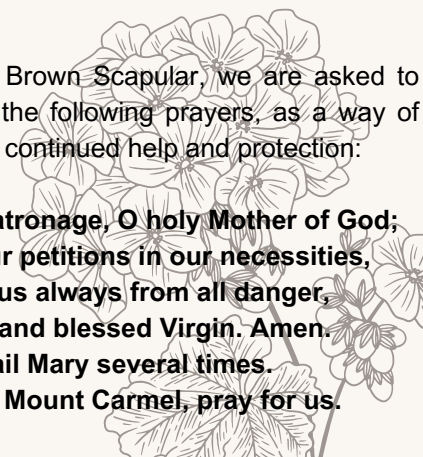
Understanding the deeper meaning of wearing the scapular as a sign of belonging to Mary expresses our belonging as well to the family of Carmel, typically as a member of a confraternity of the Order. Belonging to Mary in the family of Carmel means sharing the values that are close to her Immaculate Heart, such as humility, purity, and docility to God's will being revealed to us in the different circumstances of our daily lives.

This devotion also witnesses to others a particular Marian spirituality. In a very real way, we are sharing the way of Our Lady. Those who practice the scapular devotion should try to see others and their problems through Mary's eyes. They are called to imitate Mary's example of loving care for her cousin Elizabeth (Lk 1 :39-56) and her attentiveness to the newlyweds at Cana (Jn 2:1-11). Guided by Mary, those who wear the scapular are called to dry the tears of the suffering, protect the innocence of children, defend the faith in the hearts of youth, and seek peace, love, and a spirit of reconciliation in their families.

Receiving the Scapular, Committing to Prayer

The scapular may be blessed and invested by any Carmelite priest or any diocesan or other religious order priest. However, the ceremony should follow the rite for such an investiture established by the Catholic Church.

After receiving the Brown Scapular, we are asked to recite daily one of the following prayers, as a way of seeking Our Lady's continued help and protection:



**We fly to your patronage, O holy Mother of God;
Despise not our petitions in our necessities,
But deliver us always from all danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.
The Hail Mary several times.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us.**