

## FATIMA AND THE SCAPULAR OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

The Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is the sign and symbol of the Consecration to God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is the SIGNUM MAGNUM of her Immaculate Heart; it is the symbol of her Spiritual Motherhood over humanity. The importance of the Brown Scapular is that it constitutes a spiritual gift from Our Lady herself to help us in our way to Jesus Christ.

1. It is Mary's dress, symbolizing her purity and transparency, her honesty and trustworthy, her virtue of chastity, her humility and holiness.

2. It is a shield, protecting from evil, in this life, at the hour of death and after death.

(a) "In this life", many graces and favors are received as a sign of the Spiritual Motherhood of Mary over her children. It is a special love communicated to her "preferred children" in the same manner that Jesus Christ, her beloved Son, had a "preferred disciple", John. We become her children in the image of John, the beloved disciple and adopted son of Mary.

(b) "At the hour of death", all graces needed for salvation of the soul will be made available to those wearing with faith the Brown Scapular as a sign of their Christian lives and their love of Mary.

(c) "After death", we must go into the Sabbatine Privilege. Our Lady promised to release from purgatory soon after death (first Saturday after death) to all those who (1) wear the Brown Scapular, (2) observe chastity according to their state in life. You must be invested by a priest in the Brown Scapular and try to live a Christian Life the best you can.

3. It is the Sign of Mary's family, a precious jewel preserved inside the family tradition for centuries. The Carmelite family to which you pertain when you are invested in the Brown Scapular, as a member of the Confraternity of Mount Carmel, has produced to the Universal Church more saints than any other spirituality. This was the spirituality of Sister Lucia, of the Holy Father John Paul II, the Great, of so many great models of perfection, that we all should take advantage of this proven way to holiness.

Prof. Americo Pablo Lopez-Ortiz

International President of the World Apostolate of Fatima