

### Lesson 3: The Intercession of Our Mother in Heaven

*Please click twice to watch the video*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Glt8w6liW9o>

Whenever we need something, we can ask for Mary's help. She can intercede for us. Intercede means "to act on behalf of someone in difficulty or trouble, as by pleading or petition".

Mary convinced Jesus to perform his first miracle even though he was not planning to perform miracles yet.

Mary and Jesus were at a wedding in Galilee in an area called Cana. The hosts ran out of wine. Mary went to Jesus and told him they had no wine. Jesus responded to her, "Woman, what is that to me and to you? My hour is not yet come."

This has been misinterpreted by some who say Jesus is rebuking his mother. This is not true. How could it be; Jesus is sinless and is the perfect son. He would have never been rude to his mother.

Mary did not respond. Rather she went to the waiters and told them, "Do whatever he tells you." Her remark proves that she knew he was about to perform a miracle. She knew that he would fulfil her request.

Jesus instructed the servants to fill some huge pots with water. Because of Mary's advice they obeyed. He told them then to draw some water from the freshly filled pots and take it to the head servant. They again obeyed and were amazed to see that the water was miraculously turned into wine.

The head servant not knowing what had occurred, went to the bride and groom and congratulated them on serving the best wine last.

Mary is the best mother we can have – she is always aware of what we need.

**Memorare:** Do you ever feel like you could use some help approaching God in your prayers? The Memorare is a prayer that reminds us that we have a wonderful advocate and protector in the Mother of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In our prayers to her we honor and worship her son, who is more than happy to listen to his mother's pleas on our behalf.

The Memorare invites us to ask the Blessed Mother for her assistance and her grace, especially when we feel most troubled in our daily lives.

*REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.*

The Memorare is often described as a "powerful" prayer, meaning that those who pray it have their prayers answered.

Sometimes, though, people misunderstand the text, and think of the prayer as essentially miraculous.

The words "never was it known that any one... was left unaided" does not mean that the requests that we make while praying the Memorare will be automatically granted, or granted in the way we desire them to be. As with any prayer, when we humbly seek the aid of the Blessed Virgin Mary through the Memorare, we will receive that aid, but it may take a very different form from what we desire.

The Meaning of the Words:

♣ **Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary:** Most gracious means someone who is very compassionate: who loves much, who is willing to help in any way possible, shows kindness and courtesy, is merciful.

♣ **that never was it known:** never means not at any time or place in the entire world.

♣ **that anyone who fled to your protection:** it is to say that anyone who asked her for protection

♣ **implored your help:** to ask her to watch over us, to look over us, to keep us safe.

♣ **or sought your intercession:** to intercede for us with God – to pray for our intention to God.

♣ **was left unaided:** Every person who has asked our Blessed Mother for help has received help. She has never abandoned anyone who has asked for help in such things as coming away from sin, for a particular intention.

♣ **Inspired by this confidence:** For this reason, we can be confident that she will also help us.

♣ **I fly unto you, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother:** We go to Mary quickly for her help at any time. Mary is the purest one. She is the Spiritual Mother of each person because Jesus gave her to us and us to her at the foot of the Cross.

♣ **to you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful:** We come to Mary as sinners because each person sins. We come to her sorry for our sins.

♣ **Mother of the Word Incarnate:** The Bible informs us that Jesus is the Word of God. In John 1:14: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we have seen his glory: the glory of an only son coming from the Father." Therefore, we call Jesus the Word Incarnate. Mary is the Mother of Jesus and therefore Mother of the Word Incarnate. (Incarnate means "to be made flesh")

