



Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church

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Dear Friend,

When Sister Marie Celeste first arrived at the Academy of the Holy Family as a young high school student, she knew very little about Our Lady and had no particular devotion to her. As the Sisters gently shared their love for Mary, they introduced her to the Brown Scapular. She was deeply moved by Our Blessed Mother's promise to St. Simon Stock: ***"Whoever dies wearing this scapular shall not suffer eternal fire."*** For her, the Scapular became a sign of trust . . . an invitation to place her life more fully in the care of a loving Mother who always leads us to her Son.

We Sisters of Charity are deeply devoted to Our Blessed Mother. Each day we place ourselves anew under her maternal care. Many of us can recall a moment — sometimes quiet, sometimes born of great need ... when the Brown Scapular became a tangible reminder that we are never alone. Simple though it is, the Scapular calls us to trust, fidelity and a deeper surrender to God's will. It reassures us that Our Blessed Mother accompanies us in our joys and in our trials, strengthening us to persevere in our vocation.

Friend, because you are a faithful and cherished member of our extended family, we come to you today with both gratitude and hope. Your generosity has made it possible for us to bring Christ's love to those entrusted to our care. **Can the Sisters count on your support again?**

Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$75, or whatever your means allow will help us continue the ministries that depend so greatly on your kindness:



YOU are with Sister Rafael and all our Sister-teachers in educating the minds and nurturing the hearts of the students in our schools.

- Educating the minds and hearts of our students;
- Caring for the sick and elderly in our nursing home;
- Caring for our own dear infirm and elder Sisters in our Perpetual Help Center;
- Preparing our young Sisters to carry on the mission of the Sisters of Charity;
- Filling the empty cupboards of struggling families who come to our Food Pantry, and
- Providing protection, safety and dignity to homeless mothers and their children at our Holy Family Home and Shelter.

Friend, quite simply, we could not do any of this without YOU. Your generosity becomes a warm meal, a safe bed, a listening ear, a classroom filled with hope . . . and a living reminder to the most vulnerable that they are not forgotten by God.



*Through your goodness,
YOU care for Sister Francesco (back), Sister Immaculata and all our elder Sisters in our Perpetual Help Center. Thank you!*

With deep and sincere gratitude for your goodness, we are honored to share with you the enclosed Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a sacred gift that carries centuries of faith, devotion and promise.

The Brown Scapular traces its origins to the 13th century when the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock and entrusted the Scapular to him as a sign of her maternal protection. According to tradition, Our Lady promised her assistance to those who wear it with faith and devotion, guiding them safely to her Son.

The Scapular is far more than a promise of protection, however. It is a sign of consecration to Mary, our loving Mother. It is a daily reminder that we belong to her, that we trust in her intercession, and that we strive to live as faithful disciples of her Son, Jesus Christ. The Scapular invites the wearer to place his or her life under Mary's loving care and to rely on her powerful intercession. It becomes a simple but powerful prayer: "*Heavenly Mother, I place my life in your hands.*"

As Sisters of Charity, we wear the Scapular not only as a personal devotion, but as a constant reminder of our call to serve Christ in His people . . . especially the poor, the vulnerable and the forgotten. Your support of our ministries is a living testimony of your goodness and faithful charity.

Just as Our Lady promises her care to those who entrust themselves to her, we promise to continue giving our lives in service . . . educating minds, caring for bodies, uplifting spirits and restoring hope. Your generosity provides the resources for us to live this mission fully and faithfully.

As you receive this Brown Scapular, please know that the Sisters of Charity hold you close in our hearts and in our prayers. We ask Our Blessed Mother to embrace you and your loved ones, strengthen you in faith, and fill your home with peace. As Sister Marie Celeste came to understand and believe, we pray that this holy gift will remind you each day of the sacred bond we share in Christ and His Holy Mother . . . a bond of charity, hope and trust in God's providence.



For Sister Marie Celeste, the Brown Scapular is an invitation to place her life in the loving care of Our Blessed Mother. YOU too will know Our Blessed Mother's loving care for you when you wear your Brown Scapular with faith and trust.



With deep gratitude, in Mary, Mother of the Church,

Mother Mary David, SCMC

Mother Mary David, SCMC
Superior General

P.S. Are there needs weighing on your heart? For yourself or for a loved one? Write your petitions and special intentions on the enclosed reply card and send them to us. My Sisters and I will ask Our Blessed Mother to bring them to the Heart of her Son. And, if you are able, **please prayerfully consider sending an offering to the Sisters of Charity, knowing that your gift will touch lives in ways both seen and unseen.** Your generosity today ensures that our ministries continue strong tomorrow. *Thank you!*

How to Pray with the Brown Scapular

Wearing the Brown Scapular is a continuous prayer and commitment to devotion to Mary and Jesus. To live this devotion, incorporate these practices:



- ♦ **Wear it faithfully:** Your primary “prayer” is constantly wearing it as a sign of consecration to Mary and trust in her protection.
- ♦ **Renew your commitment:** Periodically, verbally renew your promise to live a life worthy of Mary’s intercession with a simple prayer.
- ♦ **Pray the Rosary:** This is deeply connected to Marian devotion and helps meditate on Christ’s life through Mary’s eyes.
- ♦ **Live a life of virtue:** Emulate Mary’s virtues like humility, charity, and obedience to God’s will.
- ♦ **Receive the Sacraments regularly:** Frequent Confession and Holy Communion strengthen your spiritual life and keep you in God’s grace.
- ♦ **Invoke Mary’s intercession:** Turn to Mary for help and guidance with prayers like “Hail Mary” or “Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us.”
- ♦ **Meditate on the Scapular promise:** Reflect on its meaning – salvation and protection from eternal fire for those who die clothed in it and live devotedly.

Embrace Divine Protection. Wear the Brown Scapular.



Discover a tangible sign of Our Lady's motherly love. More than just a garment, the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is a sacred promise of salvation and a constant reminder of your dedication to Mary. Feel the embrace of her love, guiding you closer to Christ. Join countless souls throughout history who have found solace and strength in this powerful devotion.