



CAN THE SCAPULAR SAVE US FROM HELL?

by JOHN M. HAFFERT

Quicumque in hoc "pie" moriens, aeternum on patietur incendium.

One of Two Gifts

Catholic theologians and authorities like Vermeersch, St. Robert Bellarmine, Beringer, Benedict XIV, etc., explain the promise to mean that anyone dying in Mary's family will receive from Her, at the hour of death, either the grace of perseverance in the state of grace or the grace of final contrition.

To die in the membership of Mary's family is the one condition. Now, in order to so die, having been validly enrolled, one must die clothed in the sign of membership, namely the Scapular.

This may be the large scapular of the religious habit, the small scapular, or the scapular medal; all have been recognized by the Sovereign Pontiffs as valid signs of that membership which the Mother of God rewards by an absolute assurance of final contrition and perseverance.

Enrollment Not Enough

The Scapular Promise derives from the fact that *the wearing of the*

Scapular is a true devotion in its primitive sense of dedication to Mary. Hence, that the scapular wearer have his name on the Confraternity register is not enough to obtain the benefits of the Scapular.

True devotion to Mary always has three notes: homage, confidence, love. Those three notes of Marian devotion must be practiced *perseveringly*.

When we become invested in the Scapular we practice the homage of becoming members of the Queen's battalion, we profess confidence in Her promises, and we become Her special children of love. But in order to be assured of salvation, we must persevere in those sentiments. And it is only by wearing the sign of membership *until death* that we can *continually* show the Mother of God that we *venerate* Her, *believe* in Her, and *love* Her.

Our Lady held the Scapular from the sky at Fatima because, Lucia said, "She wants all to wear it... it is the sign of our consecration to Her Immaculate Heart."

Presenting the Scapular to St. Simon for the world, Our Lady makes but one condition to Her promise of salvation: "Whosoever dies *clothed in this habit* shall not suffer the fires of hell." She promises that anyone who enters Her family of Carmel, and dies there, shall not be lost.

Mary does *not* mean by Her promise that anyone dying even in mortal sin will be saved. *Death in mortal sin* and *damnation* are one and the same thing. Mary's promise naturally rewards itself: "Whosoever dies clothed in this habit *shall not die in mortal sin*." To make this clear, the Church often inserts the word "piously" into the promise:

"TO REPOPULARIZE THIS DEVOTION..."

On March 2nd, First Saturday of the month, Pope John Paul II took part in a Rosary broadcast on the powerful Vatican Radio, monitored in most of Europe.

The Holy Father will lead the Rosary **every First Saturday of the month** "in an effort," according to RNS, "to repopularize this declining Catholic devotion."

The Blue Army has a **major** obligation to promote the devotion of the Five First Saturdays, and Blue Army members who

have been having difficulty in getting the First Saturday devotion (with Rosary, Confession, Communion, and fifteen minutes of meditation on the mysteries...all in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary) in their parishes should be much encouraged by this direct intervention and personal example of the Pope.

A special booklet for the First Saturday devotion may be obtained from the Blue Army. See page 31 to order.