

Summary and General Declaration

—OF THE—

RULE OF THE THIRD ORDER

—OF THE—

MOST BLESSED MOTHER OF GOD, V. M. OF MOUNT CARMEL;

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE PRIVILEGES AND INDULGENCES GRANTED TO SAID ORDER,
TOGETHER WITH MANY OTHER THINGS CONCERNING THE SAME.

Issued by order of Most Reverend Prior Luigi Maria Galli, General of the Carmelite Order.

OF THE ADVANTAGES AND PRIVILEGES

Enjoyed by all who wear the Holy
Scapular of the Blessed Virgin
and observe the Rule pre-
scribed for them.

Having closed the exposition and declaration of the obligations of the Tertiary Brothers and Sisters of Mt. Carmel, it is fitting that we should next state and explain the advantages and privileges with which this Third Order is enriched, being preferred above any other;—to the end that, in view of these advantages and privileges, the faithful of both sexes may embrace such a state with great good will and observe with greater zeal and faithfulness the obligations previously stated.

ARTICLE I.

Of the Special Protection of the
Blessed Virgin in life, in death
and after death.

Although from well-based arguments it is clear that even before the thirteenth century, the Virgin Mary had regarded the Carmelite Order as the very apple of her eye and had shown herself singularly its Protectress, Advocate and Mother, yet she did not publicly declare that she recognized as especially her sons all who should invoke her under the title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel until the time when she gave her Holy Scapular to the Order in the person of St. Simon

Stock, at that time the head of the Carmelite family; against which the demon had raised a fiery persecution, pushing it so far that many sought the complete extinction of the Order. At this juncture the Saint had recourse to Mary as special Patroness of the Carmelites, praying her, with much fervor, to show herself a loving mother to her sons. It was then, also, that he composed and recited frequently this brief but affectionate prayer:

“Flos Carmeli,—Flower of Carmel,

Vitis Florigera,—Blossoming Vine
Splendor Coeli,—Splendor of Heaven,

Virgo Puerpera,—Virgin Bearing,
Singularis,—Singularly,

Mater Mitis,—Meek Mother,
Sed viri nescia,—Not Knowing
Man,

Carmelitis,—To the Carmelites,
Da privilegia—Give privileges,
Stella maris,—Star of the Sea.”

The earnest prayers of the zealous Priest did not remain unfruitful. On the morning of that auspicious day, July 16, 1251, in the convent of Cambridge, there appeared to him environed with celestial splendor, the very Mother of God whom he had invoked. Accompanied by innumerable angels, she advanced towards her faithful servant with a countenance of cheer, filling his heart with superhuman delight. Presenting him a Holy Scapular, she thus addressed him: — “Receive most beloved son, the Scapular of thy Order, a sign of my Confrater-