

Some have asked if the Scapular Medal could be used in place of the various Scapulars now in use.

Answer:

By a regulation made by Pope Pius X in 1910, it is permitted to wear a medal instead of one or more of the small scapulars.

There is a story - - which may be true or may not be - - - that the attention of the kindly Pontiff was first called to this matter by an African missionary who told how his Negro Catholics found the wearing of the scapular difficult in the thorny jungles of the Congo. The permission intended at first for these children of the Church, to use a medal as a substitute, was finally given to all Catholics.

The wearing of several scapulars is inconvenient and possibly unsanitary, and this medal can replace any or all of them; that is, all persons who have been validly invested with a blessed woolen scapular may use the scapular medal instead - - and if they have been invested with several, the medal will take the place of all if properly blessed. This refers only to the small scapulars, for the medal is not a substitute for the so-called "large scapulars".

As said above, a new scapular may replace an old one without a blessing - but this is not the case with the medal. It must be blessed; and this can be done only by a priest, who has faculties to bless and invest with the corresponding scapular. If the medal is to be used instead of several scapulars, a blessing must be given to it FOR EACH scapular which it is intended to replace. For each blessing the Church requires merely the sign of the cross. Every time an old medal is replaced with a new one, the process of blessing must be repeated.

The scapular medal must have on one side a representation of Our Lord with His Sacred Heart, and on the other an image of the Blessed Virgin. It may be made of any kind of hard metal.

How is it to be worn? There is no rule about this. It may be hung from the neck, carried in the pocket or purse, or worn in any desired manner. If worn or carried constantly, it gives a share in all the spiritual privileges that would come from the wearing of the scapular or scapulars which it replaces.

Information taken from:

"The Externals of the Catholic Church"
Her Government, Ceremonies, Festivals
Sacramentals, and Devotions.

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1942