

A Note from Fr. Khaing

Dear Parish Family,

The Church offers us powerful sacramentals to draw us closer to Christ through Our Lady. One of our most cherished traditions is the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. I invite you to embrace its spiritual graces as a daily, silent prayer and a sign of our consecration to Mary.

To help you enter into this devotion, I will be offering the official enrollment and blessing for all interested parishioners. If you have never worn the Brown Scapular, or if you need to replace an old one and wish to be officially enrolled in the Confraternity, join us **inside the church right after the 11 AM Mass on September 27, or the 4 PM Mass on October 3.** The enrollment will be also offered at **St. Thomas after the 6 PM Mass on September 26.** Scapulars will be provided, and this brief ceremony grants you a share in the spiritual merits of the worldwide Carmelite Order.

In Christ and Our Lady,
Fr. Khaing

History and Promise

In 1251 in Aylesford, England, Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock and gave him the brown woolen scapular, promising: *"Whosoever dies in this garment shall not suffer eternal fire."* The Church later extended this to all lay faithful who are validly enrolled, wear it continuously, and live a Christian life.



What It Is & What It Is Not

- **What it is:** A sacramental consisting of two small squares of 100% brown wool worn over the chest and back under clothing. Holding or kissing it is a silent, continuous prayer telling Our Lady that we trust in her protection.
- **What it is not:** It is not a good luck or magic charm, nor an automatic guarantee of salvation, an "insurance policy" or a way around living the demands of a Christian life. If we die wearing the Scapular in a state of grace and having lived the life it signifies, we shall not suffer eternal fire. If we die wearing it without being in a state of grace or failing to live that life, it does not guarantee heaven.

The Sabbatine Privilege

This tradition stems from a papal bull of Pope John XXII, signifying Our Lady's promise to mercifully intercede and lead faithful souls from Purgatory on the Saturday following death.

Conditions:

1. Wear the Scapular continuously.
2. Observe chastity according to your state in life.
3. Fulfill a daily devotional requirement.

Note on Daily Requirement: While traditionally requiring the Little Office, **I am authorized to commute this requirement to praying five decades of the Holy Rosary daily.** (Failing these optional extra conditions does not invalidate your enrollment or the basic Scapular promise).



"Let us hold in high esteem the practices and devotions to the Blessed Virgin approved by the teaching authority of the Church... The Scapular is a practice of piety, which by its very simplicity is suited to everyone."

— Pope Paul VI