

Module T17: Penance and the Sacrament of the Sick

The overall aim of this module is to introduce learners to the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and to the Sacrament of the Sick, which are recognised as the two Sacraments of healing. This is achieved by outlining the Biblical basis of both Sacraments, the historical development of the theology of these Sacraments from the early centuries of the Church down to the present time, and the key points of the teaching of the Church on these Sacraments.

While the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Sick are recognised by both the Catholic and Orthodox churches, these rites are not regarded as Sacraments by some Christian traditions. Recognising the divergence in traditions, this module is designed to present the Biblical basis, and historical development of the teaching of the Catholic Church on these Sacraments, which played a significant role in the lives of some of our early Carmelite Saints, notably in St. Peter Thomas O.Carm., St. Nuno of Saint Mary, O.Carm. and St. Titus Brandsma, O.Carm. This module is included in this programme because of the important place of these two Sacraments in Roman Catholic Theology and because these Sacraments were, and are, part of the everyday lives of many Carmelites.