

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022**



My dear brothers and sister, I hope you and your families are doing well and I pray that this week will bring us Joy and peace of mind and Body.

Who is the great king called Melchizedek!!!

The feast of the body and blood of Christ would appear to be a day for a family celebration. The readings of today's mass bring. Uninvited guests or gate crashes into our "party". The first is Melchizedek, the great king of Salem and Priest of El Shadai, God most high. That is all we know about him. He was a pagan foreigner. God most high was some locally worshipped Deity of the people of Salem. Since the Deity belonged to the kingdom and the kingdom to the Deity, the King naturally served a priestly function.

Melchizedek is probably in the readings because his blessings is connected with bread and wine, and the Eucharist is the bread and wine. But, whether he is with us for some deep theological reason or merely because of his menu, it is good to have him.

Why must we have him? Because of what he does. Melchizedek blesses Abram, ancestor in faith of all who believe in the one true God. But, look at what is happening There is only one true believer in the world, and he is being bless by "non believer in the name of non-existent tribal God or Deity".!!

God's blessings and love are not limited by the belief of the men and women through whom God chooses to work. A "pagan" priest king not only has a place in the building of the Reign of God, but God uses him to bless believers like us.

Today there are many more believers than in Abram's time. Jews, Christians, Muslims - all of whom worship the same one God - number about three billions. Even so, the people for whom Melchizedek stands still outnumber us. Perhaps they always will. Because Melchizedek has joined our celebration, all those other billions are part of what we do.

They, like we, can be a means for God to bless the world. So the whole world is with us as we worship, no matter who, what, how or even if they themselves worship. Do you feel a bit overcrowded?

Have a peace filled week and May the blessings and prayers of our Ancestors protect you always, Amen.

Yours Affectionately,  
Father Nicholas Nwanzi.