

Module S15: The Mystical Poetry of Jessica Powers, Sr Miriam of the Holy Spirit O.C.D.

This module is concerned primarily with the spiritual significance of Jessica Powers life (1905-1988) and work for contemporary Carmelites. Her life is outlined as the necessary backdrop against which her poems, and especially her mystical poetry, needs to be understood.

As Siegfried and Morneau recognise, the primary influence that shaped Jessica's life and her poetry was probably the poetry of St John of the Cross. In Jessica's case also, we are dealing, not only with metaphysical poetry of the finest calibre, as Prozesky has noted, but also with poetry that, particularly in the later poems, has a characteristically 'divine tone' that hints at a similarly 'mystical' experience.

Units 1-3 outline Jessica's early life in Mauston Wisconsin, her two years in Chicago, and her return to Mauston until 1937.

Units 4-6 follow her move to New York and the years she spent there.

Units 7-11 reflect on her early years in Carmel as Sr Miriam of the Holy Spirit O.C.D.

Units 12-16 cover the years that Jessica was Prioress and her final years until the end of her life.

This module is available to study on the following programmes:

- Diploma in Spirituality (Carmelite Studies)
- B.Th. (Carmelite Studies)