



"Receive, most beloved son, the Scapular of thy Order, a sign of my confraternity, a privilege both to thee and to all Carmelites, in which he that dieth shall not suffer eternal fire; behold the sign of salvation, a safeguard in danger, the covenant of peace, and everlasting alliance."

THE BROWN SCAPULAR.

5.—Indulgences.

AS an Indulgence is a remission of at least a part of the temporal punishment due for sin, sin itself as to its guilt must be forgiven before an indulgence can be gained. Mortal sins are to be submitted to the tribunal of penance, venial sins may find forgiveness through Holy Communion, acts of contrition, fasting, alms-deeds, or some penitential work. Under all circumstances the state of grace is indispensable for gaining an indulgence.

2. The works or prayers prescribed for a certain indulgence are of strict interpretation, that is to say, no substitution of another work or alteration is allowed. The conditions are to be complied with to the letter, else the indulgence is not gained.

Hence close attention is required in order to avoid mistakes.

3. Every plenary indulgence requires, besides the specially prescribed works, the reception of the Holy Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. Those, however, who are weekly penitents can gain any plenary indulgence by one confession, but are bound (with the permission of their confessor) to go to holy Communion on the day the indulgence is to be gained. There is no obligation to confess to a priest of the Order or to receive holy Communion in the church of the Order to gain the indulgence, unless it is specially prescribed.

4. All the indulgences granted to the Scapular can be gained by the members of the Confraternity, no matter whether they received the Scapular from a calced or discalced Carmelite, or from a priest empowered to receive the faithful by either branch of the Order, and no matter whether the indulgence was originally granted to the one or the other branch.

5. In places where there is no church of the Carmelite Order, or Confraternity, the faithful obtain the indulgences connected with the visits of the Carmelite churches by visiting their own parish church. Where there is a church of the Order this must be visited. Where there is no church of the Order, but one of the Confraternity, the indulgences can only be gained by visiting it. Hence if there are 5 or 6 churches in a town, one of which has the Confraternity canonically established, the members of the other congregations gain the indulgences in question only by visiting the Confraternity church, and it is therefore to be recommended that such churches be made known to the people, in order not to deprive them of these indulgences.

6. When there are several plenary indulgences granted for the same day they are applicable to the poor souls, according to the intention of the person who obtains them.