



CARMELITE MISSIONS

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www.carmelitemissions.org

CARMELITE



MISSIONS



"Please Help To Show Me The Way"

Your offering and your support are needed NOW more than ever.

### Gratitude continued...

Carmelite Missions, it has a very meaningful impact. Every dollar truly makes a difference in relieving the suffering of the poor...this impact gives *hope*, and it will last for many years.

I pray that you can find it in your heart and that you have the means during these difficult financial times to send a donation today...one that will help to strengthen lives that have been devastated by poverty with the loss of jobs and even of ordinary income. Thank you for your generous and prayerful support of our Carmelite Missions. May Our Lady of Mount Carmel bless and reward you on her feast day, July 16, and during these summer months.

Love and peace,

*Fr. John Malley, O.Carm.*

Director of Carmelite Missions

### A Simple Way to DONATE NEWLY ADDED

#### Donate

Learn about the many challenges that the Carmelite missionaries encounter each day by visiting our website [www.carmelitemissions.org](http://www.carmelitemissions.org). Review the various options of planned gifts to achieve your financial goals and how to include the Carmelite Missions in your will.

Thank you in advance for your generosity! Your gift will allow priests, sisters and brothers proclaim the Good News of the Gospel among some of today's poorest people in the underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Remember the Carmelite Missions when you write your will.



Father John Malley, O.Carm.  
Director of Carmelite Missions

## Gratitude and Prayers

Sixty years ago during July 1949, the first members of our American-Canadian Province of Carmelites were sent on mission to South America. Fathers Matthew O'Neill and Leon Battle went to Lima, Peru, and Fathers Sylvester Snee and Pierce Gilmartin went to Santiago, Chile. This Carmelite Mission office was founded at the same time to support their missionary efforts. It continues such vital work even today.

As you well know, this past year has been a troubling time for our country and for the world. The economic crisis – with the loss of jobs and resulting unemployment, the foreclosing of homes, and the difficulties in paying mortgages, health costs, and even ordinary living expenses – has caused tremendous financial problems for many families and individuals.

Through it all, your generosity to Carmelite Missions has been outstanding, and we have been able to continue to touch many lives, not only in Peru and South

America, but throughout our missions in Asia and Africa. We are sincerely grateful for the *hope* that you have given to the poor, many of whom are in desperate needs.

Today, on top of wanting to share our deep gratitude, I am writing for two important reasons: first, to ask for your

continued support as we reach out to our missions in 25 countries throughout the world. The lives of many families have been deeply affected by the financial crisis that began in the United States. Some have lost their homes, and most are having tremendous difficulties just to put rice on the family table day after day. And secondly, to encourage your prayers that the efforts taken by our government may have a "ripple" effect in improving the severe financial crisis being suffered, especially by the poor.

You obviously care deeply for those who are suffering, which is why I want to assure you that every time you send a gift to



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Saint of the Month 🌿 Feast Day, July 27

# Titus Brandsma - Friend of the Missions

## Carmelite Vocation and Priesthood

Even as a young man, Titus was attracted to the Dutch Carmelites because of their effective work in parishes and schools, but he was excited about their new mission in Brazil, which he hoped to join. The Prior General had asked the Dutch province to help revitalize the Brazilian province of Rio de Janeiro, so eight Dutch friars were sent there in 1904. Their apostolic work was vigorous and much appreciated by the Brazilian people. They revived the old houses and also took on new missions in the poor interior of the huge country. Other Dutchmen followed, and native vocations joined their communities. By 1908, they had opened the first of a series of schools in Brazil. The number of Carmelites had risen to 22 by 1919. Ten years later, the Rio province took over care of the district of Paracatu, and continued to expand vigorously.

Titus was ordained a priest in 1905, the year after the first Dutch missionaries were sent out. He spent the next four years in Rome pursuing advanced studies, but he kept his eye on Brazil. At the end of 1907, he wrote to a friend that he would go anywhere he was needed in the world: "If the superiors think that I can be useful in Australia, Japan, Russia or the United States, I am

ready to leave early tomorrow morning." Such brave hopes were limited, unfortunately, by his rather delicate health, which would slow him down for the rest of his life.

