

Module: H05: Carmelite Reform and Renewal in the 16th Century

This module brings the student on an historical journey dealing with Carmelite reform and renewal in the Sixteenth century and its meaning for us today. Carmelite reform was not easily or quickly achieved. The single person from this period whose influence has been greatest has been St Teresa of Ávila. She will have a central place in this module.

The module will:

- consider change and reform of religious charisms and the earlier reform movements in the Carmelite order.
- examine the Tridentine reform of the Carmelite order and how this came into conflict with reform of the King of Spain.
- focus on St Teresa, her reforming and founding intentions and how these developed, the sources of her ideas and her relationship to the culture of her time.
- follow the way Teresa's intentions were received within the Carmelite order and also within the discalced Carmelites.
- examine the Counter Reformation reform of the Carmelites of the Ancient Observance and the reform of Touraine.
- examine how these historical movements have been influential in recent times and will look at recent tensions and movements towards Carmelite reconciliation and collaboration.
- look at new orientations and new beginnings for the 21st century and reflections coming from meetings and letters from the OCarm and OCD superior generals.
- reflect on what we might learn for today from the 16th century reforms and renewals.