

Module DC29: St Edith Stein - Spirituality of the cross and the Holocaust Experience



This module has a specific character. It attempts to present some aspects of Carmelite spirituality in Edith Stein's life and thought. However, these aspects are also essential for the whole Catholic Church and the entire Christianity, as they deal with one of the most important elements of Christian theology and spirituality, which is, as Edith Stein said, *the knowledge of the cross*. This theology and spirituality was especially important in Edith Stein's life and thought because it relates to one of the most crucial events in the human history: the Jewish Holocaust during the Second World War. This module looks at some aspects of this event from the perspective of the Christian and Carmelite spirituality.

The module contains five units, which focus on the following topics:

1. Historical and cultural background of Edith Stein's life
2. Edith Stein's biography
3. Some thoughts on the cross of Christ in Christian mysticism and theology
4. Edith Stein's spirituality of the cross
5. "Nach Auschwitz" (after Auschwitz) theology and spirituality of the cross

By the end of the module students should have:

- an understanding of the cultural, historical, political and religious situation in Europe and Germany during the Nazi period;
- an understanding of Edith Stein's intellectual and spiritual growth that led her from Judaism and agnosticism to faith in Jesus Christ and finally to the Carmelite Order;
- an understanding and knowledge of Edith Stein's approach to the cross of Christ;
- an understanding of the spiritual, moral and intellectual struggles in Jewish and Christian life expressed in "after Auschwitz" theology and spirituality

