

Saint Simon Stock

† 1265 c a

PURGATORY

Saint Simon Stock lived in the XIII Century. His name became very popular for the prayer “Flos Carmeli” (a Carmelite hymn to Our Lady), attributed to him, and for the apparition he had of Our Lady, who revealed to him the importance of wearing the Scapular with these words: “This is the privilege for you and for yours: whoever will die wearing it, will be saved.”

This is how his biographers report the episode: “The Blessed Simon, although very advanced in years, consumed by austerity, quite often spent the nights in prayer. One day, filled with celestial consolation, he gathered us all together, and spoke in these terms: ‘While I poured forth my soul in the presence of the Lord, although it is nothing but dust and ash, and with complete trust I prayed to my Lady the Virgin Mary so that, as she desired that we would be called her brothers, in this way she would show herself as Mother, removing us from the temptations, and with some sign of grace she would lift us up in the face of those who persecute us, and I said to her with sighs: O flower of the Carmel..., she appeared to me with a great retinue, and holding the Habit of the Order, said: Take, most beloved son, this Scapular; this shall be the sign of your Order and of my Congregation and of the privilege that I have obtained for

you and for all the Carmelites, with which whoever shall die piously, will not suffer the eternal fire. This is a sign of salvation, safety in dangers, pledge of peace and of eternal covenant. She departed telling me that I should send it to Our Lord Innocent, Vicar of her blessed Son, so that he would put a remedy to the oppression. Brothers, while you will keep these words in your hearts, do everything to make genuine your vocation by means of good works, and never fail it. Keep vigil in thanksgiving for much mercy, pray incessantly so that the words said to me may be fulfilled, in praise of the Most Holy Trinity, of the Father, of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit, and of the Virgin forever blessed, Mary.”

The great promise was further confirmed about eighty years later when Our Lady appeared to Jacques Duèze (future John XXII) telling him that:

“Those who have been vested with this Holy Habit will be removed from Purgatory on the first Saturday after their death.” Pope Saint Pius X, conceded to substitute, in case of necessity, the Scapular of fabric with a medal bearing the image of the Sacred Heart inscribed on one side and on the other side the one of Mary. At Lourdes during the last apparition Our Lady appeared clothed with the habit of the Carmel and also



at Fatima the apparitions concluded with the vision of Our Lady clothed with the Carmelite Habit. Sister Lucia of Fatima, later becoming a Discalced Carmelite, said that in the message of Our Lady “the Rosary and the Scapular are inseparable.”

At the end of 1940, in conversation with three Carmelites, Father Donald O’Callaghan, Father Albert Ward and Father Luis Gonzaga de Oliveira, Sister Lucia recalled that the Blessed Virgin Mary desired that the devotion to the Holy Scapular would be promoted.

