

October 5, 1951

Novena For The Sick.

The series of nine Masses for your sick relatives and friends began Wednesday, the feast day of the Little Flower. You were asked to make this Novena. Whether or not you are may be none of our business, but it is our business to remind you that you have an obligation to pray for the sick, if Christian charity means anything at all in this blase age.

Add these names to your sick and injured list: Bill Cuddy, '52; Mike, Cuddihy, '53 (polio); Art Eggers, freshman last year, who fractured two vertebrae in his neck; Jack Haddox, ex'51 (critically injured); Don Burkhart (appendectomy).

Not A Charm.

Wearing a Scapular medal is not wearing a charm. It has no intrinsic power of its own, no magic virtue. It is a sign or a symbol of devotion which derives its efficacy from two promises revealed by the Blessed Mother.

To St. Simon Stock, July 16, 1251, Our Lady appeared in a vision and gave him the Scapular saying: "Receive, my beloved son, this habit of Thy Order: this shall be to thee and to all Carmelites a privilege, that WHOSOEVER DIES CLOTHED IN THIS SHALL NEVER SUFFER ETERNAL FIRE."

To Pope John XXII, March 3, 1322, Our Lady appeared and promised to free wearers of the Scapular from Purgatory on the first Saturday after their death. This is known as the SABBATINE privilege. Her exact words were: "I, the Mother of grace, shall descent on the Saturday after their death and whosoever I shall find in Purgatory, I shall free." (The Sabbatine Privilege will be explained in a forthcoming Bulletin.)

Our Lady does not mean that anyone dying in mortal sin will be saved; that is obviously impossible. But she did promise that anyone dying clothed in the Scapular will not die in mortal sin. The devout wearing of the Scapular entitles the wearer to those graces which he will need to die in the state of grace.

It seems that the best way of looking at these remarkable promises is that Mary, Mediatrix of all grace, will always find a way of helping the wearer to die with the love of God in his heart. Some Theologians such as St. Robert Bellarmine, Pope Benedict XIV and Vermeersch teach that Mary's promise means that anyone who dies in the Scapular will receive through her <sup>intercession</sup> Superstitious? the grace of final perseverance.

Superstitious?

"You mean to say that if I live a life of sin I will escape God's justice by constantly wearing the Scapular?" Chances are that if you are an habitual sinner, one who gives up going to Mass, ignores the 6th and 9th Commandments, neglects prayer, you will not be very careful about wearing the Scapular.

The way it usually works is like this. One who diligently wears the Scapular will also be careful to live a virtuous life. The Brown Scapular (or Scapular Medal) is a sign of consecration to Our Lady. Wearing the Scapular day and night, faithfully living up to what it signifies--true devotion to Mary--is a bond of union with her who is the Mediatrix of every grace we receive. As Leo XIII says, every grace has a triple process, from God to Christ, from Christ to Mary, and from Mary to us.

Prayers: (deceased) mother of Regis Murrin (Wal); Mrs. Mary Murphy, grandmother of Father Hesburgh; Sister Mary Michaela, C.S.C., who devoted her long religious life working for Notre Dame; mother of B.J. Bedard; Mrs. Bruce Carson; uncle of Dick Hidding (O-C); father of Walt Grey. Ill, Mrs. Fred Carter (polio); Patricia Cahbrina; father of Fr. Gabriel, O.Cap.; Bob O'Neil. 3 Sp. Int.