Garment of Grace

"WEAR THE SCAPULAR 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."

Our Lady of Mount Carmel to St. Simon Stock

Psalm 91

For He will command His angels concerning you To guard you in all your ways;

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

O MARY, VIRGIN MOTHER. THOU WHO, WITH SPECIAL MERCY, LOOK UPON THOSE **CLOTHED IN THY BELOVED** HABIT, CAST A GLANCE OF PITY UPON ME. FORTIFY MY WEAKNESS WITH THY STRENGTH: ENLIGHTEN THE DARKNESS OF MY MIND WITH THY WISDOM; **INCREASE MY** FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY. ASSIST ME DURING LIFE. **CONSOLE ME** BY THY -PRESENCE AT MY DEATH. AND PRESENT ME TO THE AUGUST TRINITY AS THY DEVOTED CHILD. THAT I MAY BLESS **IESUS AND THEE FOR ALL** ETERNITY IN PARADISE. FOREVERMORE, AMEN.

"WHOSOEVER DIES IN THIS GARMENT SHALL NOT SUFFER ETERNAL FIRE."

(a) june vreyes



Why Do We Wear the Brown Scapular?

If you wear Mary's Brown Scapular, you should be introduced to Saint Simon Stock. You may already know him from his picture (along with Our Lady's) on your Scapular. Actually, Saint Simon is an old friend, for it was him that Our Blessed Mother gave the Scapular promise in 1251, saying, *Whoever dies wearing this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire.*

One of the great mysteries of our time is that the majority of Catholics either ignore, or have entirely forgotten the Heavenly Promise of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Lady further says: Wear the Scapular 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.

Saint Claude de la Colombière, the renowned Jesuit and spiritual director of Saint Margaret Mary, gives a point which is enlightening.

He said, Because all the forms of our love for the Blessed Virgin and all its various modes of expression cannot be equally pleasing to Her, therefore do not assist us in the same degree to reach Heaven, I say, without a moment's hesitation, that the BROWN SCAPULAR IS THE MOST FAVOURED OF ALL! He also adds, No devotion has been confirmed by more numerous authentic miracles than the Brown Scapular.

Old Testament History

Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel (the Madonna of the Scapular) goes back far before the time of Saint Simon Stock, even before the time of Our Blessed Lord; it goes back all the way to the 8th century B.C. It was then that the prophet Elias ascended the holy mountain of Carmel in Palestine and began there a long tradition

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of contemplative life and prayer. It is amazing to realize that centuries before Christ was born, Holy Elias and his followers had mystically dedicated them to God's mother to come, Mary, Queen of Mount Carmel. Near three thousand years later, that tradition of prayer, contemplation, and devotion to Mary continues to live and prevail in the Catholic Church.



In the fullness of time, God became the God-Man, Jesus. We know of Our Lord's Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension from the four Gospels of the New Testament, and we know that Jesus bequeathed to the world the Holy Catholic Church to teach, to govern, and to sanctify in His Name.



On the Feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, the spiritual descendants of Elias and his followers came down from Mount Carmel. Fittingly, they were the first that day to accept the message of Christianity and to be baptised by the Apostles.

When, at last, they were presented to Our Lady, and heard the sweet words from Her lips, they were overcome with a sense of majesty and sanctity which they never forgot. Returning to their holy mountain, they erected the first chapel ever built in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From that time, devotion to God's Mother was handed down by the hermits on Mount Carmel as a treasured spiritual legacy.

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Our Lady Appears to Saint Simon Stock

In the year 1241, the Baron de Grey of England was returning from the Crusades in Palestine: he brought back with him a group of religious from the holy mountain of Carmel. Upon arrival, the baron generously presented the monks with a manor house in the town of Aylesford. Ten years later, in that very place, there occurred the now-famous apparition of Our Lady to Saint Simon Stock. As the Holy Virgin handed Saint Simon the brown woollen Scapular, She spoke these words: *This shall be the privilege for you and all Carmelites, that anyone dying in this habit shall not suffer eternal fire.*

In time, the Church extended this magnificent privilege to all the laity who are willing to be invested in the Brown Scapular of the Carmelites, and who perpetually wear it.



Many Catholics are invested in the Brown Scapular at the time of their First Holy Communion; in the case of converts, the vesting concurs with their Profession of Faith. When a person is enrolled in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular and vested in that tiny habit of brown wool, the priest says to him: *Receive this blessed Scapular and ask the Most Blessed Holy Virgin that, by Her merits, it may be worn with no stain of sin and may protect you from all harm and bring you into everlasting life.* The following true stories will give a brief idea of how Our Blessed Mother keeps Her promise.

Miracle of Grace

A priest relates how one day in a town near Chicago he was called to the bedside of a man who had been away from the Sacraments for many years. *The man did not want to see me: he would not talk. Then I asked him to look at the little Scapular I was holding. 'Will you wear this if I put it on you? I ask nothing more.'*

*Also see the words of Her Promise on page 45

He agreed to wear it, and within the hour he wanted to go to confession and make his peace with God. This did not surprise me, because for over 700 years Our Lady has



been working in this way through Her Scapular.

On the very day that Our Lady gave the Scapular to Saint Simon Stock, he was hurriedly called by Lord Peter of Linton: *Come quickly, Father, my brother is dying in despair!* Saint Simon Stock left at once for the bedside of the dying man. Upon arrival he placed his Scapular over the man, asking Our Blessed Mother to keep Her promise. Immediately the man repented, and died in the grace and friendship of God. That night the dead man appeared to his brother and said, *I have been saved through the most powerful Queen and the habit of that man as a shield*. Saint Alphonsus tells us: *Modern heretics make a mockery of wearing the Scapular. They decry it so much as trifling nonsense.* Yet we know that many Popes have approved and recommended it.

It is remarkable that just 25 years after the Scapular Vision, Blessed Pope Gregory X was buried wearing the Scapular. When his tomb was opened 600 years after his death, his Scapular was found to be intact.



Saint Alphonsus

Two great founders of religious orders, Saint Alphonsus of the Redemptorists and Saint John Bosco of the Salesians, had a very special devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and both wore Her Brown Scapular. When they died, each was buried in his priestly vestments and Scapular.

Many years later, their graves were opened, the bodies sacred vestments in which they were buried had turned to dust. BUT THE BROWN SCAPULAR WHICH EACH WAS WEARING WAS PERFECTLY INTACT. The Scapular of Saint Alphonsus is on exhibit in his monastery in Rome.

Protection Against the Devil



Our Lady of Knock, Ireland

You will understand why the devil works against those who promote the Scapular when you hear the story of the Venerable Francis Yepes. One day his Scapular fell off. As he replaced it, the devil howled, *Take off the habit which snatches so many souls from us!* Then and there Francis made the devil admit that there are three things which the demons are most afraid of: the Holy Name of Jesus, the Holy Name of Mary, and the Holy Scapular of Carmel. To that list we could add the Holy Rosary.

The great Saint Peter Claver was another of God's heroes who used the Scapular to good advantage. Every month a shipment of one thousand slaves would arrive at Cartagena, Colombia, South America. Saint Peter used to ensure the salvation of his converts. First, he organised



Our Lady of the Rosary, All Saints' Church, Ballymena

catechists to give them instructions. Then, he saw to it that they were baptized and clothed with the Scapular. Some ecclesiastics accused the Saint of indiscreet zeal, but Saint Peter was confident that Mary would watch over each of his more than three hundred thousand converts.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Protects a Missionary

One day in 1944, a Carmelite missionary in the Holy Land was called to an internment camp in order to receive the Last Rites. The Arab bus driver made the priest get off the bus four miles from the camp because the road was dangerously muddy. Trying to get solid footing, he slipped into a muddy pool. Sinking to his death in this



desolate place, he thought of Our Lady and Her Scapular. He kissed his great Scapular (for he was wearing the full habit) and looked toward the holy mountain of Carmel, the birthplace of devotion to God's Mother.

He cried out, *Holy Mother of Carmel! Help me! Save me!*

A moment later, he found himself on solid ground. Later he said, I know I was saved by the Blessed Virgin through her Brown Scapular. My shoes were lost in the mud, and I was covered with it, but I walked the remaining two miles praising Mary.

Saved from the Sea

Another Scapular story that bears repeating took place in 1845. In the late summer of that year, the English ship, *King of the Ocean*, found itself in the middle of a wild hurricane. As wind and sea mercilessly lashed the ship, a Protestant minister, together with his wife and children and other passengers, struggled to the deck to pray for mercy and forgiveness, as the end seemed at hand. Among the crew was a young Irishman, John McAuliffe. On seeing the urgency of the situation, the youth opened his shirt, took off his Scapular, and, making the Sign of the Cross with it over the raging waves, tossed it into the ocean. At that very moment, the wind calmed. Only one more wave washed the deck, bringing with it the Scapular which came to rest at the boy's feet.

All the while the minister (a Mr. Fisher) had been

carefully observing McAuliffe's actions and their miraculous effect. Upon questioning the young man, they were told about the Holy Virgin and Her Scapular. Mr. Fisher and his family were so impressed that they were determined to enter the Catholic Church as soon as possible, and thereby enjoy the same protection of Our Lady's Scapular.



God will open new doors Revelation 3:8

A Home Saved From Fire

Nearer our own times, in May 1957, a Carmelite priest in Germany published the unusual story of how the Scapular saved a home from fire. An entire row of homes had caght fire in Westboden, Germany. The pious inhabitants of a two-family home, seeing the fire, immediately fastened a Scapular to the main door of the house. Sparks flew over it and around it, but the house remained unharmed. Within five hours, twenty two homes had been reduced to ashes. The one structure which stood undamaged amidst the destruction was that which had the Scapular attached to its door. The hundreds of people who came to see the place Our Lady had saved are eye-witnesses to the power of the Scapular and the Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It is nice to remember that it was Saint Joseph who ushered in the brief vision of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in that climactic and final apparition at Fatima. Mary's children trust in the protection of Her strong spouse.

Brown Scapular

Blessed Virgin Mary to Saint Dominic, *One day through the Rosary and the Scapular I will save the world*.

Mary's promise made July 16, 1251, to Saint Simon Stock: Whoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire.

Your Scapular can take on deep meaning for you. It is a rich present brought down from Heaven.

"Wear it devoutly and perseveringly"; Our Lady says to each soul, "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."

Prayer of Saint Simon Stock

Known as the Flos Carmeli, the following prayer has for seven centuries been called a prayer to the Blessed Mother which has never been known to fail in obtaining her powerful help:

O beautiful Flower of Carmel, most fruitful vine, Splendour of heaven, Holy and singular, who brought forth the Son of God, still ever remaining a Pure Virgin, assist me in the necessity. O Star of the Sea, help and protect me! Show me that you are my mother.

O Mary, conceived without sin, Pray for us who have recourse to thee!

A Train Accident

One of the most extraordinary of all Scapular incidents took place in the United States. It happened around the turn of the century in the town of Ashtabula, Ohio, that a man was cut in two by a train; he was wearing the Scapular. Instead of dying instantly, as is usual, he remained alive AND CONSCIOUS for forty five minutes... just enough time until a priest could arrive to administer the Last Sacraments.

These, and other such incidents, tell us that Our Blessed Mother will take personal care of us at the hour of death. So great and powerful a Mother is Mary that She will never fail to keep the Scapular contract, i.e., to see that we die in God's grace.

Marcia From Liverpool

Marcia always wore and would promote the Brown Scapular.