Titus was only 30 years old when his fellow Carmelites elected him to the Definitory, a consultative board which advises the Provincial on such important matters as allocation of money and personnel. He was re-elected again and again for the rest of his life, and it was as a Definitory that Titus contributed most significantly to the missions.



1941: Titus Brandsma has a conversation with John de Young, Archbishop of Utrecht on the situation of the Catholic press.

## His Work for the Missions in the Province

He was actually scheduled to go to Brazil as a teacher in the summer of 1919, but the doubts about his health remained a concern for the Provincial.

In the end, he was kept home to build up the spiritual and intellectual foundations of the Dutch Carmel. Titus never did get to work as an actual missionary, but many of his students would.

Since he could not go abroad himself, he decided that he would volunteer to collect funds at home and raise the awareness of his fellow Hollanders about how much good they could accomplish by supporting the missions. During the summer of 1921, he set out with slides and a projector to move from one town to another and lecture about the exciting things happening in Brazil. His plan was to wrap up his tour in Maastricht, where the first Mission Congress would take place in July. He was so exhausted by his uninterrupted speaking, however, that his health broke down again, and he had to miss the Congress altogether. He was not discharged from the hospital until November, but he was overjoyed to see that meeting halls were crammed with enthusiastic people, eager to support the missions in whatever ways possible.

The following year, he planned a spectacular Mission Week in the city of Oss. It was a magnificent success, with five bishops and 50 missionaries, representing 20 different societies working all over the world. Appropriately, word came from Rome a short time later that a new mission was to be founded in Indonesia, one of the most densely populated areas in the world. The Vicariate of Java was being split, and the Carmelites were to be given charge of Eastern Java and Madura. The first three friars arrived in Java a year later (1923) to take charge of the mission of Malang with the help of the Jesuits. Many more priests, brothers and students followed. The golden age of the Dutch Carmelite Missions had dawned.

In 1925, the missions acquired a new patroness when Therese of Lisieux was canonized in Rome. Titus was present

for her solemnity, and he must have understood Therese well. This young French girl never left Europe and lived most of her adult life in a cloistered convent. Yet she never lost sight of the need to reach out to all people and all cultures with the love of Christ. She had dreamed of going to Vietnam to proclaim the gospel, but did her "missionary" work from her convent cell instead. Prayer, concern, and sacrifice were her tools to sustain the evangelization of beautiful people she could never meet. Titus grasped her problem!



1985: Formal beatification of Titus Brandsma in Rome by His Holiness Pope John Paul II

## His Work with the Persecuted

With the coming of the 1930's, Brandsma escalated the ardor of his own work, but was saddened to see the growing strength of the Nazi party in Germany, and in Fascist movements of other countries, including the Netherlands. He spoke out fearlessly against their ideas and deeds with uncommon courage. When the Germans occupied

his own country in 1940, Titus opposed many of their policies, including the order to expel Jewish children from the Catholic schools. He called the practice a painful injustice and an affront to the Church's calling: "The Church, in carrying out its mission, does not see any difference in sex, race, or people." The Nazis took note of his opposition.

There is also good reason to believe that Titus was working behind the scenes to smuggle Jewish refugees out of Europe, using the Carmelite priories in Brazil to provide sanctuary on their way to freedom. Unfortunately, we cannot pin down the details of his plan, because the Gestapo seized most of his notes and papers in January, 1942, when they came to arrest him. He did not survive long in captivity, since his health broke down quickly in the harsh environment of the concentration camp. He died on July 26, still convinced that each day was a grace, and that he could never do too much good, even for those who wanted to kill him.

For one frail man, limited in so many ways, the accomplishments of Titus Brandsma are inspiring. The Rio province of Brazil has not only recovered, but has re-founded the Order in Portugal. The Java missions have blossomed into an Indonesian province, the fastest growing in the Carmelite Family. Missionaries from Indonesia later moved on to the Philippines and continue to care for thousands of God's people every day.

Titus understood that being a missionary was a noble task, but that those who support them share the reward, as well as the work. He built his life on the conviction that God's love needs to be preached to the ends of the earth. There were no barriers too daunting to one dedicated to living for the Gospel, and dying for it as well.