

Sunday 3rd July 2022

My dear brothers and sisters, I hope you and your families are well, and may the Lord protect you all from every danger as you begin the new week.

“Lambs among The Wolves”

The Lord sent his disciples out “as lambs in the midst of wolves.” What he commanded his disciples 2000 years ago, he also commands us to do today. We are supposed to be lambs among the wolves.

Of course, the Lord referring not to the four legged variety of wolf, but to the more dangerous two legged kind. He thought wolfishness an apt description of such people. That may be an injustice to the canine wolves, but not, sad to say, to the human ones.

The renaissance humanist called Erasmus, coined the epigram, “Human beings are to each other either gods or wolves.” Divine or Lupine - which are we? Which am I? What makes a two legged wolf?

Have you ever observed that Wolves travel in packs? They hunt in packs. They prey upon the weak. An old Caribou or a young deer has no chance against their attack Neither has a lamb. Wolves use remorseless cunning and inexorable strength.

Sound Familiar? Most of history is about the strong swallowing the weak. Strong nations draw resources, wealth and life from weaker ones. Our social and economic structures favour the strong at the expense of the weak. Even in our homes and personal relationships. We engage in domestic devouring, acting out of strength, forcing our will upon others. From children in a playground to nations at war, the strong form packs, and woe to the weak.

How have we disciples of the Lord fared? Surely, not the way one would expect. The Lord sent us out as lambs, and we have, for the most part, not been devoured. Why is that? Could it be that we convert the wolves? All one need do is look around to see that is not the case. Actually, something else has happened. We have learnt to live like the wolves. We are sheep in wolves clothing.

Church history is in part the story of the tensions that have marked and marred our community since the time of Jesus. We have compromised, we have accepted the protection of the world's power, we have blessed and even wielded that power. I, too, have hidden my lamb-ness. I do what I must do to fit in. After all, I know what happened to the Lamb of God - they crucified him. I avoid any danger of that happening to me. I go to church and say my prayers, but outside I keep quiet lest I attract attention from the wolves. So long as I am with the flock, I am fine But Monday morning puts me back in the woods with the wolves. So, when I am not with the flock baaing out hymns, I imitate the howls of the wolves

Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord sent the 72 out to save the wolves, to help them become lambs. We must teach respect for the weak, and service to them. We must teach the wolves that lambs are not for devouring, but for showing something about God's meekness. Don't forget that we cannot do this unless we are willing to risk being eaten up. That is what the wolves did to Jesus!!!

My brothers and sisters, from the look of things happening in the world, it appears we will be either be rejected by the wolves (except as a meal), or rejected by the Lord Not much of a choice, perhaps it is wiser for the time being to masquerade as wolves!!

Meanwhile, if you happen to see any four- legged wolves loitering around your house this week, please do not call me or try to be a lamb, just pick up your phone and give an urgent call to the police!!

Enjoy your weekend, and May the blessings and peace of our Lord envelope you and your families, Amen.

Yours Affectionately,
Father Nicholas Nwanzi.