



Legion of Mary Miami Regia

O Mary, conceived without sin.
Pray for us who have recourse to you.

Allocutio – July 8, 2012

The Legionary Must Propagate Everything Catholic *(Handbook Chapter 39 #34 pgs 305-306)*



Fr. Richard Soulliere, Spiritual Director

In his Allocutio, Fr. Soulliere spoke about the Spiritual Reading. The first item that the Handbook mentions in the section entitled **“The Legionary Must Propagate Everything Catholic”** (Handbook, p. 305, #34) is the Brown Scapular.

After Our Lord died on the cross, many people wanted to visit the Holy Land. They wanted to see Bethlehem where Jesus was born, Nazareth where He lived, and the Garden of Gethsemane and Calvary where He suffered and died. Some were so moved emotionally that they decided to stay there. Of these, some of the men made their way to Mt. Carmel, made famous in the Old Testament by St. Elias. It is northwest of Jerusalem, close by the sea, rising about 1,000 feet, its fertility, beauty and numerous caves making it peculiarly appropriate for hermits. There may have been some descendents of the followers of St. Elijah still living there. As I recall, it does not have a peak, but its top is a broad plateau. As the years passed, these men got to know one another, formed a community and eventually applied to Rome to be accepted as a congregation in the Roman Catholic Church, which was later approved in 1210. The name of the order is the Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel.

To the people living in the valleys below, they became known as “the Carmelites” or “those men living on Mt. Carmel.” Over the years they developed two things: (1) a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and (2) a garment they called the “scapular.” This garment runs, in front, from the knees over the shoulders, with an opening for the head and neck, and down the back to the knee area. It has no sides or sleeves. Brown in color, it takes its name from the Latin word, “scapula” which



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means "shoulder," so called because it hangs loosely over the shoulders. This garment protected their inner garments from the many bushes that cover Mt. Carmel.

As the centuries passed, the Muslims from Turkey came into the Holy Land, and in the areas where they predominated in population. They tried to impose their religion on the Christians living there. The Carmelites were eventually forced to flee from the Holy Land in the 1100s, going to England, France, and Spain.

On July 16, 1251, the Blessed Mother appeared to Simon Stock, the Carmelite Provincial living in England. Dressed in the Carmelite habit, with the Child Jesus in her left hand, she held out to him a brown scapular. She told him, "**Receive the Brown Scapular. It is a pledge of salvation, a safeguard in danger. Whoever dies wearing the Scapular will never see the eternal flames of Hell.**" A pledge is a promise, a promise that one will be saved. A safeguard in danger is protection, for example, while driving on I-95, or I-595, traveling, or shopping, etc.

Sixty-five years later, she revealed her Sabbath, or Saturday, promise to a priest who later became Pope John XXII: "**I, the Mother of Graces, shall descend into Purgatory on a Saturday after their deaths, and as many of my scapular children that I find there I will set them free.**" Many believe that her original words were "the first Saturday after their deaths."

The Church has imposed 3 conditions if you wish to qualify as one of Mary "scapular children" in her words above. The conditions are as follows:

- 1. The faithful wearing of the scapular**
- 2. To observe chastity according to one's station in life**
- 3. To recite daily the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or with special permission from a priest, the Little Office can be commuted (changed) to five decades of the Rosary, or other prayers or works**

Since the Brown Scapular is a part of the habit of the Carmelite Order, it must be worn as their priests, brothers, and nuns wear it, that is, over the shoulders with one badge in front and one badge in back. You cannot pin it in a bunch to your undergarments. Thus when we wear the Brown Scapular, we embrace the habit of the Carmelites who have a great devotion to Mary and who have placed themselves under her protection. It is as if Mary is saying "if you wear my habit faithfully, I will see to it that you never see the fires of Hell."

Pope Pius X said, "I wear the cloth, let us never take it off." He may have been comparing it to the scapular medal. No miracles have ever been attributed to the scapular medal – only to the cloth scapular.

Sixteen popes have written about the cloth scapular. Next to the Rosary, it is the most highly indulgenced sacramental we have in the Roman Catholic Church.



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Try to wear your Brown Scapular always, whether sleeping, taking a shower, or bathing.

- † If it gets wet, it dries quickly and does not stain.
- † If it breaks, tie it, sew it together, or purchase a new one.
- † If you discard it, it is a sacramental and you must bury it.
- † If you purchase a new one, if you have been properly enrolled in the scapular by a priest or authorized deacon, it does not have to be blessed.

Once properly enrolled, subsequent scapulars do not have to be blessed. You just put it on. Once enrolled, you automatically become enrolled in the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel which is affiliated to the Carmelite order and you share in all of the Masses, prayers, and good works of the Carmelites and the other members of the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel.

The "Short Formula of Enrollment and Blessing by a Priest" follows this allocutio. In the year 2000, the Carmelites of North America came out with a second rite to enroll people in the Brown Scapular. This alternate rite follows the original "short formula."

THE SHORT FORMULA OF ENROLLMENT AND BLESSING BY A PRIEST

Priest: Show us, O Lord, Thy mercy.

All: And grant Thy salvation.

P: O Lord, hear my prayer.

A: And let my cry come unto Thee.

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And with your spirit

Priest: Let us pray;

All: O Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of mankind, by Thy right hand sanctify † these Scapulars (this Scapular) which Thy servants will devoutly wear for the love of Thee and of Thy Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel; so that, by her intercession, they may be protected from the wickedness of the enemy and persevere in Thy grace until death; Who livest and reignest for ever and ever.

The priest now sprinkles the Scapular with Holy water, after which he places the Scapular on each one saying;

Priest: Receive this blessed Scapular and ask the Most Holy Virgin that, by her merits, it may be worn with no stain of sin and may protect you from all harm and bring you into everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Priest: By the power granted to me. I admit you to a share in all the spiritual works performed, with the merciful help of Jesus Christ, by the Religious of Mount Carmel; in the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.



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Priest: May Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and earth, bless † you whom He has been pleased to receive into the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel. We beg her to crush the head of the ancient serpent in the hour of your death, and, in the end, to obtain for you a palm and the crown of your everlasting inheritance. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The priest now sprinkles those enrolled with Holy Water.

ALTERNATE FORM (2000)

Prayer of the Blessing

The priest or deacon with outstretched hands prays thus:

Holy Father, you have wished that your only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, should take our human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the working of the Holy Spirit; grant to this son (daughter) of yours who is about to wear devoutly the Scapular of the family of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel the grace of being clothed in Jesus the Lord in all the circumstances of this life and thus to attain eternal glory. Through Christ our Lord. R/ Amen.

The priest or deacon sprinkles holy water.

Enrolment in the Scapular

The officiant places the Scapular saying:

Receive this Scapular by which you enter the family of the Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel; wear it as a sign of the motherly protection of the Virgin and of your pledge to imitate and serve her. May the Mother of God help you to be clothed in Christ. May He abide in you to the glory of the Trinity and to dedicate yourself to the Church for the good of your brothers and sisters. R/ Amen.

The officiant announces the affiliation to the Carmelite family in the following or similar words:

By the faculties invested in me I admit you to participate in all the spiritual benefits of the Order of Carmel.

Closing Rite

The priest or deacon uses the short form of blessing:

May the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you forever. R/ Amen.

Or: May the Lord bless us, keep us from every evil and lead us to eternal life. R/ Amen.

And thus ends the rite.