

The rigorous work "The Friendship of Teresa of Jesus with Jerome Gratian Against the Background of the Reform of the Carmelite Order" first briefly outlines various perspectives on the importance of friendship and interpersonal relationships in the spiritual tradition (Chapter 1). It then presents Teresa's most important friendships and illustrates the type of internal development she went through in this area of life (Chapter 2). Her deepest relationship was her friendship with Father Jerome Gratian, the first Provincial of the Discalced Carmelites. It lasted the last eight years of her life (1575 - 1582). It had a naturally human dimension, but also a spiritual and practical one. Teresa and Gratian supported each other with spiritual advice, considered the reform of the Carmelite order together, and implemented that reform. The individual levels of friendship and their development are analysed year by year (Chapter 3). Teresa tried to pass on her experience of friendship with God and with people, in the form of a doctrine mainly to her "spiritual daughters," the Discalced Carmelites nuns (Chapter 4). As well as contributing to a deeper understanding of the natural and human dimension of the personality of Teresa of Jesus and how it is incorporated in her relationship with God, the work also presents possible explanations for some apparent contradictions between her life practice and the doctrine of friendship and neighbourly love.