

Novitiate

At the end of postulancy, the candidate moves to the novitiate. Novitiate is a year of intense spiritual experience in preparation for the giving of one's life to God through the profession of the vows and one becomes the member of the Order.

Theologate/Other Studies

After profession, those desiring to be priests will go for theological studies and those to be brothers will go for studies which will help them in their apostolate. This is a stage for developing a lively understanding of the world and the mystery of Christ and of the Church.

Solemn Profession and Ordination

Solemn profession ordinarily takes place after renewing four times the vows. That is anytime after renewing for the fourth time the three

Evangelical
Counsel s .
Candidates for
Holy Orders
then continue on
to diaconate and
priesthood.



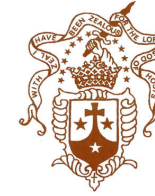
General requirements

- A sense of being called by God.
- A desire to serve His people.
- Willingness to learn and grow.
- A spirit of prayer.
- Good family background.
- Ordinarily not older than 25 years (exception can be made for a higher level of studies).

Documents

- Candidate's handwritten application letter.
- Certificate of Birth, Baptism and Confirmation.
- Letters of reference from one's Parish Priest, Chairperson of Small Christian Community, Head of the last school or patron of Young Christian Students.
- M.S.C.E with an aggregate of not more than 25 points including a credit in English.

THE VOCATIONS DIRECTOR
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Kapiri Parish
P.O. Box 2
Mchinji
Inter Congregational Institute
P.O. Box 221
Balaka
+265984033986
+265984033983



DISCALCED CARMELITES



**BUT IN THIS HOUSE ALL MUST BE
FRIENDS, ALL MUST BE LOVED, ALL
MUST BE HELD DEAR, ALL MUST BE
HELPED**



ORIGINS

The Carmelite Order is originated in Israel on Mount Carmel, where the prophet Elijah lived and ministered. His zeal for the true worship of the one God, his prophetic witness in the confrontation with the false prophets of Baal, and his experience of the presence of God in the gentle breeze (1 Kings 18) are fascinating events that have drawn people to Mount Carmel in every age.

In the 13th Century some people were living at Mt. Carmel as hermits inspired by the spirit of Elijah. One day they asked Albert, Bishop of Jerusalem, for a formal rule of life. This gave an organisation to the hermits who were known as “The Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.”

Persecution and wars between Moslems and Christians forced them to leave their beloved mountain and find refuge in Europe. In Europe they had to adapt to the situation for survival and became a religious Order similar to the Franciscans or the Dominicans. They expanded and flourished but because of the various external and internal problems there was a decline in fervour.

The need for reform and renewal became urgent. A number of attempts to do this failed until St. Teresa of Avila began the “Discalced” reform in the 16th Century in Spain (discalced meaning without shoes, since wearing sandals was external sign during the reform). She started with the nuns and later with the help of St. John of the Cross, extended the reform to the brothers and priests. Today Carmelites are spread throughout the world.

THE WAY OF LIFE - SPIRITUALITY

Prayer, Fraternity, Apostolic Service, Mission. Through these, a Discalced Carmelite hopes to become receptive to God’s call to intimate friendship with him as contemplative servant of God and his people.

SERVICE IN MALAWI

Living in allegiance to Jesus, we are dedicated to contemplative prayer and service of the Church and the world. Our ministry includes:

- Apostolate of spirituality thus deepening Christian life through prayer.
- Parish work, Kapiri and Chiphaso in Lilongwe Archdiocese.
- Retreat and spiritual programmes in Carmel-Lilongwe Archdiocese and St. John of the Cross in Nyungwe Blantyre Archdiocese.
- Spiritual Direction and Psycho Counselling.
- Publication of “You are my Friends” Magazine.
- Teaching at the Major Seminary and Catholic University of Malawi.



STAGES OF FORMATION

Aspirancy

A time the candidate come in contact with the Vocation Directors and is invited to two sessions of one week each. The aim of the sessions is to make the candidate familiar with the Carmelite way of life and also to help him discern his Vocation. These sessions are called “come and see.” Thus the candidate is called to see how the Carmelites live, stay, work and also to interact with some of them.



Postulancy

Postulancy gives the candidate an opportunity to gradually come to know and experience the spirit of the ORDER. All this is done in the Carmelite formation House at the Inter Congregational Institute (Balaka). It is a time also that the candidate is enrolled in the studies of Philosophy and Religious Studies which cover a period of three years.