



# CHARIOT OF FIRE

*“A Chariot of Fire appeared and Elias went up to heaven in a whirlwind.”  
(2Kings 2:11)*

*“As Carmelites of the North American Province of St. Elias, our primary mission is to follow Jesus Christ through prayer, fraternity, and prophetic service and presence in the spirit of Mary and Elijah. Our chief means for fulfilling this mission is by our lives and ministries.”*



**Spring 2022**

# *From the Desk of The Vocation Director*

“This living spring that I long for,  
I see in this Bread of life,  
although it is night.”

Dear Readers,

With the Eucharistic Revival beginning in June 2022 in the USA, the above line from St. John of the Cross's poem Song of the soul that rejoices in knowing God through faith is striking my heart. St. John of the Cross, who is yearning for the life-giving stream written about in the Scriptures, finds it in the Eucharist. One of the great gifts the Carmelite Rule offers the Order is the call to a daily encounter with the Eucharist. Many people who engage our Carmelite vocation office have had some relationship with Christ through the Eucharist. The wisdom of St. John of the Cross, who was shaped by the Carmelite Rule, offers our current vocation reality and future as Carmelites a source of invigoration. Why? Because our long and the longing of all vocation inquiries long for the living spring. Thus, like St. John of the Cross, we, as the Carmelites of the Province of St. Elias, can offer people a way of seeing the living stream we all long for via the Eucharist, the Bread of Life. How? Through the daily commitment to not only live but journey ever deeper into our Carmelite Charism, and with the joy that comes from this journey, share this eucharist vision with all those people the Father sends to us along this earthly pilgrimage of faith.

In Carmel,

Fr. Nicholas Blackwell, O.Carm.

# A MODERN SAINT

A Carmelite who Changed the World by his  
Devotion to the Eucharist.



**JOIN US FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED  
TITUS BRANDSMA, O.CARM.**

MAY 15, 2022



# *The Eucharist: The Hidden Treasure of Carmel*

**Bro. Von Erick Maria Sandoval,  
O.Carm.**

The Catholic Church teaches that the Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Christian life” (CCC 1324). This teaching and belief in the Eucharist were echoed and practiced daily by the first hermits, some eight centuries ago, as they convened together to celebrate and partake of the Eucharist. Their Carmelite cells or caves were centered around the oratory, where the Eucharist is celebrated every day (Rule of St. Albert, 12). It was essential for these early hermits to gather and receive the Eucharist. As the Order evolved into the modern era, we, too, followed this same calling and celebrated the Eucharist on a daily basis. In most of our priories, the Eucharist is celebrated daily as a community. However, there is a deeper devotion than just receiving the Eucharist. That devotion is found in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. As an 800-year-old Order, the Carmelites still have the same devotion to the Blessed Sacrament but in a deeper and richer contemplative manner.

The Carmelite life is composed of three pillars: prayer, brotherhood, and service. Each area is fastened by the love and truth found in Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, we gather our energy to fulfill these three pillars wholeheartedly. Our Carmelite way of life is essentially composed of faith and devotion, which orientates us towards a deep and meditative contact with God who lives within us and who is present in the Holy Eucharist. As active contemplatives, we are called to pray and reflect before the Blessed Sacrament as it is the source of all that is good. Perhaps one of the biggest problems of our day has been the lack of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

Throughout the course of history, there have been a plethora of Carmelites who have written or witnessed the Eucharist in profound manner. A story concerning the Eucharist and Blessed Titus Brandsma, soon-to-be saint, was preached by our own Fr. Redemptus Maria Valebek, O.Carm. at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. He says, “In Dachau one day, Fr. Titus was fortunate enough to secure a small particle of the Eucharist. He placed it in his eyeglass case and hid it under his arm. Knowing that he had to pass a security guard, his appearance looked “odd.” So, they began to beat him, knocked him down, struck him until he bled, and cursed him. A fellow prisoner helped the dazed Fr. Titus to his feet and to his cot. When conversing with the fellow prisoner he pointed to his glasses, smiling, and said, “I knew whom I had with me. Join me in an Adoro te Devote, won’t you?” And as he could not sleep during the night, Fr. Titus kept vigil all night in Adoration.”

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. The Eucharist is also the source and summit of our vocations as Carmelites. As a young, energetic friar, my contemplative life is cultivated in two ways. The first is when I sit in silence in front of the Blessed Sacrament. As a Carmelite, when I come to the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, there’s this “prolonged contemplation” experience that I enter. Perhaps this is the intimate friendship and love gaze that St. Teresa of Avila often talks about. Through this intimate friendship and loving gaze comes the promise of meaning and fulfillment found in Him alone. The second is when I am praying the office in the presence of the Eucharist. This practice is and has always been a Carmelite custom, despite what others may say. Eucharistic devotion is important not only as personal devotion but also communally because it allows us to unlock the very rich and contemplative treasures of Carmelite spirituality.