In the first instance to reassure the person who wears it that Our Blessed Lady would come to meet you at the hour of death.

Marcia attended Holy Mass every day, and even when at work would not cease praying on her Rosary ring.

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Marcia suffered greatly when she was dying at the hospice with throat cancer. Every time her cousin Robert would visit, the staff had removed the Brown Scapular, so Robert put it back on.

Robert always insisted to the staff that the Brown Scapular should remain on.

Marica died peacefully kissing her Brown Scapular.

"I know Our Blessed Lady was with Marcia." Robert.

Testimony

An Irishman who was conscripted into the American army had to go to the Korean war in 1953. The morning he was leaving to board the ship, his aunt came to him and put Rosary Beads around his neck and said to him, "Michael, you are going to war, and we may never see you again. If you leave these beads on you, you will come back to us. If you take them off, you will not." He never took them off and came home safely. He died December 2018 aged 90 years old.

At one stage during the war he cared for the injured and the dying. The Priest went round often to anoint the dying men. One morning the Priest was passing a seriously injured man and thought he had been dead for hours.

As he passed him by, the man spoke to the Priest and the Priest was shocked and said, "I cannot understand how you are alive with all these wounds." The man answered, "When I was young my grandmother taught me the Hail Mary. She made me promise that I would say one Hail Mary each day for a happy death. I was faithful to that promise." The Priest anointed him, and when he was finished, the man closed his eyes and died.

Testimony

My mother always wore the Brown Scapular. She said three Hail Mary's for a happy death. When my mother was dying she requested to be laid out in the habit of Our Lady of the Brown Scapular. One of the most dreaded hours of my life was the hour before the coffin was closed. But in a strange way it turned out to be a happy one. My mother was smiling down at Our Lady on the Brown Scapular. I know that my mother was with Our Lady, and that she was happy.

Some people do not realise the power of praying the Hail Mary. When we pray it we are praying for the two most important moments of our life. Holy Mary Mother of God, Pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

A Priest's Life is Saved

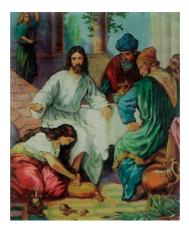
Still another great Scapular miracle concerns a French Priest who had gone on pilgrimage. On the way to say Mass, he remembered that he had forgotten his Scapular. He knew he would be late if he went back to retrieve it, but he could not envision offering Mass at Our Lady's altar without Her Scapular.



Later, as he was offering the Holy Sacrifice, a young man approached the altar, pulled out a gun, and shot the Priest in the back. To the amazement of all, the Priest continued to say the prayers of the Mass as though nothing had occurred. It was at first presumed that the bullet had miraculously missed its target. However, upon examination, the bullet was found ADHERING TO THE LITTLE BROWN SCAPULAR which the Priest had so obstinately refused to be without.

Conversions

We should even give the Scapular to non-Catholics, for Our Lady will bring conversions to those who will wear it and say one Hail Mary each day, as the following true story will show. An old man was rushed to the hospital in New York City, unconscious and dying. As the prayers were being said for the dying man, he became conscious and spoke: *Father, I am not a Catholic. Then why are you wearing the Brown Scapular?* asked the Priest. *I promised my friends to wear it, the patient explained, and say one Hail Mary a day. You are dying, the Priest told him. Do you want to become a Catholic? All my life I wanted to be one*, the dying man replied. He was baptised, received the Last Rites, and died in peace. Our Lady took another soul under Her mantle through Her Scapular!



A Call to Fervour

In October 1952, an Air Force officer in Texas wrote the following: Six months ago, shortly after I started wearing the Scapular, I experienced a remarkable change in my life. Almost at once, I started going to Mass every day. After a short time, I started going to receive Holy Communion daily. I kept lent with a fervour that I had never experienced before.

I was introduced to the practice of meditation and found myself making feeble attempts on the way to perfection. I have been trying to live with God. I credit Mary's Scapular.

The Necessity of Wearing the Scapular

During the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s, seven Communists were sentenced to death because of their crimes. A Carmelite tried to prepare the men for death; they refused. As a last resort, he brought the men cigarettes, food and wine, assuring them that he would not talk religion. In a short while, they were all friendly, so he asked them one small favour: *Will you permit me to place a Scapular on each of you?* Six agreed; one refused. Soon all Scapular wearers went to confession.

The seventh continued to refuse. Only to please them, he put on a Scapular; he would do nothing more. Morning came, and as the moment of execution drew near, the seventh man made it clear that he was not going to ask for the Priest. Although wearing the Scapular, he was determined to go to his death an enemy of God. Finally, the command was given, the firing squad did its deadly work, and seven lifeless bodies lay sprawled in the dust. Mysteriously, a Scapular was found approximately fifty paces from the bodies. Six men died WITH Mary's Scapular, the seventh died WITHOUT the Scapular. Saint Claude gives us the solution to the mystery of the missing Scapular: You ask, 'What if I desire to die in my sins?' I answer, 'Then you will die in your sins, BUT YOU WILL NOT DIE IN YOUR SCAPULAR.'

Saint Claude tells the story of a young man who tried to drown himself three times. He was rescued against his will. At last he realised that he was wearing his Scapular. Determined to take his life, he tore the Scapular from his neck and leaped into the water. Without Mary's protective garment, he accomplished his wish, and DIED IN HIS SINS.

Further Miracles

A Jesuit missionary in Guatemala tells an incident of Our Lady's Scapular protection. In November 1955 a plane carrying seven passengers crashed. All died except one young lady. When this girl saw that the plane was going down, she took hold of her Scapular, and called on Mary for help. She suffered burns, her clothing was reduced to ashes, but her Scapular was not touched by the flames.