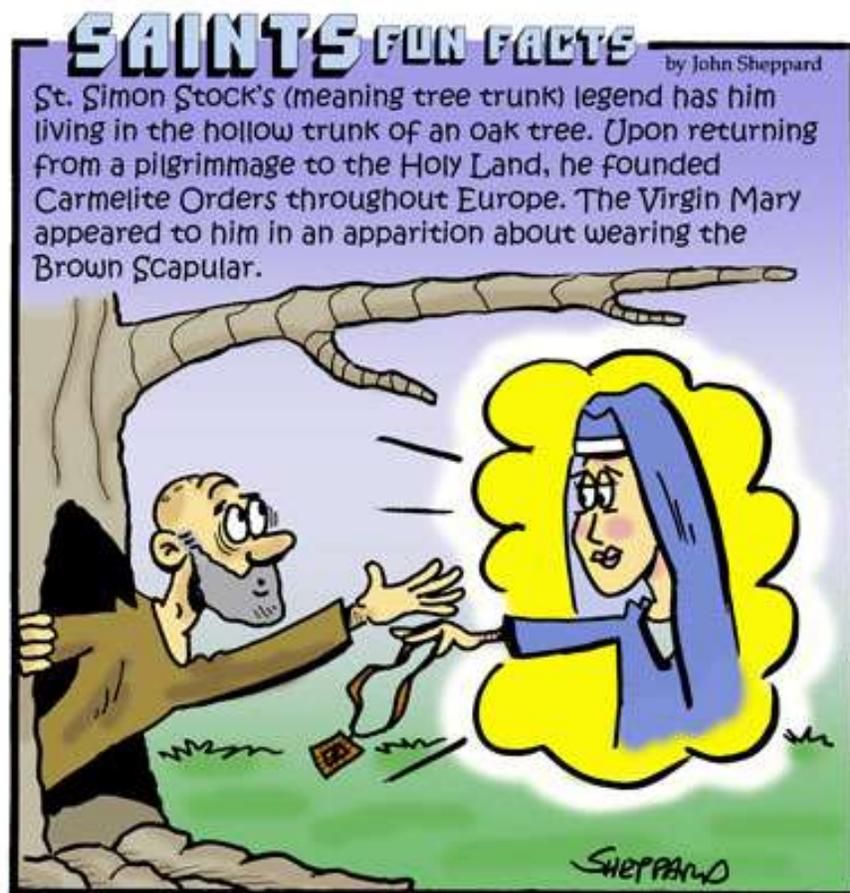
♣ **despise not my petitions:** I am your child and so please listen to me. The heart of our Blessed Mother is always ready to listen, forgive, and love us. She always hears our prayers.

♣ **but in your mercy hear and answer me:** Mary, listen with favor, and please give me what I am asking of you.

♣ **Amen.** I believe that you will answer me.

When we pray *to* Mary we also pray *through* her to her Divine Son, Jesus! And she is happy to pray for us and to intercede with him on our behalf. You've probably asked a friend to pray for you sometimes. Why not ask the Blessed Mother as well?

As long as we approach Mary with a *sincere* desire to do God's will and to make amends for our sins, we can ask for her help with confidence. (And, after all, does it ever hurt to get on the good side of a loved one's mother?)



Simon was born around 1165 A.D. At the age 12, Simon traveled to the Holy Lands where he met a group of hermits who called themselves the successors of Elijah. Simon joined them. His last name Stock, which means "tree trunk", is thought to have derived from his behavior of living in the trunk of a oak tree as a hermit.

When the Muslims began to take over the Holy Land, Simon and his friends fled to England. There Simon started many Carmelite Communities. Years later, the Carmelite

Community wasn't doing so well. Then on July 16, when Simon was in Cambridge, he decided to go to his room and pray to Mary. While in his room, Mary suddenly appeared to Simon holding the brown scapular in one hand and she said: *"He who dies clothed in this habit shall be preserved from eternal fire. It is the badge of salvation, a shield in time of danger, and a pledge of special peace and protection."*

Many years later both religious and ordinary Catholics have been able to wear the scapular. The church has approved 18 different kinds of scapulars. But the most popular is the woolen brown scapular which Our Lady gave Simon Stock.

### **About the scapular:**

A scapular is part of a monk's or nun's habit. It is the strip of fabric which has a hole in the middle so that it could hang over the shoulders and cover front and back.

Its name came from the Latin word for shoulder; 'scapula'.

In the fifteenth century, Third Order members were required to wear the scapular. The Third Order were lay people so the scapular was reduced in size, and it was eventually miniaturized in the sixteenth century.

Today, the scapular is typically made up of two small double squares of cloth (sometimes only one). They are normally 2 inch squares with two long strings between them so it can be hung over the shoulders, with one square in front and one in back.

The scapular is usually the same color as the habit of the religious order to which it belongs.

The scapular can have an image of Our Lady or a symbol which relates to the particular devotion it recalls. S

Scapulars are sacramentals, they give the wearer God's protection. Sacramentals are objects and actions that remind us of God's presence in our lives. Some examples of sacramentals are rosaries, medals, crucifixes, holy water, and the sign of the cross.

There are approximately 18 different scapulars, most of them have an origin that stems from a vision.



"a Sign of  
Salvation,"



Our Lady of  
Mt. Carmel  
to  
St. Simon Stock - 1251

"Whoever dies  
clothed in this  
Scapular  
shall not suffer  
eternal fire."



The  
Scapular  
Promise from  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel