

Module DC45: The Role of Carmelites in Times of Epidemics

This module outlines the different ways in which Carmelites, through the centuries, have been affected by, and tried to respond to, some of the epidemics that have marked the eight hundred years or so of their history.

The first unit begins with an outline of the Biblical Theology of epidemics, and of the theology of divine providence in relation to such evils, before presenting the account of the 'Black Death' in Paris during 1348 and 1349 by Jean Fillons O.Carm. and a short outline of how the Black Death is understood today.

Unit two outlines the impact of the Black Death on St Andrew Corsini O.Carm. when he was Provincial of the Florentine Province in 1348-51, and it also describes his posthumous healing of a woman suffering from Hansen's disease.

The third unit presents the pastoral strategy adopted on Cyprus by the papal diplomat, St Peter Thomas O.Carm., in response to the plague on Cyprus in 1362-63.

In the fourth unit, the responses of two male and two female Carmelites, Venerable John of St Samson O.Carm., St Thérèse of the Child Jesus O.C.D., Bl. Candelaria of St Joseph and Bl. Hilary Januszewski O.Carm, to some later and more localised epidemics is described.

The fifth and final unit outlines the response of the Zimbabwean Commissariat of the Carmelite Order to the AIDS pandemic before outlining the emergence of the pandemic known as Covid 19, and outlining some of the ways in which the Carmelite tradition and its response to epidemics can shed some light on how contemporary Carmelites might respond to the Covid 19 pandemic.