



**DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS
WASHINGTON PROVINCE
OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

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Dear friends,

Not long ago I had my first opportunity as the new provincial of the Washington Province of Discalced Carmelites to visit our friars of the Kenya Region. I saw for myself the wonderful vitality and growth that your prayers and support have made possible.

The Nairobi formation house, in particular, is bustling. The “elder statesman” of the region, Fr. Larry Daniels, OCD., has recently moved there, and is delighted to be among so many young and vibrant vocations. Seven newly-professed young Kenyan Carmelites have just returned from their novitiate in Nigeria, while five others have left to begin their novitiate in Malawi. In the meantime, I met the three newest members, who have begun their postulancy, the beginning step in religious life:

Daniel Oloiputa Masharen is our first Maasai candidate, shown here wearing his traditional attire. The Maasai are a nomadic pastoralist people of East Africa, with a reputation as fierce warriors, tough and resilient to all kinds of rough climactic conditions. They are known for their colorful clothing (shuka), their intricate bead jewelry, their largely “milk and meat” diet, and their distinctive “jumping dance,” often seen in tourist posters and videos for Kenya. Daniel himself has worked hard at studies, and in the near future he will receive his bachelors degree in education.

Joseph Juma Mlongo hails from Luhya land in western Kenya. For the Luhya, as for many other ethnic groups in Africa, the kitchen is solely the domain of the women of the house, and men are not allowed. But in our communities the young Kenyans like Joseph learn to share in all of the domestic chores. In the accompanying photo you will see him with Br. Gideon cooking “ugali,” a staple of the Kenyan diet similar to polenta, made with maize (corn) flour and often served with “sukuma wiki” (collard greens).

The third postulant, **Collins Nyamwembe**, comes from Kisii in southwestern Kenya, where there is also a community of Discalced



Daniel and his Mother



Joseph and Gideon making Ugali

Cyrus and Collins munching on sugar cane in our shamba



Carmelite nuns. The area is very fertile, with abundant rainfall and crops of all sorts. The picture shows Collins with another student (Cyrus, preparing to begin his novitiate), taking a break from their work in the monastery's "shamba" (farm) to enjoy a stick of sugar cane.

In addition to these postulants, the Nairobi community is also blessed with some 20 other young men in various stages of Carmelite formation, as well as a senior community of about 10 Carmelite priests and formators. The region also has dynamic small communities and parishes in four other places. All of the Kenyan friars are working very hard to support themselves as much as they can, particularly through agricultural projects and other initiatives. But the region still needs your support and prayers as it continues to grow toward a promising future. Thank you in advance for whatever help you can give.

Dr. Daniel J. Chowning, OCD

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Provincial, Washington Province of Discalced Carmelites



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