

different localities and religious interests venerated different groups of saints. The Calendar of this manuscript is unmistakably Carmelite.

Among the major feasts of the Carmelite year¹³ were the eight feasts of the Virgin. In the Calendar of this Book of Hours these dates have been singled out in red ink and called 'full' or 'double' feasts. They are:

1. March 25 *Annunciatio dominica – totum duplex* – The Annunciation; of great significance to the Carmelites many of whose churches were dedicated to the Annunciation.
2. July 2 *Visitatio beati marie – totum* – The Visitation. Introduced into the Carmelite calendar by the General Chapter of 1391 and raised to the rank of *totum duplex*, as here, in 1420.
3. July 16 *Commemoratio sollemnis sancte marie patrone ordinis nostri – duplex* – The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; known under several names and instituted by the Carmelites between 1376 and 1386. It did not become a feast of the Universal Church until 1726.
4. August 5 *Festum nivie – duplex* – Our Lady of the Snows; introduced by the Carmelites at the same time as the Visitation.
5. August 15 *Assumptio virginis gloriose – totum duplex* – The Assumption, the feast *par excellence* of the Carmelite Order till at least the end of the fifteenth century.
6. September 8 *Nativitatis gloriose virginis marie – totum* – The Birth of the Virgin.
7. November 21 *Presentatio virginis gloriose – duplex* – The Presentation; introduced with the Visitation.
8. December 8 *Conceptio immaculate virginis marie – totum* – The Conception of Mary was directed to be observed as a solemn feast by the Carmelite chapter at Toulouse in 1306, and was made even more solemn in 1396. The Carmelites, like the Franciscans, defended the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception in the endless medieval controversies.

Other particularly important Carmelite feasts, singled out for special veneration are:

February 2 *Purificatio sacrae virginis marie – totum duplex* – The Carmelite friars celebrated the feast of the Purification with a procession with candles.

July 26 *Anne matris virginis marie – duplex* – In 1375 the Carmelite General Chapter decreed the commemoration of Saint Anne to be next to that of her daughter, the Virgin Mary.

March 19 *Joseph confessoris nutricis domini – duplex* – It was claimed by Pope Benedict XIV that the Carmelites first introduced the worship of Joseph into the West. Although there is no evidence for this, the feast was very important in the Order.

May 25 *Marie, Jacobi et salo^e – duplex* – The Three Marys (i.e., Mary