

Module DC06: The Carmelite School of Spirituality, O.Carm. Perspective

This module is a brief introduction to the Carmelite school or rather tradition of spirituality from the OCarm perspective. It looks at how Carmelites have lived the Gospel at different times and places, how they have lived in allegiance to Jesus Christ, prompted by the Holy Spirit and doing this within the Christian family. As we delve into the Carmelite tradition, we will look at five topics:

1. An introduction to the Carmelite story,
2. The *Rule*,
3. Carmelites as mendicants – how that affected the tradition,
4. Symbolic figures – Mary and Elijah,
5. Living and re-imaging the tradition: Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Therese of Lisieux, Titus Brandsma, and Edith Stein.

These five topics will help us journey from the Order's beginnings in Carmel to its life today in the 21st century. We will be seeing how men and women have lived the *Rule*, how that *Rule* and symbolic figures of Mary and Elijah have shaped the Carmelite Imagination. We will also become aware of the importance of the Order's origins on Mt Carmel and the geography of the heart. The desert is an important image as are light, darkness and flame so we are meant to value our imaginations and be open to poetry. The topics should be life enhancing and challenging but not narrow, dry or academic.