

THE BROWN SCAPULAR AND FATIMA

Exchange between Sister Lucia and Fr. H. Rafferty, August 15, 1950:

Fr.: Did Our Lady of Mount Carmel come at Fatima?

Lucia: Oh, yes Father, she did.

Fr.: Why did Our Lady come that way? ... What did she mean?

Lucia: She meant that we should wear the scapular....

Fr.: Everyone in America believes there are four conditions of the Fatima message. First of all, we are to say the rosary every day. Secondly, we are to offer the sacrifices of our daily lives. Thirdly, we are to make communions of reparations on First Saturdays. Finally, we are to consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Lucia: Oh, there is one more condition—the wearing of the scapular—the symbol of our consecration....

Fr.: Which is more important: the saying of the daily rosary or the wearing of the scapular all of the time?

Lucia: Father, the rosary and the scapular are inseparable. You cannot have one without having the other.

HISTORY OF THE BROWN SCAPULAR

On July 16, 1251, Our Blessed Mother appeared to St. Simon Stock, General of the Carmelites at Cambridge, England. The Order was going through great difficulties, and St. Simon had pleaded to Heaven for help. Our Blessed Mother held out to him a brown woolen scapular, saying, “Receive, My beloved son, the Scapular of thy Order. It is the special sign of my favor, which I have obtained for thee and for thy children of Mount Carmel. Whoever dies clothed with this Scapular shall be preserved from the eternal flames. It is a sign of salvation, a sure safeguard in danger, a pledge of peace and of My special protection until the end of the ages.”

The Scapular, then is a special garment worn as a sign of love and devotion to Mary our Mother and Queen. Mary promised supernatural favors and her special protection to the Carmelite Order and to all persons who would wear the scapular. The Feast day of the Brown Scapular is the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16th.

In Her last visit to Fatima in 1917. Mary appeared to the three visionaries, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, as Our Lady of Mount Carmel, holding the Brown Scapular in Her hand. “Our Lady of Fatima requested that we consecrate ourselves to Her Immaculate Heart. The Scapular will be for all the sign of our consecration.” (Pope Pius XII)

SABBATINE PRIVILEGE

The Sabbatine Privilege is based on the Papal Bull issued on March 3, 1322 by Pope John XXII. This Privilege was approved and confirmed by many popes including St. Pius V. It essentially says that those who wear the Scapular and fulfill two other conditions can obtain early liberation from Purgatory, through the special intercession of the Virgin Mary, on the day consecrated to her, Saturday.

The other two conditions are: 1) Observe chastity according to one's state in life and 2) Recite the Little Office of Our Blessed Mother (the Rosary, with permission from a priest, can be substituted for the office). The other two conditions are: 1) Observe chastity according to one's state in life and 2) Recite the Little Office of Our Blessed Mother (the Rosary, with permission from a priest, can be substituted for the office).

SAINTS AND THE SCAPULAR

St. Claude de la Colombiere the renowned Jesuit and spiritual director of St. Margaret Mary, gives a point which is enlightening. He said, "Because all the forms of our love for the Blessed Virgin, all its various modes of expression cannot be equally pleasing to Her, and therefore do not assist us in the same degree to Heaven. I say without a moments hesitation that the BROWN SCAPULAR IS THE MOST FAVORED OF ALL! He also adds: "No devotion has been confirmed by more numerous authentic miracles than the Brown Scapular."

The two great founders of their own respective Orders, St. Alphonsus of the Redemptorists and St. Don Bosco of the Salesians – both had a very special devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and both wore Her Brown Scapular. When they died, they were buried in their priestly vestments and Scapulars. Many years later, their graves were opened. The bodies and sacred vestments in which they were buried decayed. BUT THE BROWN SCAPULAR WHICH EACH WAS WEARING WAS PERFECTLY INTACT. The Scapular of St. Alphonsus is on exhibit in his monastery in Rome.

The devils revealed to Francis of Yepes, the brother of St. John of the Cross that three things especially tormented them. The first is the NAME OF JESUS; the second, the NAME OF MARY and the third, THE BROWN SCAPULAR OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL. "Take off that habit", they cried to him, "which snatches too many souls from us. All those clothed in it die piously and escape us."