

Sunday 13th March 2022



My dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings to you and your families this second week of Lent. It is truly hard to escape from the horrific scenes we are witnessing in Ukraine. It is often situations like this that we sometimes question the existence of God and why this brutality is prevalent at this time. We certainly don't have the answers but we live in prayer and hope that this will all come to an end and peace will soon prevail. This week, I want to share with you a story that perhaps brings us hope amongst all this adversity.

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Cookies and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry, so he offered her a Cookie. She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Once again she smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realised how tired he was, and he got up to leave but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old woman and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever. When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But, before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? The goddess got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?" She replied, "I ate Cookies in the park with God." But, before her son responded, she added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

The moral of story my dear brothers and sisters is that God is everywhere. We just need to share our happiness and make others smile to feel him. This week, I invite you to see and seek opportunities where you can make others smile. This is needed more than ever before. Lift each other up and value what you have in your life and who you have.

May God continue to bless you and keep you under the mantle of his care and love. We remain united in fellowship and prayer always.

Yours affectionately,

Rev Fr Nicholas Nwanzi