

41c. Blessing and Conferral of the Brown Scapular

Introduction

The blessing and conferral of the Brown Scapular should, if at all possible, be carried out in a communal celebration.

The blessing and clothing with the Scapular of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel enrolls the individual in the Scapular Confraternity. All priests have the faculty to enroll.

On the occasion of the blessing and conferral, the cloth scapular itself must be used; afterwards a blessed medal may replace the scapular.

Ceremony of Clothing

Blessing and clothing with the Scapular of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel enrolls the individual in the Scapular Confraternity, a prayer organization almost as large as the Church itself. This Ceremony is usually performed after the reception of First Holy Communion. Today many converts ask to be enrolled in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady. The following Ceremony, in English, is used by the priest. If Scapulars, only, are to be blessed, the priest begins the blessing with “Show us, O Lord, Your mercy” and ends the blessing with the prayer “O Lord Jesus Christ...”

The Short Formula of Enrollment and Blessing

Priest: Show us, O Lord, Your mercy.

All: And grant us Your salvation.

Priest: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come to You.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of mankind, by Your right hand sanctify these Scapulars [this Scapular] which Your servants will devoutly wear for the love of You and of Your Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel; so that, by her intercession, they may be protected from the

wickedness of the enemy and persevere in Your grace until death; Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

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.

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.

All: Amen.

The priest now sprinkles those enrolled with Holy Water.

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41d. Pope John Paul II Speaks on the Scapular

On Sunday, July 24, 1988, at Castel Gandolfo, the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, introduced the midday Angelus and spoke about Our Lady, Flos Carmeli, [the Flower of Carmel], as possessing all the virtues. His words are as follows. "In this month of July we have commemorated Our

Lady of Mount Carmel, so dear to the piety of the Christian people throughout the world, and linked in a special way to the great Carmelite religious family.

“Our thoughts go to the holy mountain which in the biblical world is always considered as a symbol of grace, blessing and beauty. On this mountain the Carmelites dedicated their first church to the Virgin Mother of God, “Flos Carmeli,” who possesses the beauty of all the virtues. They thus expressed their desire to entrust themselves completely to her, and to link indissolubly their service of Mary with that “in submission to Christ” (cf. Carmelite Rule, Prologue).

“The great Carmelite mystics have understood the experience of God in their lives as a “way of perfection” (St. Teresa of Jesus), as an “ascent of Mount Carmel” (St. John of the Cross). On this itinerary Mary is present. Invoked by the Carmelites as Mother, Patroness, and Sister, as the Most Pure Virgin she becomes a model of contemplation, sensitive to hearing and contemplating God’s word, and obedient to the Father’s will through Christ in the Holy Spirit. For this reason, in Carmel and in every deeply Carmelite soul, there flourishes a life of intense communion and familiarity with the Blessed Virgin, as a “new way” of living for God and of continuing here on earth the love of Jesus the Son for his Mother Mary.

“A particular favor of Our Lady for the Carmelites, associated with St. Simon Stock according to a venerable tradition, has spread among the Christian people with many spiritual fruits. It is the scapular of Carmel, a means of affiliation to the Carmelite Order through sharing in its spiritual benefits and an instrument of tender filial Marian devotion (cf. Pius XII, Apostolic Letter *Nemini Profecto Latet*).

“Through the scapular, those devoted to Our Lady of Mount Carmel express their desire to mould their existence on the example of Mary as Mother, Patroness, Sister, and Most Pure Virgin; to accept God’s word with a purified heart and to devote themselves to the zealous service of others.

“I now invite all those devoted to the Blessed Virgin to offer a fervent prayer so that through her intercession she may obtain that everyone travel safely along life’s journey and ‘successfully reach the Holy Mountain, Jesus Christ Our Lord’ (cf. Prayer of the Mass of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16).”

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