

## **Module H01: Carmel – Development of the Tradition**

This module gives a general historical framework in which to understand the development of the Family of Carmel from its origins in the 13<sup>th</sup> century of hermits on Mount Carmel up to its present situation at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century with over 100,000 members, friars, nuns, sisters and lay.

For historical reasons, the Family is divided into three major groups:

- the Ancient Observance
- the Discalced Reform
- the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate

This module will enable students to understand how the Carmelite Family has evolved and developed and hence to appreciate the values and heritage represented by its component parts.

However, Carmel is not simply an organisation, but a family composed of individuals, past and present. Progressing through this module, you will encounter some very interesting characters, many of them holy, many inspiring but also a one or two who have failed to live up to their calling or who have faltered in the face of adverse circumstances. We are all human and the members of the Family of Carmel are no different.

Finally, there will be an opportunity to encounter – briefly – the writings and the teaching of some of the outstanding inspirational figures who have been members of the Carmelite Family.

