



Sunday 27th February 2022

Greetings to you my dear brothers and sisters,

May I take this first occasion of my return to wish you and your families a belated Happy New Year 2022. May God continue to shower you with his infinite blessings and mercies.

As always, I extend my sincere thanks to you for your kindness and generosity to me in the form of well wishes, prayers, affection, love, support and gifts during Christmas and since my return. I am always deeply humbled by our parish community and the lengths you go to share the enormous love you have within you.

It has been an incredibly busy time these past few weeks. The world is constantly changing and after two years, we finally begin to return to some degree of normality. I know that this brings mixed emotions for many of us as our lives have been out on hold for so long. With this in mind, I hold you all in prayer and ask that God gives you the strength to move forward with great confidence. Here is a short story that is quite apt.

The Secret to Success

Once a young man asked the wise man, Socrates, the secret to success. Socrates patiently listened to the man's question and told him to meet him near the river the following day for the answer. So the next day, Socrates asked the young man to walk with him towards the river. As they went in the river, the water got up to their neck. But to the young man's surprise, Socrates ducked him into the water.

The young man struggled to get out of the water, but Socrates was strong and kept him there until the boy started turning blue. Finally, Socrates pulled the man's head out of the water. The young man gasped and took a deep breath of air. Socrates asked, "What did you want the most when your head was in the water?" The young man replied, "Air." Socrates said, "That is the secret to success. When you want success as badly as you wanted the air while you were in the water, then you will get it. There is no other secret."

Moral of the short story:

A burning desire is the starting point of all accomplishment. Just like a small fire cannot give much heat, a weak desire cannot produce great results.

My dear brothers and sisters, this week I invite you to consider the things that has affected you in the last two years. The hindrances you have faced, and the challenges you have encountered. If you have put anything on hold, do you now have the desire to see that through this year? Do you have the fire in your belly? Can you muster up the strength to succeed? This 2022, please make your desires turn to reality. If you truly want to succeed in life, you have to give it everything you have got.

We remain forever united in love, prayer and fellowship for one another. I wish you and your families a blessed and peaceful week ahead.

Yours,

Rev Fr Nicholas Nwanzi