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The Green Scapular

Are you praying for the conversion of someone who has no Faith? Most of us are. We all have friends and relatives who fall into that category -- people for whom we have been praying for years. In the Green Scapular, Our Lady has given us a means by which she will contribute to the conversion of these people.

The story of this scapular began 118 years ago when Our Lady appeared to Justine Bisqueyburu who was kneeling in prayer in the novitiate of the Daughters of Charity in Paris. This happened ten years after the Blessed Mother had appeared to Catherine Laboure, a postulant of the same community in the same city -- through whom we received the Miraculous Medal.

Justine said that Our Lady was clothed in a long white robe over which hung a blue mantle. Her hair fell loosely over her shoulders. Our Lady held in her right hand her heart surrounded by flames. In her left hand she held a sort of scapular. It was a single piece of green cloth suspended from a string of the same color. On one side was a picture of the Blessed Virgin as she had shown herself to the little novice. On the other side was a heart all ablaze with rays more dazzling than the sun and transparent as crystal. The heart was pierced with a sword. It was surmounted by a cross and surrounded by an oval inscription: "Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death".

An interior voice told the nun that copies of the new scapular should be made as soon as possible and distributed with confidence; and that it would contribute to the conversion of those who had no faith and, above all, procure for them a happy death.

Now came the first of a long series of delays. The humble nun doubted the genuineness and reality of the apparition. Weeks later she took up the matter with Father Aladel to whom Catherine Laboure had confided Our Lady's request for the Miraculous Medal. The good priest was a little slow to believe something that was not yet even a dogma of the Church -- the words: "O Mary conceived without sin!" He was cautious.

On the feast of the Assumption in 1841, and again on September 13 of the same year, Our Lady appeared to Sister Bisqueyburu and complained of the delay. Finally, an engraver named Letaille was entrusted with making the plates for the scapular. Again, for some reason, there was a delay.

There was no scapular by May, 1842, when Sister reported a new vision: "It seemed to me that I heard a voice which told me that she was not pleased because they had delayed so long in making the scapulars. She was so beautiful..." Finally, almost two years after Our Lady had made her original request, a few scapulars were made. Sister Bisqueyburu's manner still did nothing to inspire confidence in the authorities. The scapulars were given out merely as an experiment and with no great confidence. The results were not very satisfactory. Only much later did the devotion spread like wildfire -- as only a project of the Blessed Mother's can. The results were equally amazing.

You'll find these scapulars available at the pamphlet racks during the next week -- the days we pray especially for conversions -- throughout the Church Unity Octave. They were made for you by good Sister Mildreda of St. Mary's

PRAYERS; Deceased: grandfather of Lou Von Hagen of Dillon; aunt of Joe Costantino of Cavanaugh; grandmother of Dave Beatty (O-C); Ill: mother of Joe Mulligan of Sorin; mother of Ted Woodward of Farley.