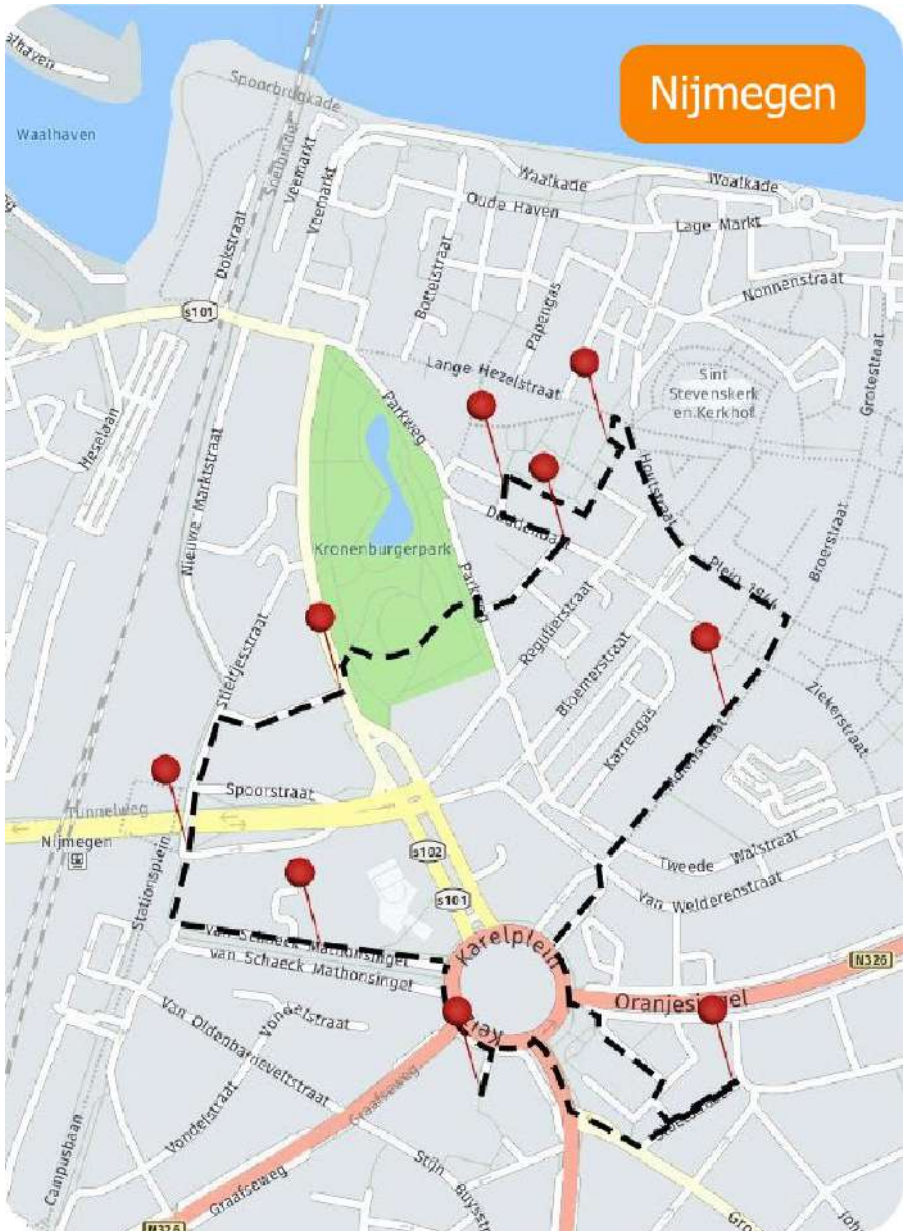




# Nijmegen



# 1. Titus Brandsma Memorial Church

## An abiding inspiration

*War comes from two sides, and so does peace*

Titus Brandsma's legacy is an abiding inspiration. The Titus Brandsma Memorial Church not only preserves ashes from Dachau, but above all the spirit and courage, the peacefulness and mysticism of Titus Brandsma.

A world peace flame burns on the public square throughout the day and night. Irrespective of cultural or religious background, this flame represents the desire for connection and bridge-building, brought about through the courage to open ourselves up to meeting and encountering those who are different to us.

