



THE APPEALS
OF OUR LADY
APPARITIONS
AND
MARIAN SHRINES
IN THE WORLD

Apparition of the Virgin Mary in AYLESFORD



ENGLAND, 1251



On July 16, 1251, the Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Simon Stock, a prior general of the Carmelite Order. She showed him a scapular telling him: "Beloved son, take this scapular, as a sign of my brotherhood, this is a sign of privilege that I have obtained for you and all of the sons of Carmel. Whoever shall die piously wearing this habit will be saved from the fires of hell: this is a token of health, a lifeguard in danger, a sign of eternal alliance."

The scapular is a miniature copy of the habit that the Carmelite monks wore as a sign of the vocation and devotion to Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary. Pope Pius X agreed to, only by necessity, the substitution of the scapular with a medal that has the image of the Sacred Heart on one side and the Virgin Mary on the other.

The great privilege of the devotion to the Scapular of avoiding hell with the promise that those who wore this holy habit will be taken from Purgatory on the first Saturday after their death was confirmed by Pope Paul V who also extended it to the faithful in general, under the condition of wearing it piously and committing oneself to live always in the grace of God.

Pope Pius XII, in the celebratory speech of the Seventh Century of the Scapular in 1951, gave this magnificent testimony: "So many good souls in desperate human conditions owe their final conversion and eternal salvation to the scapular they were wearing! So many, also in danger of body or soul, have felt the maternal protection of Mary thanks to the scapular! Devotion to the scapular has reversed rivers of spiritual graces and storms all over the world."

Pope Pius XII always confirmed that "the most pious Mother" would not neglect to intervene on behalf of the prayers of those who were devoted in life to the scapular and to God because His children that atone for their sins in Purgatory will suffer the shortest amount of time, according to the Sabbatine Privilege mandated by tradition. The Holy Pope John XXIII himself always wore the scapular and in his discourse of 1959 he spoke of the Sabbatine Privilege and the scapular calling it "precious".



A depiction of the apparition of the Virgin Mary to Saint Simon Stock



The Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Simon Stock and handed him the scapular



Exterior view of the Carmelite Convent of Aylesford



Chapel of the Carmelite Convent of Aylesford in England where Saint Simon Stock had the apparition of the Virgin Mary and where his remains are housed



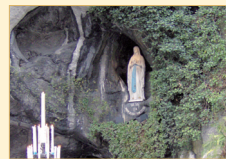
The Carmelite scapular in metal and cloth



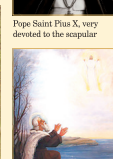
Pope Saint Pius X, very devoted to the scapular



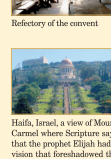
Refectory of the convent



In Lourdes during the last apparition that occurred on July 16, 1858, the Virgin Mary appeared on the same day in which Our Lady of Carmel was celebrated, precisely to confirm she was partial to the Carmelite Order. The very Saint Bernadette always wore the scapular



The prophet Elijah saw the image of the Virgin Mary in a cloud



Haifa, Israel, a view of Mount Carmel where Scriptures says that the prophet Elijah had a vision that foreshadowed the Virgin Mary's cooperation in God's plan for salvation



The apparitions of Fatima ended on October 13, 1917 with the vision of Our Lady of Carmel with the scapular in hand. Sister Lucy, one of the seers, became a Benedictine Carmelite, in affirmation of the message of Our Lady "the rosary and the scapular are inseparable." At the end of 1940, speaking with three Carmelites, Father O'Callaghan, Father Albert Ward and Father Luis Gonzaga de Oliveira, Sister Lucy said that the Blessed Virgin Mary wanted the devotion of the Holy Scapular to be divulged. Sister Lucy also explained to Father Howard Rafferty, a prior general of the Carmelite Order, during an interview on October 15, 1959: "Our Lady had the scapular in her hands because she wants all of us to wear it"



The cave where the Prophet Elijah stayed and from where he drew inspiration for the Carmelite Order



Monastery of Our Lady of Carmel in Haifa



The statue inside the monastery that depicts Our Lady offering the scapular



View of Haifa