

CTG - The Meaning of the Vestments

The celebration vestments worn by full members of our Community include the alb, hooded scapular, and the rope cincture. The colors of the celebration vestments are generally earth tones, to remind us that “dust we are, and to dust we shall return.” Awareness of our limited time here creates the urgency we need to do our prayers, reflection, and service, but also reminds us of the transitory nature of life, and that we will serve and be in the presence of God eternally.

Symbolically, the alb represents our vow of **Prayer**. Wearing the alb prepares us for the reverence and joy we enter into when we are in the Presence of God.

The hood of the scapular represents the vow of **Study and Reflection** we do of ourselves and the life we are leading. With the hood raised, we enter into a solitude and silence of contemplation where we are alone with God, our healer and teacher. This prepares us to serve others according to God's will in our own unique way.

The front and back aprons of the scapular represent the vow of **Service** that we do for others. This is the action part of our lives, the part where we directly interact with others in a spirit of servitude. Aprons remind us that sometimes the work is hard and dirty.

Binding all these three together is a brown rope cincture that reminds us that we are bound to the **love of God** as we offer our prayers, reflection and service throughout every day. . Everything we do needs to be in the Light of His Love. For as St. Paul proclaims, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God." As the new candidate for full profession is clothed with the cincture, the Guardian reminds him or her, "Remember, O Brother/Sister, that you are bound to the steadfast love of the Lord, and nothing can separate you from the Love of God!"

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Guardian
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