Standing in the middle of the public square is the Titus Brandsma monument which depicts his death as a martyr in Dachau. It is in the form of a severed chimney.



## 2. Keizer Karelplein 33 and Van Schaeck Mathonsingel 4

### Titus as Professor

*Knowledge is only half the matter*

At the founding of the Catholic University of Nijmegen in 1923, Titus Brandsma was appointed professor of philosophy and history of piety, especially Dutch mysticism. He would fulfil this calling until his death in 1942. Titus was convinced that the “flourishing of education is of the greatest significance for the flourishing of society”. He dedicated himself in so many ways to the formation and learning of young people. From 1924 to 1931, the university’s main auditorium was established in a large town house on the Keizer Karelplein 33. During his professorship the large rooms within the town house Van Schaeck Mathonsingel 4 were also used by Titus and his colleagues for giving philosophy lectures.



Keizer Karelplein 1924



### 3. Station square

#### Titus as netwerker

*"Titus Brandsma was the only mystic on the European mainland who possessed a train travel pass and attained salvation in train compartments".*

Godfried Bomans \*1913 †1971

The main railway station in Nijmegen, opened in 1875, was for Titus Brandsma the start and end point of his countless travels at home and abroad. Always on the move for a good cause, Titus had contacts everywhere and was active on several fronts. As an advisor to the Union of Journalists, he visited the editorial offices of the Catholic press. Because of his involvement with his family and with the Frisian cause he travelled up and down to Friesland. As a teacher he was involved with the Carmelite highschools in Oss and in Oldenzaal and with the formation of Carmelites in Merkelbeek (Limburg) and in Zenderen (Twente). As a member of the Roman Catholic Peace League he travelled the country giving speeches on peace.

*"Self-love and greed are the great evils of our time and the deepest causes of war. Against these we must take a stand. Only then can we work fruitfully for peace. If people want to prevent war, then it will be necessary for society to change. There needs to be a healthier spirit in social life, envisaged on a more positive notion of peace in the life of society, in order to nip the War in the bud..."*



## 4. Spoorstraat 26 and Kronenburgersingel 231

### Titus as Carmelite

*We only desire to be noticed  
through our simplicity and sincerity.*

After his appointment as professor at the Catholic University founded in 1923, Prof. Brandsma lived in rooms with the Drinkenburg family, Spoorstraat 26. Until April 1927 he was a member of the Carmelite Convent in Oss.

In 1927 Titus moved to the house on the corner of the Kronenburgersingel



and Stieltjesstraat. In this study house he lived with some young fellow brothers who were studying at the university. The building was in a very good location, being close to the main railway station, near to the university's main auditorium and other recently established university buildings. As a prior, Titus took care of the small community of Carmelites, made up initially of six brothers and later nine. The community lived under the special protection of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom.

In 1933, the Augustine parish was entrusted to the Carmelites. The former Augustine Church on the Augustijnenstraat was located close to St. Stephen's Church.





## 5. Doddendaal 20

### Titus as a brother of Our Lady and a Mystic

*After all, we live, we move and exist in Him.  
Gos is so nearby and so far, God is always present.*

At the end of 1929, Titus and his fellow brothers moved to their new study house and spiritual centre at Doddendaal 8. At the start of January 1930 the first of a total of four conferences took place on Mysticism.

On the occasion of the fifteenth centenary of Mary, as Mother of God, Titus Brandsma organized a large national Marian Conference in 1931.

*"It is a joyful thought that, at the centenary of the proclamation of Mary's Motherhood of God at Ephesus in 431, we may also see in that divine Motherhood an image of the mystical pardon to which every child of Mary, and in particular the Sisters and Brothers of Carmel, according to their special vocation to the mystical life, must make themselves receptive, in so far as this is in their power."*

Titus Brandsma  
in: 'Mary's motherhood of God, leading idea of the mystical live'



## 6. Kroonstraat 114

### Titus as hero of the resistance

*Probamur dum amamur.*

*We are tested, because we are loved.*

From the start of the 1930s, Titus Brandsma stood up against National Socialism, especially the glorification of the right of the strongest and the contempt shown towards Christian love. During the early years of the Second World War and the German occupation of the Netherlands Titus continued to resist, especially through his work in journalism and education. He called for real justice, freedom of conscience, tolerance and non-violence. He was not willing to compromise. On 19 January 1942, he was arrested by the Gestapo and accused of sabotage activities. It was not long after this that, via a number of prisons, Titus began his final journey to the Dachau concentration camp. He died there on 26 July, 1942.

