

Module H08: The Compiègne Martyrs. Died by Guillotine July 17th 1794

This module is an introduction to the Compiègne Martyrs who were sixteen French Carmelite nuns who died at the guillotine in 1794 having offered their lives for the Church and their country. Ten days after their death the reign of terror ended. In December 1902 Pope Leo XIII introduced their cause and in 1905 Pope Pius X promulgated them in 1906

Units 1-4 explore the family origins and lives of the Martyrs before the French Revolution and include a broad outline of the historical background to the French Revolution and its various stages which led to the arrest and martyrdom of the Carmelites.

Units 5-8 introduce other members of the community and the first measures against Religious including the expulsion from the Monastery, and the arrest and imprisonment of the Nuns in Compiègne.

Units 9-12 outline the arrest of the Nuns in Compiègne and their transfer to the Conciergerie Prison in Paris, followed by their trial, sentencing and deaths.

Units 13-16 consider fictional works inspired by the Martyrs, along with the cause for beatification and the devotion of other Carmelite Saints to the Martyrs.