Mary, Help of Christians

In the same year of 1955, a similar miracle occurred in the Midwest. A third-grader stopped in a gasoline station to put air in his bicycle tires, and at that very moment an explosion occurred. The boy's clothing was burned off, but his brown Scapular remained unaffected- symbol of Mary's protection. Today, although he still bears a few scars from the explosion, this young man has special reason to remember the Blessed Mother's protection in the time of danger.

The Scapular that Saved Two Lives

The upcoming account was originally published in a German periodical entitled *Seine Mutter Meine Mutter*. It is reprinted with the kind courtesy and permission of *Fatima Findings* in Baltimore.

My battalion was a member of the Irene Brigade. We were just about to advance. After we passed Eindhofen, our trucks and tanks went through Uden. In the evening we encamped an old farm near Nijmegen. Behind the house there was an old wooden pump surrounded by bricks. This offered a fine opportunity for a soldier to wash away the sweat and dust of hours of fighting. You can well imagine we made good use of this opportunity. I was one of the group and so I tossed my Scapular on the pump while I washed.

Horrifying News

An hour later we received orders to proceed about a mile and a half further to occupy a trench. We were looking forward to being able to get a peaceful night's sleep in that trench. I was about to lie down and was unbuttoning my collar when to my horror I realised that I no longer had my Scapular. It had been a gift from my mother. I had it with me all during the war and now that we were approaching the lion's den was I going to be deprived of it? To go fetch it was unthinkable, so I tried not to think about it anymore and to go to sleep. I pitched and tossed from my left side to my right, but I could not get to sleep.



All around me, my buddies were sleeping like logs even though from time to time shells fell dangerously close. Finally, I was overcome by the desire to get my Scapular back and I crept out among my sleeping companions. It wasn't so easy to get passed the sentry but I managed to do it and ran back the way we had come. It was pitch dark, but nevertheless I had good luck and in a short time I was back on the farm and at the pump. My hands glided searchingly all over the pump but the Scapular was gone. I was just about to strike a match when there was the



sound of a dreadful explosion. What was I to do? Was that the sign of an enemy attack? As fast as I could, I ran back to our trench. Maybe I could do something for my buddies there.

A Very Close Call

Near the trench I saw the engineers busily at work hurriedly removing piles of dirt and barbed wire. At the very spot where my companions had been sleeping there yawned a gigantic shell hole. Before they had vacated this trench the enemy had placed a time-bomb in it and it had exploded in my absence. Nobody survived the explosion. If I had not set out to fetch my Scapular, I would have been buried under the rubble too.

Thought You Were There!

On the following morning I went to the field kitchen and met a buddy. He looked at me with astonishment.

I thought you were in that trench! 'And I thought you were buried there!' My friend continued, I was lying in the trench, but before I went to sleep, I went looking for you. But I couldn't find you. The corporal saw me hunting around and asked me what I wanted. When I told him what I was doing there he said, 'Be sensible! Instead go to that inn nearby and get me a bottle of water.' And while I was on this errand, the explosion occurred.

Handed Me My Scapular

Well, I escaped by a hair's breadth too, I replied. But why on earth were you looking for me so late at night? 'To give you this,' he replied, and handed me my Scapular which he had taken from the old pump.

> Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Have you anything to fear?



(Words of Our Lady of Guadalupe)

The Stardust

The night of the Stardust Fire 48 young people died at the Disco. Eight of the bodies were completely unrecognisable and would go to their graves without their names.

It was way back on 14th February 1981 that the tragedy struck. Much has happened since then, and it was while I was on a priest's Retreat, wandering quietly around the grounds of All Hallows in Dublin, that I heard my name being called, Fr. Maher, Fr. Maher. Here was a young man coming towards me. He said: "Remember me, I'm Richard McDonnell, Teresa's brother, who died in the Stardust." Yes, it all came back to me then that he was the one who told me exactly what had happened. So now he relates it once more, though many years on.

Seemingly Teresa had manged to get out of the fire but could not find her sister Lorraine, and went back in to look for her. Lorraine was already out, and Teresa died in going back searching for her. It so happened that her body was one of the Eight unrecognisable, and was to go to the grave without a name. However a Brown Scapular was found on the body, and it had not burned. A policeman took it out to Teresa's mother in Collins' Ave East, Donnycarney. She looked at it and said: "That belonged to my Teresa. She always wore her Brown Scapular, and the night of the Disco she came in the kitchen wondering which dress she was going to wear, as she did not want anyone to see that she was wearing the Scapular." Her body, burned beyond recognition, was recognised because her Brown Scapular, which did not burn was still around her neck.

Teresa was also identified by her mother's Eternity Ring which was given to her on her 16th Birthday.

Richard refreshed my mind to this true story, and for which I am most grateful. He presented me with Teresa's Scapular saying that I was meant to have it. He gave me too his own mother's Scapular. He asked that I might keep the two together. He said they have never been separated and he felt that is the way they should remain.



Teresa's Scapular & Her Mother, Teresa's Scapular. Wiraculous Pieces. 🙏

Peter Roche's Account

Peter Roche, a farmer in Millstreet, Co. Cork.

In the early nineties, whilst tending to his cattle, Peter was attacked by one of his bulls. Peter was forced to the ground after the strike from the bull. The assault continued from the bull as Peter lay struggling in vain on the ground.

During the attack, the Brown Scapular that Peter wore around his neck came out from inside his clothing. Without thought for his own safety, Peter instantly reached for the Scapular to put it back inside his shirt, protecting it from the attack of the bull.

At that moment, the attack stopped and the bull walked away from Peter, allowing him to get to safety.

