

Module H07: The History of Female Contemplative Life and Recent Developments

This module is an introduction to the origins, different forms, development and history of female contemplative life in the Western Church.

Rather than trying to cover all its different forms comprehensively, representative examples from its different forms are outlined.

The development in the theological understanding of this form of Religious Life is indicated and an overview of the significance of enclosure in this way of life is suggested.

The aims of this module are:

- to sketch the history and development of the different forms of female Contemplative Religious Life in the Church (Monasticism; Canons Regular; Mendicants; Developments since the Council of Trent)
- and to outline an understanding of the developments concerning this form of consecrated life that have taken place since Vatican II.

