

## How Did the Green Scapular Originate?

The Green Scapular was first viewed by human eyes at Blangy, France, on September 8, 1840, feast of the Nativity of the B.V.M. On that day, during meditation, Our Blessed Lady appeared to Sister Justine Bisqueyburu, a religious of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, and revealed to her the Scapular that has since become known in every country of the world.

This was not the first time that Mary had appeared to the French nun. The visions had begun the previous January during her novitiate in the mother-house at Paris and had been repeated four or five times on the principal feasts of the Blessed Virgin. These earlier apparitions of Our Lady seemed to have no other end than to increase in the Sister herself a tender devotion to Mary Immaculate.

But the visit of Mary on the great September 8th of 1840 proved that God did not intend Sister Justine to work out her own salvation merely, but that He had destined her for a special mission in which the salvation of a multitude of souls was involved. For on that day, Sister Justine was given to understand that this new Scapular would contribute to the conversion of souls, particularly of those who have no faith, and would procure for them a good and happy death.

At first, in the two years following 1840, little was done to promote the cause of Mary's new Scapular or to make it or distribute it on even the smallest scale. For Sister Justine, in her deep humility, feared lest all that had happened was the effect of her imagination. Hence, she enjoined complete secrecy upon the very few to whom she felt obliged to reveal the visions.

In 1842, Mary appeared again to Sister Justine and complained about the delay that attended the Green Scapular project. So Sister Justine supervised the making of a very small quantity of Green Scapulars that same year, more by way of trial and experiment, however, and certainly not with sufficient confidence in their power. The results were not very satisfactory, and the project was almost entirely abandoned. Four years later, in 1846, the Blessed Virgin repeatedly showed her displeasure to Sister Justine for the way in which the cause of the Green Scapular was being conducted, so Sister Justine and her confidantes in this work became much more active in the making and distribution of the Scapulars and much more confident in their power and influence.

Almost immediately the Green Scapular became the instrument of an incalculable number of marvelous conversions and some cures.

Pope Pius IX, in 1870, gave full permission for the Daughters of Charity to make and distribute the Green Scapulars.

Since the Green Scapular is Mary's own gift to mankind, and since it has such a happy influence in our world today, we ought to show Our Lady that we appreciate Her interest in us.

This we can do by:

- 1) wearing or carrying and honoring the Green Scapular and saying the Green Scapular Prayer: "*Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death;*"
- 2) helping to distribute it widely;
- 3) consecrating ourselves by daily, fervent recitation of the Act of Consecration;
- 4) frequently attending Mass, receiving the Sacraments and praying the Rosary;
- 5) contributing to the support of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Green Scapular.

You are urgently requested to let us know of any favors you feel have been received through the instrumentality of the Green Scapular and Our Lady's intercession. An exact account of any conversion or cure, with all circumstances of time, place and persons, should be included. Names should not be withheld under pretext of humility, for the glory of God and the honor of His Blessed Mother are involved.

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The Most Rev. William P. O'Connor  
Bishop of Madison

**SHRINE of Our Lady of the Green Scapular**  
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In conformity with the Decree of Urban VIII, the author unreservedly submits all statements herein to the judgments of the Holy See and the decisions of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

## SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE



## GREEN SCAPULAR

A world that is growing weary in its fight against the isms that draw men away from God needs every help that the Immaculate Heart of Mary can place at its disposal.

Among the most recent of Our Lady's gifts to mankind, the Green Scapular assumes a rank of very high importance. Almost everyone who has joined in the Green Scapular Devotion will bear witness to its power for good. It encourages, it inspires, it enthuses for the Faith—these are the qualities most commonly engendered by its use, though it has proved of valuable service and assistance in practically every category of human need and behavior.

What this Devotion has done for others, it can do for you. The graces that flow as a result of the honor paid privately and publicly to Our Lady of the Green Scapular will provide that help from God so necessary in our world today.

Anyone serving the role of an apostle in this work will be spreading the spirit of practical charity that surrounds this devotion. You will win many new friends for Our Lady and regain some who have strayed.



## What Is the Green Scapular?

The Green Scapular is a single rectangular piece of green cloth hanging from a double green string.

On one side of the cloth is a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is dressed in a long, white gown, over which hangs a mantle of very light blue. No veil covers her head, and her hair falls loosely over her shoulders; her feet are bare. In her hands she holds her heart, from the top of which brilliant flames issue.

On the other side of the cloth is a picture of a heart ablaze with flames, pierced with a sword and dripping blood, surmounted by a cross and encircled by the words: "Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death."

No special formula is required to bless the Green Scapular, and there is no investiture ceremony. All that is necessary is that the Green Scapular be blessed by a priest, and honored by the person wishing to benefit by its happy influence. It may be worn or carried. If, however, a person in need of grace is obstinate, the Green Scapular may be placed secretly upon his person or in his home, and the giver should say the prayer in his stead.

The only prayer necessary is the prayer that encircles the heart on the Green Scapular: "Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death." It may be said many times daily; it should be said at least once each day.

Great graces are attached to the Green Scapular, but these graces are more or less great in proportion to the degree of faith and confidence possessed by the Green Scapular user.

## The History of the Shrine

The story of our Shrine is simply told. Early in 1950, Bishop William P. O'Connor ordered the establishment of a new parish in Madison and named it Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In December of 1950, there arrived from Portugal a beautiful, hand-carved statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the gift of a Madison family to the new parish.



Already famous by its blessing at Fatima and its personal benediction by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, the statue travelled 8,000 miles with a group of Holy Year pilgrims across Europe, the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and our own United States.

New honors were bestowed when the statue was solemnly unveiled in the "chicken-coop" Church, so named because this delapidated farm building was the only structure available to the new congregation as a place of worship.

Shortly after, when the Bishop gave the pastor a quantity of Green Scapulars, saying that they might be helpful in strengthening the people's love of Our Lady, he suggested some special devotion with the scapulars.

Interest developed rapidly and the little Church became a Shrine attracting hundreds of pilgrims from many states and even foreign countries.

In the months that followed, it became evident that the Green Scapulars which had been blessed and touched to the statue were instrumental in obtaining many extraordinary favors from God for which no one seemed to find a human explanation or interpretation: recoveries, peace in families, financial improvements, success in studies, happiness in marriage and, especially, conversions.

In gratitude to God and Our Lady for the blessings received, a Green Scapular was placed on the statue. The development of a Shrine was contemplated.

The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, to whom Our Lady entrusted the care of the Green Scapular, indicated their whole-hearted approval of the project.

Subsequently, authoritative permission was granted by the Bishop of Madison.

Construction of the World Shrine of Our Lady of the Green Scapular was begun in December, 1959, and completed in May, 1961.

The Shrine is open from early morning until late each night. Green Scapulars, blessed and touched to the Shrine statue, are always available.

A Novena honoring Our Lady of the Green Scapular is conducted each Sunday afternoon at 3:30 and each Wednesday evening at 7:30.

**"IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, PRAY FOR US NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH."**