

tion, wear then, the Scapular,—wear it in the right way, *i. e.*, on your shoulders, and wear it always, day and night, in sickness and in health; never leave your home, never go on a voyage, never undertake any important or dangerous task, without wearing that “safeguard in danger,” the holy Scapular. And you, christian parents, instil into the hearts of your young children a tender devotion towards Mary, have them received into the Scapular,—their innocent childhood is no bar to the reception of the Scapular—thus it will obtain many graces for you as well as for them, it will prevent many a danger, it will infallibly draw down upon you her love, and through her prayers—the grace of repentance and perseverance.

One more privilege I must mention, which the wearers of the Brown Scapular enjoy; they share in all the prayers, suffrages, masses, penances, communions, good works, *etc.*, of the three branches of the venerable Carmelite Order. Think of it for a moment, now, during your lifetime, and particularly after your death—when your bones are mouldering in the grave and your soul is suffering excruciating pains in the flames of purgatory, when perhaps you are forgotten by the whole world—you share in all the good works of the whole Carmelite Order. Their works will plead for you. Indeed, an inexpressibly great privilege.

The order of the Carmelites is the oldest and most venerable order in the Catholic Church. The Popes Sixtus IV, and Gregory XIII, and Clement VIII, in their Bulls, declared that “the Sacred Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel, which now flourishes in God’s Church, and the members of it, are the lawful successors of the Holy Prophets Elias and Eliseus.” And in St. Peter’s Church, in Rome, you will find a statue of St. Elias, erected with the permission of Pope Benedict XIII bearing the inscription: “Founder and Patriarch of the Carmelites.” The saints and blessed whom this order has produced, are almost countless, and their great characteristics are best embodied in the few words: A great love of God and zeal for His glory; an ardent love for the Blessed Virgin; an undaunted courage in defence of the Church; a love, boundless and fervent for prayer, penance and humility. Again we find in this venerable order men

illustrious in every branch of science and knowledge, whose writings would fill whole libraries, and on every possible conceivable subject, from the writings of the prophets down to St. Theresa, the Mystic Doctor, as she is styled and represented in St. Peter’s at Rome; St. John of the Cross, an angel of light, whose brilliancy shall never fade, to the authors of the great course of theology, known as Salmanticenses, and many others.

Again; The Carmelites, at various times, suffered much for God and His Church. They were persecuted for centuries in the east, and died in such numbers that a writer has said: “Count the stars, and you can count the Saints of the Carmelite Order.” Under Turks, Jews and barbarians, they suffered for the Faith, and flying from the east and coming to the west, their persecutions did not cease. In England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany and Switzerland, they suffered dreadfully, particularly in the times of the so-called Reformation. Belgium, and Holland, and Spain, have the same tale of woe to tell. Now, thank God, better times have come; they flourish in the old country, and in the new colonies of America and Australia they are cherished with great love and esteem.

Yes, the Catholic people esteem and venerate the Carmelites, and justly so; for as children of Mary, wearing her Scapular, they have become Carmelites themselves in some sense of the word, and they love and venerate each other without distinction, because of the bond that unites them, namely, Mary.

There are two prominent features or characteristics in the history of the Carmelites which I should not pass over in silence. The first is the close relation which they bear to the Blessed Virgin. It is a tradition among them that their order was founded in honor of the Immaculate Virgin long before she had appeared in this world. During the lifetime of the Blessed Virgin, in the year 58, these same religious built the first chapel ever erected in her honor, on Mt. Carmel. On account of this intense devotion to their Queen, they were generally known as the “Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary.” And as later on, at the beginning of the fourteenth century, (1317 at Chester, Eng.) many took offence at this title used by the friars, and in consequence