

Module T10: Understanding the Charism of Consecrated Life

This module examines the evolution of thought on the nature of Consecrated and Religious Life and on their associated charisms during, and after, the Second Vatican Council (1962-65).

It also outlines the development that took place concerning the recognition of the charismatic nature of the various types of Consecrated Life in the Church, including Religious Life and different forms of lay consecration, in the period since Vatican II.

Having studied this module, students should be able to explain Vatican II's understanding of charisms and, in particular, those charisms that are associated with the various forms of consecrated life in the Church. They should also be able to explain the evolution that has taken place at, and since, Vatican II leading to the recognition of Religious Life and other forms of Consecrated Life in the Church as charismatic, rather than hierarchical, structures that include both those who receive the Sacrament of Orders and those who do not.

On this basis, they should be able to recognise that Religious Orders and their associated 'families' or associates, the Carmelites, for example, include friars, both those who are ordained and those who are not, cloistered nuns, apostolic sisters, 'third' or secular orders, and associated individuals and groups of various kinds, all of whom share a common charism.