

has never yet beheld *one single* Scapular of Our Lady enter into hell!

CONCLUSION.

O! that we could give due expression to our gratification that Providence permitted to fall into our hands the following charming little brochure of the venerable Fr. de la Colombiere, the saintly Apostle of the adorable and Sacred Heart. He writes with so much reverence, love and zeal, in praise of the holy badge of Mount Carmel, that he can with equal justice be entitled the *Apostle of the Scapular*.

Apostle of the Sacred Heart! Apostle of the Scapular! Touching coincidence! Very soon it is to be hoped that this great servant of God will be placed upon our altars for veneration. No words could be more persuasive! Let us hear them! "The faithful so unanimously agree that devotion to the Mother of God is a mark of predestination that independently of the reasons upon which this opinion is based, I think that a concordance so general should cause it to be regarded as a *truth of our holy faith*. The holy Fathers have spoken upon this subject in such forcible terms, that, if we did not know how enlightened they were, we might think they expressed themselves with more zeal than exactness. And the Church does not fail to authorize this belief. She encourages it by every means in her power. What a source of joy for all who wish to spread devotion to Mary! But because all the forms of our love for the Blessed Virgin, all its various modes of expression cannot be equally agreeable to her, and therefore do not assist us in an equal degree on our way to heaven, I aver without a moment's hesitation that the Scapular is the most favored of all. It is enough to say that the Scapular, like other practices of piety, is a sign of predestination, I maintain that *there is no other devotion to Mary which so CERTAINLY ensures our salvation as this admirable one*. We should therefore wear it ourselves, and besides, do all in our power to induce others to assume it. Divine Mother! what marvels thou hast wrought to confirm this sweet belief! O! Christians! To assure yourselves of the protection of this incomparable Queen, wear the Scapular, and wear it until you die. I would reproach myself were I to

weaken your confidence in those other practices of devotion to Mary which are approved of by the Church. They are all salutary, and cannot fail to touch her maternal heart. But if she graciously accords her favor to those who avail themselves of *them*, how much more propitious will she not be to *all who assume her holy livery*. She has positively promised this to her children of the Scapular; this loving Mother has absolutely placed no limits to her encouragement. The promise to assist is made without any condition, she has pledged herself that they shall never fall into the power of the demon. That is, she gives them all the assurance they can possibly have, in this life of their salvation. If they persevere in her service, they will most certainly persevere in grace. What think you, Christians, of the explicit promise which the Mother of God made to St. Simon Stock? Could any terms have been more decided? I know well that the saints have spoken most encouragingly of the powerful protection of Mary, but enlightened and holy as they have been, they are, after all, only *men*: only servants of the Queen, whilst here it is the *Queen herself* who, in that celebrated revelation, reveals all the tenderness of her heart to St. Simon Stock. Those great saints have assured me that with Mary to protect my interests I need fear nothing. That does not suffice for me. I wish to know if she does protect my interests. Yes! She gives me proof unequivocal. I have but to cast a glance at my Scapular. Tangible proof before my eyes! I have but to recall the promise attached to its devout wearing: "*In quo quis moriens eternum non patitur incendium*."

"Whosoever dieth clothed in this holy habit will never enter eternal fire." And the Holy Ghost has given to the Scapular, and to the promises of Mary, through the lips of the Vicars of Christ, the most absolute approbation. And the sovereign Pontiffs, to excite the zeal of Christians towards this holy Confraternity, have enriched it with almost innumerable indulgences."—(Fr. de la Colombiere's very words.)

What still remains, dear Christians, to render this pledge of our divine Mother more solemn if it be not the ratification