At the beginning of the 1960s, on the Kroonstraat, the Titus Brandsma Chapel was constructed in the shape of a bunker with a pylon on the square in the form of a watchtower with a rifle, that is shaped into a cross. On the chapel's external front wall is an image of Titus Brandsma together with the text "studio of the art of survival". The small chapel serves today as the base for the Kruispunt Foundation which provides hospitality to those who are, or were once, homeless – a place where people can feel at home.



## 7. Lange Hezelstraat 21

### Titus as journalist

*We have a duty to let the light of truth  
shine before the world  
and must give a great deal in return,  
so that the voice of truth continues to  
resound across the world.*

From his early years, Titus Brandsma founded and edited a number of publications. For several years he was editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper *De Stad Oss*. He regularly wrote articles for *Ons Noorden*, the *Twentsche Courant*, the *Limburgs Dagblad*, *De Tijd* and *De Maasbode*. Between 1938 and 1941, he wrote a weekly column in *De Gelderlander* under the title '*Van ons Geestelijk Erf*'. His desire was to make Christian mysticism accessible to a wider audience.

Titus Brandsma was also concerned about the work and responsibilities of journalists, especially their legal position and training. This led, among other things, to the Association of Dutch Catholic Journalists appointing Titus as the spiritual advisor to the Catholic Daily Press in 1935. Titus Brandsma vehemently opposed the National Socialistic Movement (the NSB). At the end of 1941, the Dutch bishops forbade the Catholic daily newspapers to include advertisements of the NSB. In January 1942, Titus visited the editorial offices of the daily newspapers in the Netherlands to explain the stance of the Dutch bishops. This led to his arrest by the Sicherheitsdienst (the SS) in Nijmegen on 19 January 1942.



## 8. Molenstraat 37

### Titus as brother of Our Lady

*The purpose of our devotion to Mary is that we desire, as it were, to become another Mother of God.*

Titus was someone who really venerated Mary. On account of the fifteenth century centenary celebration of the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD, at which Mary was given the title 'Mother of God', Titus was actively involved in the organisation of a national Marian conference, held in 1932. One of the highlights of the Marian congress was the coronation of the statue of Our Lady of Nijmegen. This statuette can be seen today in the St. Petrus Canisius Church on the Molenstraat in Nijmegen.

In 1925 Titus was present in Rome at the canonization of the Jesuit Petrus Canisius (1521-1597), the son of a Nijmegen mayor.



## 9. Wilhelminasingel 15

### Titus as Rector Magnificus

*God dwells within us.*

*We have the means to discover and contemplate Him in ourselves, and together to see Him in everything that surrounds us, whilst in the whole of our life that divine indwelling can become a bright radiance.*

In 1931, the university's new auditorium was dedicated. It was a prestigious space, used for events such as orations, graduations and speeches to commemorate important occasions such as the founding of the university. In 1932 Titus Brandsma, as Rector Magnificus, delivered his famous speech on 'The Concept of God' in this auditorium. In this speech he describes how people in every era search for their concept of God, and how the image of God is formed out of the prevailing culture, with its symbols and images.



## Colophon

### Editorial

Sanny Bruijns o.carm. and late Kees Waaijman o.carm.  
Englisch translation by Susan Verkerk.

### Further reading

Titus Brandsma Memorial  
[www.titusbrandsmamemorial.nl](http://www.titusbrandsmamemorial.nl)

Titus Brandsma Texts  
[www.titusbrandsmateksten.nl](http://www.titusbrandsmateksten.nl)

Titus Brandsma Institute  
[www.titusbrandsmainstituut.nl](http://www.titusbrandsmainstituut.nl)

Titus Brandsma Archive  
[www.nederlands Carmelitaansinstituut.nl](http://www.nederlands Carmelitaansinstituut.nl)

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### Quotes

If not stated otherwise, the quotes in italics below the titles are by Titus Brandsma.

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We are not called to do great things, to be spoken of, but to make ourselves loved and attractive by doing ordinary things well, without much talking or noise.



Titus Brandsma