

Prayer of Blessing

O God, the author and perfecter of all holiness, you call all who are reborn of water and the Holy Spirit to the fullness of the Christian life and the perfection of charity. Look with kindness on those who devoutly receive this scapular in honor of the blessed Virgin Mary. As long as they live, let them become sharers in the image of Christ your Son and, after they have fulfilled their mission on earth with the help of Mary, the Virgin Mother, receive them into the joy of your heavenly home. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R). Amen

Conferral of the Scapular

Receive this scapular as the sign of your acceptance into the confraternity of the religious family of N., which is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary. Live in such a way that, with the help of the Mother of God, you may more and more put on Christ, who redeemed us by his blood, for the glory of the Trinity and for the service of the Church and of your neighbor. R).Amen

By being clothed with the scapular you have been accepted into the religious family of N., in order that you may more fully serve Christ and his Church in the spirit of that community. So that you may more completely achieve that goal, I admit you, in virtue of the power entrusted to me, into a participation in all the spiritual favors belonging to this religious family.



**Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites
St. Joseph Community
www.carmelife.org
Carmel of the Trinity Monastery
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**OUR LADY
OF THE
SCAPULAR**

The Blessed Brown Scapular

For centuries, devotion to Mary through the wearing of the Brown scapular has been the cornerstone of the Discalced Carmelite Order's dedication to Mary and a life of prayer lived in imitation of Mary.

Tradition tells us that the Scapular was presented by Mary to the English Carmelite, Saint Simon Stock, in the year 1251, as a sign of Mary's special love and protection for all Carmelites. Ever since that date, the Brown Scapular has come to symbolize Carmel's unlimited confidence in Mary's prayerful intercession with her Divine Son.

In its gratitude to Mary for the gift of the Brown Scapular, Carmel seeks to share this blessed sign of Mary's love with the entire world. The Scapular of Carmel is a constant reminder to each of its wearers that our Blessed Mother's love, prayers and protection are with her children always and everywhere.

Dedication to Mary and to a life of prayer are the two distinctive characteristics of the Carmelite Order. By being invested in and wearing the Brown Scapular, a person becomes a member of the Carmelite family and a sharer in all the blessings bestowed on Carmel, not the least of which is sharing in the prayers of all the Carmelites.

The Scapular, in its monastic apron form, is an integral part of the habit of Carmelites. The miniaturized version of this sacramental consists of two panels of cloth, joined by a cord and worn over the shoulders.

The Spiritual Significance of the Scapular

Pope John Paul II, wrote to the entire Carmelite Family, on the 750th anniversary of the Scapular of our Lady of Mount Carmel, on the spiritual significance of the Scapular. He states: "The sign of the Scapular points to an effective synthesis of Marian spirituality, which nourishes the devotion of believers and makes them sensitive to the Virgin Mother's loving presence in their lives. The Scapular is essentially a "habit." Those who receive it are associated more or less closely with the Order of Carmel and dedicate themselves to the service of Our Lady for the good of the whole Church (cf. "Formula of Enrollment in the Scapular," in the *Rite of Blessing of and Enrollment in the Scapular*, approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 5 January 1996). Those who wear the Scapular are thus brought into the land of Carmel, so that they may "eat its fruits and its good things" (cf. Jer 2:7). And experience the loving and motherly presence of Mary in their daily commitment to be clothed in Jesus Christ and to manifest him in their life for the good of the Church and the whole of humanity (cf. "Formula of Enrollment in the Scapular", cit.).

Therefore two truths are evoked by the sign of the Scapular: on the one hand, the constant protection of the blessed Virgin, not only on life's Journey, but also at the moment of passing into the fullness

of eternal glory; on the other, the awareness that devotion to her cannot be limited to prayers and tributes in her honor on certain occasions, but must become a "habit," that is, a permanent orientation of one's own Christian conduct, woven of prayer and interior life, through frequent reception of the sacraments and the concrete practice of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. In this way, the Scapular becomes a sign of the "covenant and reciprocal communion between Mary and the faithful: indeed, it concretely translates the gift of his Mother, which Jesus gave on the Cross to John and, through him, to all of us, and the entrustment of the beloved Apostle and of us to her, who became our spiritual Mother."

Rules of Enrollment in the Scapular

- Enrollment in the Scapular is done by a priest, and only one time. When your Scapular wears out, simply replace it with a new one.
- Practical enrollment in the Scapular requires the wearer to live an authentic Christian Lifestyle, partaking of the sacraments, professing devotion to Our Lady, and accomplishment of daily penance, prayer and chastity as determined by one's vocation - single, married, or religious.