



2011 TOWN AND GOWN LECTURE featuring



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"Inventing a Catholic Reformation in Seventeenth-Century France

HOW THE SPANISH CARMELITES BECAME FRENCH"



When a group of devout Parisians decided in 1602 to found an order of Carmelites on the model of Saint Teresa's reform, they insisted on bringing nuns from Spain to guarantee the authenticity of their new French order. Despite these good intentions, within a year of the foundation of the French order's first house in Paris, the sister who had been closest to Teresa wrote home privately to Spain that the new French order not only would not have been to the saint's liking but represented everything she hated in traditional monastic life. The Parisian nuns would not have agreed, but when a new house was created outside Paris at Pontoise the following year, its members deliberately departed from the new Parisian model in order to create their own vision of an authentic Teresian convent. Thus began a longstanding competition over the Teresian heritage and a rivalry that threatened at times to divide the rapidly growing French order. This lecture uses the story of this rivalry as a way of exploring the contrasting ambitions and realities of religious reform in early seventeenth-century France. One episode from a broader study of the revival of Catholic religious life in France following decades of civil war, the story illuminates the challenges of defining and enacting religious reform and the need to adapt reform to local circumstances and values. •

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 • 7:30 PM

UA Student Union Catalina/Tucson Room (University Blvd/Mountain Ave on UA campus)

Free and open to the public. For more information, (520) 626-5448. *Reception to follow.*