

A Rite for the Blessing of and Enrollment in the Scapular

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

Instructions are in italics.

This service can be used by itself or as part of another service. The leader is either the superior of the religious order, or a priest or other suitable member acting on their behalf (with faculty). If used as a stand alone service, suitable prayers and hymns may be added if required.

Introit

Leader: In the name of the Most High God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

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

All: And with your spirit.

Scripture

Leader: A reading from the Second Book of Kings, Chapter 2 v 7-13

Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?'

'Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,' Elisha replied. 'You have asked a difficult thing,' Elijah said, 'yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours – otherwise, it will not.'

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, 'My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!' And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two. Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.

Leader: For the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Intercession

Leader: Let us pray to God our Father, by the intercession of the Virgin Mary:

Leader: Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: That those who wear the Scapular may live their baptismal vow to be clothed in Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: That those who wear the Scapular may be strengthened in faith, hope and charity.

Leader: Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: That those who wear the Scapular, by the intercession of Mary, may be enlightened in contemplation, joyous in fraternity and zealous in the service of others.

Leader: Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: As our Saviour taught us, so we are bold to pray:

All: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are Yours.

Now and forever.

All: Amen.

Blessing

The scapulars are blessed (unless already blessed beforehand). This is best done on a side table, but in view of the people. Silence is kept by the people. The Leader or another sprinkles each scapular with a very small amount of Holy Water then says quietly:

Leader: Blessed are you Lord Our God, King of the Universe, who by your Spirit begot your Son Jesus into the pure womb of the Virgin Mary. By that same grace

bless this [these] scapular(s) and those who wear them. Through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Leader: Holy Father, you have wished that your only Begotten Son Jesus Christ should take our human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the working of the Holy Spirit; grant to these sons and daughter of yours who are about to wear devoutly the Scapular of the family of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel the grace of being clothed in Jesus the Lord in all the circumstances of this life and thus to attain eternal glory. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The scapulars are ceremonially placed upon the candidate(s)

Leader: Receive this Scapular of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel; wear it as a sign of the motherly protection of the Virgin and of your pledge to imitate and serve her. May the Mother of God help you to be clothed in Christ to manifest Him in your life, for the good of the Old Catholic Apostolic Church and to the glory of the Trinity.

All: Amen.

Leader: By the faculties invested in me I admit you to participate in all the spiritual benefits of the Order of Carmel and may the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you forever.

All: Amen.

All say the Carmelite Anthem to Our Lady:

Leader: Let us say together:

All: Flower of Carmel,
Tall vine blossom laden;
Splendour of heaven,
Childbearing yet maiden.
None equals thee.

Mother so tender,
Who no man didst know,
On Carmel's children
Thy favours bestow.
Star of the Sea.

All: Amen.

Leader: Lord, bless all that are here today.

All: And send us to our Mount Carmel. Amen.

Please pray for those enrolled today in the coming weeks and again on the first anniversary of this occasion, also for those of Carmelite charism generally. Please pray for the Old Catholic Apostolic Church.

This service order is based on the Carmelite Friars of the Ancient Observance liturgy, as amended by the Friars Aylesford adapted for the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OCAC).