

Scapular, and of wearing the badge, the livery of the Immaculate Queen of Heaven. No matter how appropriate therefore and how useful it might be—time does not allow to show you the preciousness and excellency of the Scapular of the ever-blessed Virgin of Mt. Carmel. I only can remind you of the fact that the Scapular came from Heaven, that it was given us by the Queen of all Saints through the hands of Saints, holy Carmelites, as a sign of salvation, a safeguard in danger, as the "pledge of a special peace and of her never-ceasing protection." You all know, how the Sovereign Pontiff placed upon it the seal of his approbation, and encircled it with rich indulgences, an example which his successors have, up to the present day, followed with unvarying unanimity. No wonder, then, that the greatest kings, and queens and emperors, generals and statesmen, popes, cardinals, bishops and priests, religious of both sexes and of every order and congregation, the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the learned, as well as the illiterate, vied with each other in procuring this badge, this "sign of salvation," that they might be under her protection and have a claim to her favors. Authorized and encouraged by the popes, the devotion spread rapidly in every Catholic country of the world. Pope Sixtus V instituted the Feast of the Scapular with its Mass and office for the Carmelite Order. Benedict XIII made it an universal one for the whole Catholic world, and thus to-day thousands and millions of faithful clients of Mary join us in one grand chorus to sing the praises of our Lady of Mt. Carmel. According to the latest statistics there are over one hundred millions invested in the Brown Scapular all over the world. Belonging to their number, let us vie with each other in showing our zeal for the glory of the most Holy Virgin by wearing this habit as a testimony of our devotion to her. By wearing the Scapular we render to Mary a public homage. When we were about to consecrate ourselves to the Mother of God, to receive solemnly at the foot of the altar the Scapular, the sign of our consecration to her, to wear it in her honor all the days of our life, we were no longer satisfied to love her only in the secret of our heart, we made, as it were, an open profession of that love. And as the patriarch Jacob, gave

his favorite son Joseph, a many-colored tunic as a sign of special love; and as Elias, ascending to heaven, bestowed his cloak upon Elisaeus as a sign of the descent upon him of his own spirit, so Mary bestowed upon us her Scapular, the badge of her order, as an external mark or sign, that we have been enlisted under the banner of the Queen of Heaven, as knights bound to her honor and service.

By wearing this pledge of our loyalty, we moreover render to our Lady a continual homage. The other devotions to Mary are annexed to certain times or places; the devotion of the Scapular, however, belongs to all times and all places. Always and everywhere my little Scapular pleads with her for me, recommends me to her tenderness, tells her that I love her, and that I confide all my interest to her maternal care, reminds her that I have a claim to her special protection.

Indeed, a most consoling thought! And what does Mary promise you on account of this "covenant of peace and everlasting alliance?" She has promised you three great favors: She will protect you in danger; she will help you to die well; she will promptly and efficaciously aid you after death. Listen to her own words, with which on July 16, 1251, she presented the Scapular to the holy Carmelite, St. Simon Stock. She said: "My son, receive this Scapular as a sign of my confraternity, a privilege both to thee and all the children of Carmel. Whosoever shall die invested with it, shall be preserved from eternal hell-fire. Behold the sign of salvation, a safeguard in danger, the pledge of a special peace, and of my never-ceasing protection."

Dearly beloved, could any promise, any favor be more valuable, more precious than this? Yes, Mary will protect you in all dangers of body and soul—as may be proved from hundreds and hundreds of examples; she will help you to die well, she will even—as she revealed to Pope John XXII, (59 years after the apparition to St. Simon Stock) assist and console you, as children of Carmel, when detained in purgatory, and as your tender Mother, she will descend into purgatory on the Saturday after your death, and "will deliver you and bring you to the holy mountain in the happy sojourn of eternal life."

With a childlike and affectionate devo-