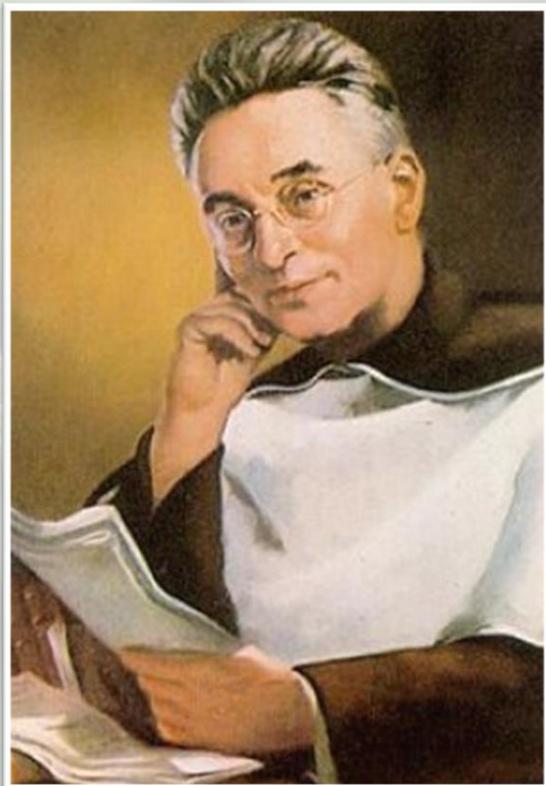


TITUS BRANDSMA



“I see God in the work of his hands and the marks of his love in every visible thing, and it sometimes happens that I am seized by a supreme joy which is above all other joys.”

What does it mean to be a Lay Carmelite?

The calling of a Lay Carmelite is to live their lives by following the Charisms of the Carmelite Order which are prayer, service and community. Lay Carmelites learn how to live in allegiance to Jesus Christ from the teachings of the Carmelite Saints such as St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Theresa of Avila and John of the Cross. In the early stages of formation. Lay Carmelites renew their baptismal promises by making a Profession of promises to the Carmelite Order. Being a Lay Carmelite is a vocation and a way of life and not just a devotion. Through a strong devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Prophet Elijah, Lay Carmelites are called to follow God’s Will and in turn dedicate their lives to Gospel living. Lay Carmelites strive to serve Jesus faithfully with a pure heart and a clear conscience through a commitment to seek the face of the living God. Lay Carmelites live under the protection, inspiration and guidance of Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, whom they honor as "their Mother and Sister."

The Lay Carmelite way of life is in a spirit of true communion with the entire family of Carmel. The purpose of their commitment is the cultivation of a deeper interior life and a constant conversion that seeks God. This is done by an openness of heart and mind, by contemplative and prayerful reflection on Christ in the Scriptures. by a sincere sense of fraternity that extends to all and a concern for issues of justice and peace in the world.

BLESSED TITUS BRANDSMA – A MODEL FOR PEACE AND FORGIVENESS

Bl. Titus Brandsma joined the Carmelites in 1898 at the age of 17. He made his first Profession in 1899 and was ordained to the Priesthood in 1905. He was awarded a Doctorate in philosophy at the Gregorian Pontifical University.

In Holland, he taught in a number of schools before taking up a post as Professor of Philosophy and the History of Mysticism at the Catholic University of Nijmegen where he was later appointed Rector Magnificus. A noted writer and journalist, in 1935, he was appointed adviser to the Bishops and for Catholic journalists. He was noted for being ready to receive anyone in difficulty and to help in whatever way he could. In the period leading up to and during the Nazi occupation in Holland, he argued passionately against the National Socialist ideology, basing his stand on the Gospels, and he defended the right to freedom in education and for the Catholic Press. As a result, he was imprisoned.

So began his Calvary, involving great personal suffering and degradation while, at the same time, he himself brought solace and comfort to the other internees and begged God's blessing on his jailers. In the midst of such inhuman suffering, he possessed the precious ability to bring an awareness of goodness, love and peace. He passed from one prison or camp to another until he arrived in Dachau where he was killed on 26th July 1942. He was beatified as a martyr by Pope John Paul II on 3rd November 1985.

FORMATION OF THE Titus Brandsma Lay Carmelite Community

The Titus Brandsma Lay Carmelite Community was born out of discussions between Third Order Lay Carmelites and a Carmelite Priest from Mount Carmel Spiritual Center. These discussions inspired the formation of Elijah's Well, a group that would explore Carmelite spirituality. Elijah's Well had their first meeting on Friday, November 13, 2015 at Mount Carmel. The meeting consisted of Evening Prayer. Lectio Divina and a Carmelite book study. It soon became evident that the members of this group had discovered a love for Carmel and a desire to be Lay Carmelites. In March of 2019 the Titus Brandsma Lay Carmelite Community was officially formed and meets on the first Friday of the month at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre.

The Community chose the name Titus Brandsma in honour of the occasion of Titus' visit to Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in 1935 when Titus wrote about the Falls as follows - "I not only see the riches of the nature of the water and its immeasurable potentiality; I see God working in the work of his hands and the manifestation of his love."

Titus Brandsma *Lay Carmelite Community*

MEETING PLACE

**Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre
7020 Stanley Avenue
Niagara Falls
Ontario
L2G 7B7**



CONTACT

**Regional Coordinator
rc@laycarmelites.org**

WEBSITE

www.laycarmelites.org/tblcc

Requirements for Admission

- **Roman Catholic in good standing.**
- **Registered member of a parish.**
- **Feels called by God to live more deeply their baptismal vocation as a member of the Carmelite family according to the particular Charisms of the Carmelite Order.**
- **Must be over 18 years of age when seeking entry into formation.**
- **A person is admitted to formation through an existing Lay Carmelite Community.**

LAY CARMELITES *A Journey of Love*



Do you feel that there is something missing in your life?

Do you feel that you might like to be closer to Jesus Christ, walk nearer to Him and be more like Him?

Do you feel that there is never the correct time to pray, or even just the time to pray?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, then perhaps Carmel and the life of a Lay Carmelite is exactly what you are looking for.