**INVESTITURE IN THE BROWN SCAPULAR**

 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.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCAPULAR**

**1.  What is Our Lady’s promise in wearing the Brown Scapular?**

“Whoever dies invested 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.”

**2.  What are the conditions requisite for gaining the Our Lady’s promise of the Brown Scapular?**

1. To observe exactly what has been prescribed regarding material, color, and shape of the Scapular.
2. To be enrolled in the Scapular by a priest.
3. To wear it continually.

Please note that there are no special prayers or good works that are necessary to receive the promise.  The Scapular is a silent prayer that shows one’s complete consecration and dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary.  The Scapular is a devotion whereby we venerate Her, love Her, and trust in Her protection, and we tell Her these things every moment of the day by simply wearing the Brown Scapular.

**3.  Who may be invested in the Brown Scapular?**

All the Catholic faithful should be enrolled.  It is customary for children to be enrolled after their First Holy Communion.  Even infants can be invested.

**4.  How do I enroll in the Brown Scapular?**

Any priest can enroll or invest you in the Brown Scapular.  There is a formula of investiture that the priest performs.

**5.  Who can enroll me in the Brown Scapular?**

Any Catholic priest can enroll you.  It was once customary that only the Carmelite Fathers were permitted to enroll the lay faithful, and special permission was needed for any other priest to perform the ceremony.  However, this devotion has spread so far and wide throughout the Catholic world that now the Church has given permission to all priests to invest the faithful in the Brown Scapular.

**6.  Is there a special formula for investiture?**

Yes.  If you would like a copy of the investiture ceremony, please click on this link and scroll to the bottom of the page:<http://www.sistersofcarmel.com/brown-scapular-information.php>

**7.  What is the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular?**

Once invested in the Scapular, a person automatically becomes a member of the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular.  What is meant by the Confraternity is that, having been enrolled in the Scapular, you belong to a spiritual family whereby you have the privilege of being affiliated with the Carmelite Order, participating in the merits of the Carmelite Fathers and Religious in life and in death, as well as receiving the promises of Our Lady through the Scapular.  Although at one time it was customary to inscribe one's name in the Confraternity Register (the parish priest would do this for all those he enrolled by sending the names to a Carmelite convent where the Confraternity was canonically erected), it is no longer the practice to do so.  Part of the reason for this is that the Scapular has become, thanks be to God, such a universal sacramental and devotion that the Church has taken away this obligation upon the lay faithful.  It is sufficient to be invested in the Scapular to be a member of the Confraternity.

**8.  How do I enroll in the Confraternity?**

By being invested in the Brown Scapular by a priest.

**9.  Can an ordained deacon enroll a person in the Brown Scapular?**

No, an ordained deacon cannot enroll a person in the Scapular.  Only an ordained priest of the Catholic Church can perform the investiture.

**10.  How must I wear the Scapular in order to receive its benefits?**

You must wear it over the shoulder so that one part hangs over your chest and the other side hangs over the back.

**11.  May the Scapular be fastened or pinned to my clothing?**

No.  It must hang over the shoulders with one side hanging in the front and the other side hanging in the back.

**12.  What shape does the Scapular have to be?**

  It must be oblong or square.  It cannot be oval, round, or polygonal.

**13.  May the Scapular have any other images on it?**

  It is permitted to ornament the Scapular with images or pictures, such as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel or the Carmelite shield.  However, the wool brown color of the Scapular must predominate.

**14.  Does the Scapular have to be touching the skin?**

  No, it may be worn over or under any part of the clothing.

**15.  What are the size requirements for the Scapular?**

The Scapular can be any size, but it cannot be smaller than 1 square inch.

**16.  May one wear a different color of the Scapular?**

Different color Scapulars do exist as sacramentals in the Church for other devotions, such as the Red Scapular in honor of Our Lord’s Passion.  However, the Brown Scapular that the lay faithful wear is a miniature of the Carmelite Religious Habit, and since that Habit is brown in color, it has always been regarded as the proper color for the Scapular.

**17.  Must I always wear the Scapular or may I take it off?**

In order to receive the promise, the Scapular must always be worn.  We must understand that by wearing the Scapular we show our consecration and devotion to the Blessed Virgin.  Our Blessed Mother cannot be pleased in any one who out of vanity or fear takes it off whenever it is not convenient to wear it.  By wearing it we make an open profession of our faith, confidence, and love of Her.

**18.  May I take my Scapular off to bathe?**

Yes.

**19.  May I wear a Scapular Medal as a replacement for my Scapular?**

No.  However, St. Pius X and subsequent Popes, have declared that in necessary cases such as in tropical climate missions where one may have allergies or skin trouble with the cloth, the Scapular Medal may be worn instead of the cloth Scapular.  Only under these conditions did St. Pius X allow the medal. The Habit of Our Lady of Carmel is the Brown cloth Scapular. It is important to remember that the small Scapular worn by the lay faithful is meant to be a miniature version of what the Carmelites wear as part of their Religious Habit, which is never substituted for anything else.

**20.  If I need a new Scapular, do I need to be re-invested?**

No.  If your Scapular has worn out or has broken, you only need to get another one and put it on.  The blessing and investiture is still valid for the new Scapular, since the blessing is predominately given to the person who is invested in the Scapular.

21. How do I dispose of my worn out Scapular after purchasing a new one?

One must either burn or bury any sacramental of the Church. One must not just throw it away.

**22.  What are the indulgences granted to those who devoutly wear the Scapular?**

1. A plenary indulgence on the day of receiving the Scapular.  Conditions:  Confession and Communion.
2. Plenary indulgence at the moment of death.  Conditions:  Confession, Communion, and devout invocation with the lips, or at least with the heart, of the Holy Name of Jesus.
3. Reciting the Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary devoutly – 100 days indulgence.
4. Each time the Scapular is kissed – 500 days indulgence.

**23.  What is the Sabbatine Privilege?**

It is the promise piously to be believed, that the Blessed Virgin Mary gave to Pope John XXII in a vision, that She will deliver Her faithful children who have worn the Scapular devoutly from purgatory soon after their death, notably the first Saturday after death.  “As a tender Mother, I will descend into purgatory on the Saturday after their death, and will deliver them into the heavenly mansions of life everlasting.”  (Words of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Pope John XXII).  This Sabbatine Privilege was promulgated and taught through the famous Bull *Sacratissimo Uti Culmine*(Sabbatine Bull) of Pope John XXII in 1322 and given definitive ratification in 1908 by the Holy See.

**24.  What are the requirements for obtaining the Sabbatine Privilege?**

1. To wear the Brown Scapular continuously.
2. To observe chastity according to one’s state in life.
3. The daily recitation of the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary OR to abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Saturdays OR daily praying of 5 decades of the Holy Rosary.

The above is taken from the Carmelite Sisters website: www.SistersofCarmel.com

**Sources:**

* *Irish Ecclesiastical Record*, 1883
* Decrees of the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences and Holy Relics, 1844-1868
* Manual on Indulgences, Father Schneider’s German edition
* Sabbatine Bull of Pope John XXII, *Sacratissimo Uti Culmine*
* Fifteen Minutes at the Feet of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Discalced Carmelite Fathers, College of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, by Rev. Father Ludovico of the Sacred Hearts, OCD
* Apparitions and Shrines of Heaven’s Bright Queen by William J. Walsh
* Carmelite Devotions compiled by a Carmelite Tertiary, 1956.
* Catholic Encyclopedia