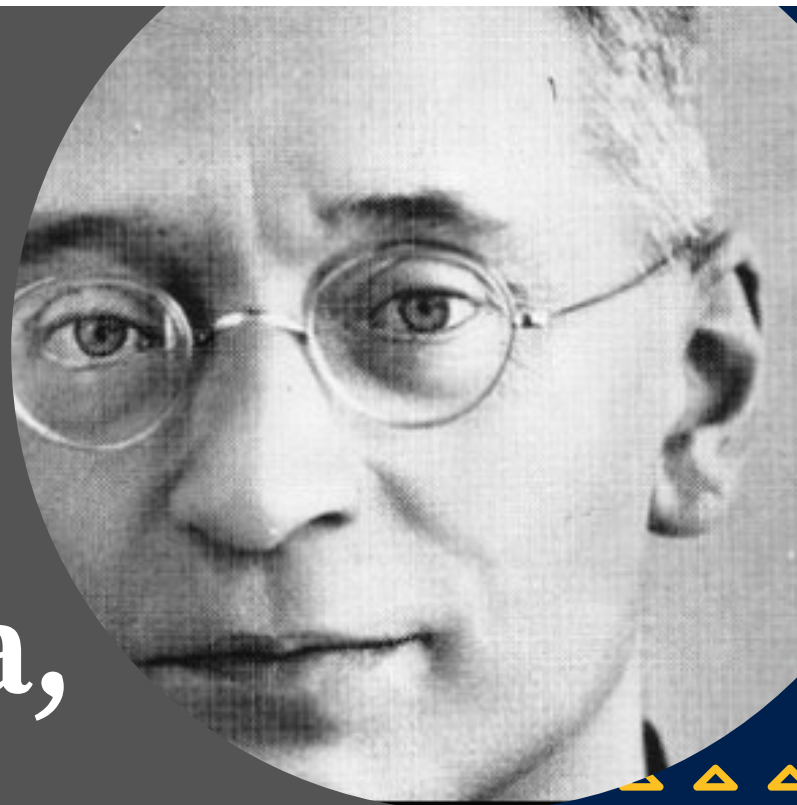
THE  
CENTER  
FOR  
CARMELITE  
STUDIES  
PRESENTED



FEBRUARY  
17, 2022



A LECTURE ON THE  
CANONIZATION  
PROCESS OF BLESSED  
TITUS BRANDSMA,  
O.CARM.



# Titus Brandsma, O.Carm.

On Thursday, 17 February 2022, the Center for Carmelite Studies at The Catholic University of America hosted a lecture on Blessed Titus Brandsma, O.Carm., a Dutch Carmelite friar who died in Dachau Concentration Camp, in preparation for his upcoming canonization.

As part of the three-part series of talks highlighting the life, ministry, and martyrdom of Blessed Titus Brandsma, two of our friars spoke about this courageous martyr.



Father Michael Driscoll, O.Carm., gave his personal testimony of being diagnosed with malignant melanoma, his procedures and surgeries, and the trips that he took to and from the hospital for checkups and follow ups.

Most importantly, he talked about his healing from terminal cancer through the prayers and intercession of Blessed Titus Brandsma. Father Mario Esposito, O.Carm., Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Elias and the Vice Postulator for the Cause of Blessed Titus Brandsma, also spoke about the exacting process of gathering, collecting, and authorizing documents from various witnesses and medical doctors to send to Rome for approval, eventually leading to the Cause of Blessed Titus Brandsma moving forward. Some students and friars were present in person during the talk.

There were also over three hundred people who joined via Zoom and livestream from around the world. Following the talk there were refreshments and the relics of Blessed Titus Brandsma were available for veneration. Let us keep praying for the intercession of Titus Brandsma, O.Carm. He will be Canonized a Saint on May 15, 2022 by Pope Francis in Rome. Please join us in Prayer as we celebrate this historic event for the Carmelite Order.

#SELCarmeliteVocations

# Follow Us on Social Media



Our Latest News & Updates



on Facebook  
[@SELCarmeliteVocations](#)



on Instagram  
[@SELCarmeliteVocations](#)



on YouTube  
[@SELCarmeliteVocations](#)



on TikTok  
[@SELCarmeliteVocations](#)

Carmelite Friars of the Province of St. Elias Vocation Office

845-344-2225

[Vocations@Carmelites.com](mailto:Vocations@Carmelites.com)

68 Carmelite Drive Middletown, NY

10940