



"We live in a world where love itself is condemned: people call it weakness, something to grow out of. Some are saying: «**Love is of no importance, we should rather develop our strength; let each one become as strong as he can and let the weak perish!**» Again, they say that the Christian religion with its preaching about love is a thing of the past... This is how it is: they come to you with such teaching and even find people who take it up willingly. Love is unknown; «Love is not loved,» as saint Francis of Assisi said in his own day; and, centuries later in Florence, Saint Mary-Magdalene de Pazzi rang the monastery bells of her Carmel to make everyone know how beautiful Love is! I, too, would like to ring the bells to tell the world how beautiful it is to love!

The neo-paganism [of the Nazis] may well cast off love but, in spite of everything, history teaches us that we shall be victors over this neo-paganism through love. We shall not forsake love. Love will win back for us the hearts of these unbelievers. Nature is stronger than philosophy. Even if a philosophy condemns and rejects love and calls it weakness, the living witness of love will always renew its power to conquer and entrance the hearts of men."

Blessed Titus Brandsma, Invitation to heroism in faith and love