A Shield In Time of Battle

Mr Sisto Mosco of North Providence, Rhode Island, is a veteran of World War II, who survived, unscathed, the invasion of Normandy and later, the 7th Fleet War with the Japanese Fleet, the taking of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and other bloody battles in the South Pacific. Sisto affirms that his miraculous escape is another perfect example of the powerful protection of Our Blessed Mother of Mount Carmel, through Her Brown Scapular. I was on the battleship the U.S.S. Nevada as chaplain's yeoman during W.W.II in the Pacific. (I always wore my Scapular because I was brought up close to the Church and I kept it on me all throughout the war.) The ship was loaded with dynamite. A suicide plane hit the deck, real close to where I was positioned. The blast blew open the bolted steel doors of the compartment. I alone was left uninjured after the explosion. The rest were all dead or seriously mangled. I was the only one untouched and I attribute it to the wearing of my Scapular.



Mr Mosco later received a commendation from the Admiral of the Fleet for bravery, but in his heart he firmly believes that the credit goes to Our Lady, the Virgin most powerful, who works such wonders through her Habit of Salvation.

Vatican Approval

In wearing the Scapular at all times, we make silent petition for the Blessed Mother's continual assistance. We share in all the prayers and good works of the Carmelite Scapular Confraternity throughout the world. Pope Pius XII often spoke of the Scapular. On the 700th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady to Saint Simon Stock, Pope Pius XII referred to the Scapular as the *Sign of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.* The Scapular also represents the sweet yoke of Jesus Christ which Mary helps us to bear. And finally, the Pope continued, the Scapular marks us as one of Mary's elected chosen children, and becomes for us (as the Germans call it) a *Garment of Grace*.

You are God's masterpiece. Ephesians 2:10



"Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." Lk 2:19

Saint Claude tells us: Of all the pious practices which have inspired the faithful to honour the Mother of God, there is none so sure as that of the Scapular. No other devotion has been confirmed by so many and such extraordinary miracles. As we mentioned above, during the Scapular Anniversary celebration in Rome in 1951, Pope Pius XII told a very large audience to wear the Brown Scapular as a sign of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our Lady asked for this consecration in the last apparition at Fatima, when she appeared as Our Lady of Mount 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 Triumph.

A Brief Summary

The Scapular is a habit-Our Lady's habit. The Scapular must be worn on the shoulders in such a manner that one part hangs in front of the body and the other on the 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. May a non-Catholic wear the Brown Scapular? Yes, and in doing so, a non-Catholic will receive many graces and blessings with this special sign of devotion to the Mother of God. Although baptised Catholics are the only ones who can be officially enrolled in the Confraternity and share in the special Scapular privileges, non-Catholics are still warmly encouraged to avail themselves of this special way of honouring Jesus' Mother.

By wearing the Scapular, we are dedicated to Our Blessed Mother in a special way and have a strong claim upon Her protection and intercession.



In Conclusion

Q. What is the Scapular?

A. The Scapular is a small replica of the religious habit consisting of two pieces of wool connected by ribbons and worn under one's clothes so that one piece hangs in front and the other on the back. Along with the Rosary and the Miraculous Medal the Scapular is one of the chief Marian sacramentals.

Q. And what is a sacramental?

A. A sacramental is anything set apart or blessed by the Church to excite good thoughts and to increase devotion, and through these movements of the heart, to remit venial sin.

Q. Is it the sacramental itself that gives grace?

A. No, it is not the sacramental itself that gives grace, but the devotion, the love of God, or sorrow for sin that it inspires. In using the sacramentals, the more devotion we have, the more grace we receive.

Q. What is the difference between the sacraments and the sacramentals?

A. The difference between the sacraments and the sacramentals is: firstly, the sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ and the sacramentals were instituted

by the Church; secondly, the sacraments give grace of themselves when we place no obstacle in the way, whereas the sacramentals excite in us pious dispositions, by means of which we may obtain grace.

Q. What are some of the other sacramentals besides the Scapular?

A. The Sign of the Cross is the chief sacramental used in the Church, besides which we have holy water, blessed candles, ashes, palms, crucifixes, and images of the Blessed Virgin and of the Saints, the Rosary, and Miraculous Medal.

Q. Why do we call it a Scapular?

A. The word Scapular comes from the Latin word scapulae meaning shoulders. The Scapular is actually a miniature form of the monk's habit by the same name which is a sleeveless outer garment falling from the shoulders to the feet.

Q. Why do we wear the Scapular?

A. We wear the Scapular to indicate that we place ourselves under the special protection of the Blessed Virgin. We can tell to what army or nation a soldier belongs by the uniform he wears; so we can consider the Scapular as the particular uniform of those who desire to serve the Blessed Virgin Mary in some special manner.

Q. May a non-Catholic wear the Scapular?

A. By all means, yes, and by doing, they will draw down upon their souls much actual grace from Heaven. Our Lady, as a good Mother, will bring conversions to those who honour Her by wearing Her Scapular.

Q. Must the Scapular be blessed before wearing it? A. The first Scapular to be worn must be blessed and imposed by a priest using the formula contained in the Roman ritual for reception into the Confraternity of the Scapular.

Q. What are the words used by the priest when enrolling a person in the Brown Scapular?

A. They are: Receive this blessed habit; praying the most Holy Virgin, that by Her merits you may wear it without sin; and that She may guard you from evil and bring thee to everlasting life. R. Amen.

By the power granted me, I admit thee to the participation of all the spiritual good works, which, through the gracious help of Jesus Christ, are performed by the religious of Mount Carmel. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. R. Amen. May the Creator of Heaven and earth, Almighty God, bless you; Who has deigned to unite you to the Confraternity of the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel. We beseech Her, in the hour of your death, to crush the head of the old serpent; so that you may in the end win the everlasting palm and crown of the heavenly inheritance. Through Christ Our Lord. R. Amen.

Q. Would it be a sin if one ceased to wear the Scapular after having received it?

A. No, but by doing so, one would lose all the benefits promised. If, having ceased to wear the Scapular, even for several years, one should decide to wear it once again, no new ceremony of imposition is necessary.

