

RITE OF ENROLMENT IN THE CARMELITE BROWN SCAPULAR

Enrolment in the Brown Scapular is available to any Christian following some catechesis on the spirituality of Carmel, the symbolism of the scapular, and the obligations expected of those who enter the scapular confraternity. The person conducting the enrolment should be a designated member of the Carmelite Family, or a deacon or priest who acts in the name of the Order. The traditional form of the scapular should be used for the enrolment and may then be replaced by the scapular medal for those who wish.

Copies of this rite can be obtained by e-mailing: projects@carmelites.org.uk

Information on the Scapular can be found online at www.carmelite.org/laycarmel

Opening rite

The officiant welcomes the faithful, normally gathered before an altar or image of Our Lady. An opening hymn or moment of silence may follow.



Minister: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Catechesis

Minister: When Jesus walked on earth, whoever even touched the hem of his garment became whole. We praise the Lord, because in his Church he continues to use the humblest of means to show us his infinite mercy. We too can use these means to glorify the Lord, to express our desire to serve him and to renew our life-long commitment of fidelity made at our baptism. This scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is a sign of the motherly love of the Virgin Mary, which reminds us of her care for the members of the Carmelite Family, especially in moments of great need. It is a love which invites our love in return.

This scapular is a sign of communion with the Order of the Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel dedicated to the service of Our Lady and her son Jesus Christ for the good of the Church and the World. With this scapular, a miniature version of the Carmelite habit, you express the desire to take part in the spirit of the Order, according to your own vocation in life.

The scapular is a mirror of the humility and purity of Mary; through her simplicity she invites us to live modestly and in purity. By wearing the cloth scapular, or the scapular medal, day and night, it becomes a sign of our constant prayer and of our special dedication to the love and service of the Virgin Mary, who clothes us in her virtues. By wearing the scapular, you renew your baptismal vow to put on our Lord Jesus Christ. In Mary, your hope of salvation in Christ will be safeguarded, because in her the God of Life has made his abode.

Word of God

One of the participants reads a passage from sacred scripture, Ephesians 6:10-17, quoted in the Carmelite Rule of Saint Albert.

...continued overleaf

Reader: A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... Fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Exhortation and intercessions

The officiant may now give a brief homily and/or lead those gathered in prayers of intercession.

Prayer of blessing

A priest or deacon says a prayer of blessing using holy water. If no ordained person is present the officiant proceeds to the enrolment.

Minister: O God, author and perfection of holiness, you call those who were born of water and the Holy Spirit to the fullness of the Christian life. Look with kindness on those who are about to receive devoutly the Scapular of Carmel which they will wear faithfully as the sign of their commitment to the Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel. Grant that in surrendering to the love of the most tender Virgin, they may conform themselves to the image of Jesus Christ your Son, and having run the course of this life happily, may they enter into the joy of your house. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Enrolment

The officiant places a scapular over the head of each person being enrolled.

Minister: Receive this holy habit, through which you become a member of the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel. Full of faith in the love of such a great Mother and Sister, dedicate yourself to imitating her and to a special relationship with her. Wear this sign as a reminder of the presence of Mary in your daily commitment to be clothed in Jesus Christ, and to manifest him in your life for the good of the Church and the whole of humanity, and to the glory of the Most Blessed Trinity.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Minister: Having received the Scapular, you have been received into the family of Carmel, consecrated in a special way to the imitation and service of the Virgin Mother of God, that you may live for Christ and his Church in the contemplative and apostolic spirit of the Order of Carmel. And so that you may be able to follow this ideal more perfectly, by the faculties entrusted to me, I admit you to participate in all the spiritual benefits of the Order of Carmel.

Blessing

Minister: The Holy Spirit has inspired you to place yourselves under the mantle of Mary; may the same Spirit make you apostles in the way of justice and peace.

All: Amen.

Minister: May almighty God bless us, keep us from all evil, and lead us to eternal life.

All: Amen.

Participants may wish to conclude with a hymn to Our Lady such as the Salve Regina or Flos Carmeli.