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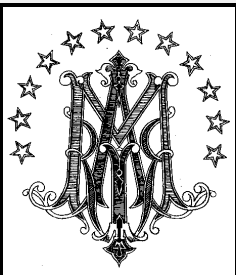
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Dear friend of Our Lady,

One of the devotions promoted by the apostolate, from the time of its inception, is the daily recitation of the psalms, particularly in the context of the Divine Office, the official daily prayer of the Church. Our members will be glad to hear, then, that the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has begun a series of weekly audience talks on the Book of Psalms. Excerpts from the first talk in the series are printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Especially interesting is his observation that the psalms were seen in ancient times, as a bulwark against heresy. Thus, as is pointed out, the recommendation by St. Athanasius, that the psalms formed a strong defense against a heresy that St. Athanasius spent much of his life refuting, Arianism, which denied the Divinity of Christ. Interestingly enough, in a remark that could easily be applied to the traditional liturgy, in the second discourse of the series, the Holy Father emphasizes that the early monks were so convinced that in using the inspired words of the psalms as the foundation of their prayer life, they were not interested in praying with their own words but with those of God Himself. To quote directly, he says: "The ancient monks were so certain of this truth, that they were not worried about singing the psalms in their own maternal tongue, it being sufficient for them to know that they were in some way 'organs' of the Holy Spirit." (April 4, 2001)

Our members and friends should also be aware that this year we celebrate the 750th anniversary of the giving of the brown scapular to St. Simon Stock. To celebrate this occasion the Holy Father sent a message to the 2 branches of the Carmelite Order. Again, as we have spent much time in promotion of the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, as well as other approved scapulars, we