Q. After having received the initial Scapular from a priest, do subsequent Scapulars need to be blessed?

A. No, subsequent Scapulars need not be blessed as the blessing and imposition are attached to the wearer for life.

Q. What should be done with the Scapular when it is worn out?

A. The Scapular, being a sacred object, when it becomes worn out, must be either burned or buried. It should not be disposed of in the regular garbage.

Q. What is the Sabbatine Privilege?

A. The Sabbatine Privilege consists essentially in the

early liberation from Purgatory through the special intercession of Mary, which She graciously exercises in favour of Her devoted servants on the day consecrated to Her, Saturday.

Q. What are the requirements to make oneself eligible for the Sabbatine Privilege?

A. There are three conditions for the gaining of the Sabbatine Privilege. They are: (1) We must WEAR THE SCAPULAR. (2) OBSERVE CHASTITY according to our state in life. (3) RECITE THE LITTLE OFFICE OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER. (The Rosary or some other pious work can be substituted for the Office of Our Lady. The faculty to sanction this change was granted to ALL CONFESSORS by Pope Leo XIII in the Decree of the Congregation of indulgences in June 1901.)

'Nothing can stop God's plan for your life' -ISAIAH 14:27

The Promise of Our Lady

Our Lady Herself has said, Take this Scapular. Whosoever dies wearing it shall not suffer eternal fire. It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace.

Holy Virgin of Mount Carmel, Our Lady of the Scapular, pray for us!

Like a child on the heart of its mother, yes, like a child on the heart of its mother, so do I have confidence in thee, O Mary. I expect everything from thee, and I fear nothing.

(Saint Louis de Montfort)



Prayer to One's Guardian Angel For a Happy Death By Saint Charles Borromeo

My good Angel: I know not when or how I shall die. It is possible that I may be carried off suddenly, and that before my last sigh I may be deprived of all intelligence. Yet how many things I would wish to say to God on the threshold of eternity. In the full freedom of my will today, I come to charge you to speak for me at that fearful moment. You will say to Him, then, O my good Angel: That I wish to die in the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church in which all the Saints since Jesus Christ have died, and out of which there is no salvation. That I ask the grace of sharing in the infinite merits of my Redeemer and that I desire to die in pressing to my lips the Cross that was bathed in His Blood!

That I detest my sins because they displease Him, and that I pardon through love of Him all my enemies as I wish myself to be pardoned. That I die willingly because He orders it and that I throw myself with confidence into His Adorable Heart awaiting all His Mercy. That in my inexpressible desire to suffer everything it may please His sovereign Justice to inflict on me. That I love Him before all things, above all things and for His own sake; that I wish and hope to love Him with the Elect, His Angels and the Blessed Mother during all Eternity. Do not refuse, O my Angel, to be my interpreter with God, and to protest to Him that these are my sentiments and my will. Amen.

The Great Promise of Our Lady of Fatima

I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU ALONE, MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL BE YOUR REFUGE AND THE WAY THAT WILL LEAD YOU TO GOD.

IN THE END MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH.

These great promises fill me with joy. But I believe it is not for me alone, but for all souls who wish to take refuge in the Heart of their Heavenly Mother and let themselves be led upon the paths traced out by Her... It seems to me that such are the intentions of the Immaculate Heart of Mary: to make this ray of light shine before all souls...to show them once more THIS HARBOUR OF SALVATION, ever ready to welcome the shipwrecked of the world. (Sr. Lucia)

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OFFERING



O MY GOD, IN UNION WITH THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, (here kiss your Brown Scapular) I offer Thee the Precious Blood of Jesus from all the altars throughout the world, joining with It the offering of my every thought, word and action of this day. O my Jesus, I desire today to gain every indulgence and merit I can and offer them, together with myself, to Mary Immaculate... that she may best apply them to the glory of Thy Sacred Heart. PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS, SAVE US! IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, SAVE US! SACRED HEART OF JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US!

YOU ARE LOVED MORE THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW

by someone who died to know you.

Romans 5:8

Divine Mercy Diary

When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person

When I entered my solitude, I heard these words,"At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the indulgence is the same. When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated, unfathomable mercy envelops the soul, and the very depths of My tender mercy are moved for the sake of the sorrowful Passion of My Son". Oh, if only everyone realized how great the Lord's mercy is and how much we all need that mercy, especially at that crucial hour!

Diary 811

Importance of the Chaplet of Mercy for the Dying

Jesus said:

"Write that when they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as a just judge but as the merciful Saviour"

Jesus I Trust In You

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

1. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- 2. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!
- 3. Our Father. Hail Mary. The Apostle's Creed
- 4. Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
- For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world (Say 10x)
- Repeat "Eternal Father" (4) & For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (5) 4 times.
- Conclude with: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world 3 times.

-Catholics striving for holiness-

Divine Mercy Diary

The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full

"Write, speak of My mercy. Tell souls where they are to look for solace; that is, in the Tribunal of Mercy [the Sacrament of Reconciliation] There the greatest miracles take place [and] are incessantly repeated. To avail oneself of this miracle, it is not necessary to go on a great pilgrimage or to carry out some external ceremony; it suffices to come with faith to the feet of My representative and to reveal to him one's misery, and the miracle of Divine Mercy will be fully demonstrated. Were a soul like a decaying corpse so that from a human standpoint, there would be no [hope of] restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full. Oh, how miserable are those who do not take advantage of the miracle of God's mercy! You will call out in vain, but it will be too late".

Words of Jesus to St. Faustina (circa December 1937)

Diary 1448

Jesus I Trust In You

Divine Mercy Diary

Every time you go to confession

Today the Lord said to me, "Daughter, when you go to confession, to this fountain of My mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul and ennobles it. Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself entirely in My mercy, with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of My grace upon your soul. When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, there is no limit to My generosity. The torrents of grace inundate humble souls. The proud remain always in poverty and misery, because My grace turns away from them to humble souls".

