

Sunday 8th August 2021

Greetings to you my dear brothers and sisters.

I hope you are in good health and spirits and enjoying the Summer break - not forgetting the Tokyo Olympics!

It is wonderful to see our country united behind our sporting representatives of Great Britain. They are certainly giving their all. Whilst there have been many victories, we have also witnessed a few lows. This my friends is part of life and the journey we face. Many sportswomen and men have excelled and challenged themselves to win much deserved medals. This has not come easy. It has taken years of hard work, commitment and passion to fulfil these dreams. This week, I too was challenged in unpacking my thoughts about these worldwide Olympians and wondered how they might be feeling, and so here is a short story that encouraged me. Perhaps it might do the same for you?

The Black Dot

One day, a professor entered his classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin.

The professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers.

To everyone's surprise, there were no questions—just a black dot in the centre of the paper. The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following:

“I want you to write about what you see there.”

The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task.

At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams and started reading each one of them out loud in front of all the students. All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the centre of the sheet.

After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain:

“I'm not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot – and the same thing happens in our lives.

However, we insist on focusing only on the black dot – the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend.

The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they are the ones that pollute our minds. Take your eyes away from the black dots in your lives. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love. Keep focused on what is important.

Author Unknown

It is true that sometimes we see a picture but we do see the full extent of it. We are trained to be myopic yet we fail to realise an alternative way. It is easy to focus on the black dot. However, if we expand our mind to think differently, we begin to respond to things differently and this my friends is the becoming of us. Life does not need to be black and white. We can live it in full colour.

I wish you a blessed and peaceful week ahead. May God continue to answer your prayers and grant you the desires of your heart.

Yours,

Rev Fr Nicholas Nwanzi