

## **Interview with Br. Lester Hallig, O. Carm., and Fr. Tito Caluag on the Filipino Television Network ABS-CBN on the Occasion of the Visit of the Relics of St. Titus Brandsma**

**Anchor:** On Wednesday, it would be the second year since the Dutch Carmelite priest and journalist St. Titus Brandsma was canonized. His relic was brought here to ABS-CBN where he was remembered for his fight against propaganda and fake news in Nazi Germany during the second World War. Patrolling for us is reporter Anjo Bagawisan.

**Reporter:** There are several relics of saints that visited the chapel of IBIAS-CBN in the past years.

But the relic that visited earlier is special because it came from a saint who is close to the heart of the media industry. He is St. Titus Brandsma, who is considered the patron saint of journalism. He was born in the Netherlands in 1881. He became a Carmelite priest, university professor, and a journalist and publisher. During World War II, he encouraged the journalists to oppose and not publish the propaganda of the Nazis who invaded Holland.

But because of this, he was arrested, put in a concentration camp, and was experimented on before he was killed in 1942.

**Br. Lester Hallig, O. Carm.:** At that time, the Nazis were propagating historical revisionism, fake news, and disinformation. Titus fought against all of that because he believed that people have the right to know the truth.

**Reporter:** Titus was declared Blessed in 1985 and canonized or known as a saint and martyr on May 15, 2022, almost 80 years after his death. In the Philippines, one of the relics of St. Titus came from his habit or clothes. Since the canonization of St. Titus, his relics was brought to different schools and parishes in the country, very much a traveling journalist when the saint was still alive. But ABS-CBN is the first media company that was visited by this relic.

**Br. Lester Hallig, O. Carm.:** There are parallelisms between St. Titus Brandsma and ABS-CBN, especially in being a truth defender. We know that the Philippine news patrol of ABS-CBN is really fighting for the truth. Titus did the same. Many are attempting to silence ABS-CBN. Titus experienced the same. Many are attempted, but St. Titus believed that truth will set us free. Truth will prevail at the end of the day. And that is what ABS-CBN is fighting for.

**Reporter:** Joining the Mass sponsored by ABS-CBN News were the ABS-CBN Chairman Mark Lopez, ABS-CBN President and CEO Carlo Katigbak, ABS-CBN COO for Broadcast, Cory Vidanes, and ABS-CBN Integrated News Head, Francis Torral.

**Fr. Tito Caluag, ABS-CBN chaplain:** And I think it's a good reminder for us that discernment is always towards how do we live out God's mission for us. That is discernment. It's not what we are to wear, where we are going to travel, where we are going to eat. It is always discernment for mission. Courage comes from the heart. The root word of courage is "cor," the heart. Similar root word. And I think genuine courage must come from the heart. It is more than just courage.

**Reporter:** Those who are devoted to St. Titus want to know more about his life as a reminder that those who fight are not alone in standing up for what is right and for the truth. This is Andrew Bagawisan, reporting for ABS-CBN News.