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 adoption 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 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 aim for their sins in Purgatory will suffer the shortest amount of time, according to the Sabbatine Privilege manifested by tradition. The Holy Pope John XXIII himself also wore the scapular and in his discourse of 1959 he spoke of the Sabbatine Privilege and the scapular calling it "precious".

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The Appearance of the Virgin Mary to Saint Simon Stock, on July 16, 1251, in England, manifested the devotion to the Virgin Mary and the Scapular devotion. This very fact播种 always forms the scapular.