Diary 1602

Jesus speaks to St. Faustina

Jesus I Trust In You

Fr Jose Maniyangat - Testimony

I was born on July 16th (feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel) 1949 in Kerala, India to my parents, Joseph and Theresa Maniyangat. I am the eldest of seven children: Jose, Mary, Theresa, Lissama, Zachariah, Valsa and Tom. At the age of fourteen, I entered St Mary's minor seminary in Thiruvalla to begin my studies for the Priesthood. Four years later I went to St Joseph's Pontifical Major Seminary in Alwaye, Kerala to continue my Priestly formation. After completing the seven years of Philosophy and Theology I was ordained a Priest on January 1st, 1975 to serve as a missionary at the Diocese of Thiruvalla. In 1978 while teaching at the St Thomas minor seminary in St Mary's minor seminary in Bathery, I became an active member of the Charismatic Renewal movement and began conducting charismatic retreats and conferences in Kerala.

On Sunday April 14th, 1985, the Feast of Divine Mercy, I was going to celebrate Mass at a mission church in the North part of Kerala, and I had a fatal accident. I was riding a motorcycle when I was hit head-on by a jeep driven by a man who was intoxicated after a Hindu festival. I was rushed to a hospital about 35 miles away. On the way my soul came out from my body and I experienced death. Immediately I met my Guardian Angel. I saw my body and the people who were carrying me to the hospital. I heard them crying and praying for me. At this time my Angel told me: "I am going to take you to Heaven, the Lord wants to meet you and talk with you". He also said that on the way he wanted to show me hell and purgatory. First, the Angel escorted me to hell. It was an awful sight! I saw Satan and the devils, an unquenchable fire of about 2,000 Fahrenheit degrees, worms crawling, people screaming and fighting, others being tortured by demons. The Angel told me that all these sufferings were due to unrepented mortal sins. Then, I understood that there are seven degrees of sufferings or levels according to the number and kinds of mortal sins committed in their earthly lives. The souls looked very ugly, cruel and horrific. It was a fearful experience. I saw people whom I knew but I am not allowed to reveal their identities. The sins that convicted them were mainly abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, hatefulness, unforgiveness and sacrilege. The Angel told me that if they had repented they would have avoided hell and gone instead to purgatory. I also understood that some people who repent from these sins might be

purified on earth through their sufferings. This way they can avoid purgatory and go straight to Heaven. I was surprised when I saw in hell even Priests and Bishops, some of whom I never expected to see. Many of them were there because they mislead the people with false teachings and bad example.

After the visit to hell, my Guardian Angel escorted me to purgatory. Here too, there are seven degrees of sufferings and unquenchable fire. But it is far less intense than hell and there was neither quarrelling nor fighting. The main suffering of these souls is their separation from God. Some of those who are in purgatory committed numerous mortal sins, but they were reconciled with God before their death. Even though these souls are suffering, they enjoy peace and the knowledge that one day they will see God face to face. I had a chance to communicate with the souls in purgatory. They asked me to pray for them and to tell the people to pray for them as well, so they can go to Heaven quickly. When we pray for these souls we will receive their gratitude through their prayers and once they enter Heaven their prayers become even more meritorious.

It is difficult for me to describe how beautiful my Guardian Angel is. He is radiant and bright. He is my constant companion and helps me in all my ministries, especially my healing ministry. I experience his presence everywhere I go and I am grateful for his protection in my daily life. Next my Angel escorted me to Heaven passing through a big dazzling white tunnel. I never experienced this much peace and joy in my life. Then immediately the Heaven opened up and I heard the most delightful music, which I never heard before. The Angels were singing and praising God. I saw all the saints, especially the Blessed Mother and St Joseph, and many dedicated holy Bishops and Priests who were shining like stars. And when I appeared before the Lord, Jesus told me: "I want you to go back to the world. In your second life you will be an instrument of peace and healing to My people. You will walk in a foreign land and you will speak in a foreign tongue. Everything is possible for you with My grace". After these words, the Blessed Mother told me: "Do whatever He tells you. I will help you in all your ministries". Words cannot express the beauty of Heaven. There we find so much peace and happiness, which exceeds a million times our imagination. Our Lord is far more beautiful than any image can convey. His

face is radiant and luminous and more beautiful than a thousand rising suns. The pictures we see in the world are only a shadow of His magnificence. The Blessed Mother was next to Jesus: she was so beautiful and radiant. None of the images we see in this world can compare with her real beauty. Heaven is our real home, we are all created to reach Heaven and enjoy God forever.

Then, I came back to the world with my Angel. While my body was at the hospital, the doctor completed all examinations and I was pronounced dead. The cause of death was bleeding. My family was notified and since they were far away, the hospital staff decided to move my dead body to the morgue. Because the hospital did not have air conditioners they were concerned that the body would decompose quickly. As they were moving my dead body to the morgue, my soul came back to the body. I felt an excruciating pain because of so many wounds and broken bones. I began to scream and then the people became frightened and ran away screaming. One of them approached the doctor and said: "the dead body is screaming". The doctor came to examine the body and found that I was alive. So he said: "Father is alive, it is a miracle, take him back to the hospital". Now, back at

the hospital, they gave me blood transfusions and I was taken to surgery to repair the broken bones. They worked on my lower jaw, ribs, pelvic bone, wrists, and right leg. After two months, I was released from the hospital, but my orthopedic doctor said that I would never walk again. I said to him: "the Lord who gave me my life back and sent me back to the world will heal me". Once at home we were all praying for a miracle. Still after a month and with the casts removed I was not able to move. But one day while praying I felt an extraordinary pain in my pelvic area. After a short while the pain disappeared completely and I heard a voice saying: "you are healed. Get up and walk". I felt the peace and healing power on my body. I immediately got up and walked. I praised and thanked God for the miracle. I reached my doctor with the news of my healing and he was amazed. He said: "your God is the true God. I must follow your God". The doctor was Hindu and he asked me to teach him about our Church. After studying the faith, I baptized him and he became Catholic.

