

## The Brown Scapular and the Scapular Medal

In response to the Scapular Medal replacing the Brown Scapular, I talked to a Carmelite Priest, Carmelite Sister, my Spiritual Advisor from the Trappist Monastery and retrieved documentation from the World Apostolate of Fatima and I will reference a little booklet, "Garment of Grace" published by the Immaculate Heart Publications in USA, Box 1028, Buffalo, New York 14205, toll free number 1-800-263-8160. The booklet is reprinted with permission of Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, PO Box 524, Vienna, Ohio 44473. Stories were obtained from "Stories of the Brown Scapular" by Fr. Howard Rafferty, OCarm. The Garment of Grace Booklet carries the Nihil Obstat-Rev. Lawrence A. Deery and Imprimatur +Most Rev. Timothy J. Harrington, Bishop of Worcester, March 9, 1990.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel said, "**It is my garment.**"

"To be **clothed** in it means you are continually thinking of me, and I in turn, am always thinking of you and helping you to secure eternal life."

Webster defines the following:

Garment: an article of clothing, clothes

Medal: is metal with a design or inscription stamped on it

As with many changes within the Church, we are called to individually discern or choose what we wish to do.

For example;

The Church requires Catholics to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation once a year.

Our Lady asks us to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation once a month, to fulfill her request for the First Saturday Devotion for World Peace.

Holy Days of Obligation:

Depending on when a Holy Day may fall on the calendar, some dioceses oblige Catholics to attend Mass and some diocese may not oblige Catholics to attend Mass on that day.

We have the gift of a Free Will and our Catholic faith does give us room to choose on some matters.

In speaking to the Carmelite Religious and the information that I found printed, all agreed the scapular medal could be used in its place if necessary. Both Pius X and Benedict XV expressed their strong desire that people continue to wear the cloth scapular and not substitute the medal without sufficient reason. Vanity and fear of making an open profession of our affiliation with Our Lady would be wrong reasons for substituting the medal for the cloth. Sister Mary Joseph said she understood that the medal could be used if someone was swimming or participating in water sports.

To quote from the "Garment of Grace" page 36;

"The Scapular is a habit -- Our Lady's habit. The Scapular must be worn over the shoulders in such a manner that one part hangs in front of the body and the other in back. Worn in any other way, it carries no indulgence or promise. It is not necessary to wear the Scapular next to the skin. Many Catholics may not know it is the wish of the Holy Father, the Pope, that the **Scapular Medal should not be worn in place of the Cloth Scapular without sufficient reason.** Mary cannot be pleased with anyone who substitutes the medal out of vanity, or out of fear of making an open profession of faith. Such persons run the risk of not receiving the Promise. **The medal has never been noted for any of the miraculous preservations attributed to the Brown Cloth Scapular.**"

I highly recommend reading this little booklet that contains many stories of *miracles* attributed to those who wore the brown scapular.

St. Margaret Mary's spiritual advisor, Blessed Claude de la Colombiere, said, "No other devotion has been confirmed by so many and such extraordinary miracles."

Pope Pius XII in Rome in 1951, told a very large audience to wear the Brown Scapular as "the sign of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary". Our Lady appeared in the sixth apparition at Fatima on October 13, 1917, as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, holding the Brown Scapular out to the whole world. It was Her last moving appeal to souls to wear Her Scapular as a sign of consecration to Her Immaculate Heart. She did not appear holding a medal. She appeared holding the simple brown scapular out to the whole world.

I urge you to read this little 45 page booklet on the Garment of Grace.

Many religious orders have taken the "scapular" and incorporated it as part of their habit. Notice the piece of cloth over their shoulders that complete their habit. The Carmelite Order, The Trappist Cistercian Order, The Trinitarians of Mary, and the traditional habits such as Mother Angelica wears all have a full length scapular.

I very sheepishly admit to you that out of pure vanity and convenience, my husband and I did not wear the scapular as requested by Blessed Mother. After we were enrolled in the brown scapular, we either carried the scapular in our possessions (wallet or pocket) or I tucked it in my bra.

I simply overlooked what was said about wearing the scapular over your shoulders. Maybe I did this because I was still too proud. If it laid over your shoulders as a gold or silver chain, I probably would have worn that. I used to wear a beautiful gold Miraculous Medal on a pure gold chain, and that was not a problem. I liked it and I thought it looked good.

However, that little brown piece of cloth could be seen through my clothing, it would pop up around my neckline and I really didn't like that cord showing. When I was writing the article, "Modern Heretics Mock Wearing it" for Our Lady of Fatima Conference© Newsletter, there must have been a moment of grace. You know, a thought or feeling can hit you, and then it is your choice, either you go with it or ignore it. I went with it. My husband and I changed right then and there. We both decided to wear the simple little piece of brown cloth over our shoulders, and that was that.

Now that we always wear the brown scapular the way Blessed mother intended us to wear it, Don and I both feel that we are doing as Blessed Mother requested of us. The brown scapular is a way Blessed Mother makes herself visible to us. We are reminded of what she said, "Wear it devoutly and perseveringly. It is my garment. To be clothed in it means you are continually thinking of me, and I in turn, am always thinking of you and helping you to secure eternal life." Isn't that what it is all about anyway?

We would never want to substitute her brown scapular gift to us if we don't have to.

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