Following the message from my Guardian Angel, I came to the United States on November 10, 1986 as a missionary Priest. First, I worked in the Diocese of

Boise, Idaho from 1987 to 1989 and then became the Director of Prison Ministry in the Diocese of Orlando, Florida from 1989 to 1992. In 1992, I came to the Diocese of St Augustine where I was first assigned to St Matthew's Parish in Jacksonville for two years. I was then appointed Parochial Vicar of Assumption Church from 1994 to 1999. In 1997 I was incardinated as a permanent member of the Diocese. From June 1999 to June 2011, I was Pastor of St Mary's Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Macclenny, Florida. I also served as the Catholic Chaplain for Florida State Prison in Starke, Union Correctional Institution in Raiford and Northeast Florida State Hospital in Macclenny. On July 1, 2011 I was assigned to St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Orange Park, Florida. I am also the Diocesan Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary. On the first Saturday of each month I conduct a Eucharistic and charismatichealing ministry at my current parish St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Orange Park, Florida. People come from all over the diocese, many parts of Florida and even from out of the state. I have been invited to conduct the healing ministry in other major cities of the United States including: New York, Philadelphia, Washington DC, San Jose, Dallas, Chicago, Birmingham, Denver,

Boise, Idaho Falls, Hawaii, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Poolsville; and many other countries: Ireland, Spain, Czech Republic, India, France, Portugal, Yugoslavia, Italy, Canada, Mexico, Cayman Island, and Ontario.

Through this Eucharistic-healing ministry I have seen many people healed physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally. People with various illnesses such as: cancer, AIDs, arthritis, heart conditions, eye problems, emphysema, asthma, back pains, bad hearing and many others have been healed completely. In addition, several times during the year I conduct a special healing service for the healing of the family tree, in which the effects from ancestral sins are blocked and the person receives complete healing. Scripture says that the effects from family sins can linger around for three to five generations (Exodus Chapter 34 verse 7). So, in many cases we need generational healing. Doctors and medicines do not help to heal certain sickness caused by our family tree. During the Healing ministry, many people rest in the spirit before the Blessed Sacrament and some experience renewal of the soul and healing of the body.

IF YOU BELIEVE, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. MATTHEW 21:22

Fr Jose's website: http://www.frmaniyangathealingministry.com



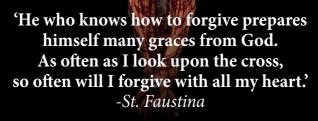
Fr Jose Maniyangat and Martin Jim McFadden. St Catherine of Siena Church, Jacksonville, Florida. February, 2014.

www.martinjimmcfadden.com

PRAYER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONVERSATION OF YOUR DAY. TAKE IT TO GOD BEFORE YOU TAKE IT TO ANYONE ELSE!



" THE LOPO SAYS, " I WILL **rescue** those who love ME. I WILL protect THOSE WHO trust IN MY NAME. WHEN THEY CALL ON ME, Pwill answer; I WILL BE WITH THEM IN TROUBLE. I WILL **rescue** AND honor THEM. I WILL REWARD THEM WITH A LONG LIFE AND GIVE THEM MY salvation. Psalm 91:14-16



CONTRACTOR CALCULUT

MEDITATION From Mount Melleray Abbey Monastery

This may be of benefit to you. Try to take the Crucifix everyday and just look at it for about a minute or so and not say anything. Just look at it with Love and Listen. He will tell you more than you could ever imagine and in ways you have never heard of before.

Key words do it with Love and Listen.

Let Him speak to your heart.

Divine Mercy Chaplet in Song every Friday at 3pm. Sacred Heart Church, Oldpark Road, North Belfast. Email DivineMercyBelfast@gmail.com www.DivineMercyBelfast.com "If you say the Rosary faithfully until death, I do assure you that, in spite of the gravity of your sins "you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory." Even if you are on the brink of damnation, even if you have one foot in hell, even if you have sold your soul to the devil as sorcerers do who practice black magic, and even if you are a heretic as obstinate as a devil, sooner or later you will be converted and will amend your life and save your soul, if and mark well what I say - if you say the Rosary devoutly every day until death for the purpose of knowing the truth and obtaining contrition and pardon for your sins."

~ St. Louis Marie de Montfort

St Pauls Letters

The dead and the living at the time of the Lord's coming

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, to make sure that you do not grieve for them, as others do who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We can tell you this from the Lords own teaching, that we who are still alive for the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have fallen asleep. At the signal given by the voice of the Archangel and the trumpet of God, the Lord himself will come down from Heaven: those who have dies in Christ will be the first to rise, and only after that shall we who remain alive be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. This is the way we shall be with the Lord forever. With such thoughts as these, then, you should encourage one another.

To whoever reads this, I hope something good happens to you today. Fesus

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The Brown Scapular & copies of this booklet can be obtained from: Divine Mercy Prayer Group Sacred Heart Church Oldpark Road, North Belfast. Tel: 077 6104 6089 079 9998 1771 Email: divinemercybelfast@gmail.com

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A CALL TO PRAISE GOD.

70 EVERYDAY AS LONG AS THIS " TODAY " LASTS KEEP ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER (Heb 3:13)



Thomas Stewart (Divine Mercy Prayer Group North Belfast) with Peter Roche, in Medugorje September 2013.

This book has been dedicated to Peter Roche, from Mill Street, Co. Cork, Ireland, who promoted the Brown Scapular.

Peter's testimony is on page 34.



Divine Mercy Chaplet in song every Friday at 3pm. Sacred Heart Church, Old Park Road, North Belfast. Email: divinemercybelfast@gmail.com www.divinemercybelfast.com