

The first time I went to Japan, I went on my own. I spoke a smattering of Japanese ... useful phrases like “Hello, my name is David Jenuwine. I work at General Motors. I drive a Camaro. Good bye.”

When I got off the plane following a 14 hour flight, I stood head and shoulders above the majority of the people at the airport. Wondering how I was ever going to find my host, whom I had met once or twice six months before was beginning to make me a bit nervous.

Then, a burly man grabbed my arm, looked at me, and said “Day Bee.” I wasn’t sure if that was my name, or if that was Japanese for, “I’m kidnapping you, don’t make a fuss.”

Next thing, I was dragged through the crowd and handed over to my host. Her daughter spoke very good English. And that was about it. For the next three weeks, conversation consisted of playing charades, drawing pictures, and other party games – all as a way to try (sometimes unsuccessfully) to make myself understood.

I was also a mute observer to things I had never seen – massive crowds, scrupulously efficient trains, people who made every effort to blend in and not stand out. And here I was, a nearly six-foot European on vacation.

When I returned back home, there was something “better” about being home. Nothing had changed significantly, but part of me realized that this was where I belonged.

In the reading from Genesis, we hear God say for the first time that it is “not good” for Adam to be alone. And despite the myriad of animals on the earth, none of them was a “suitable partner.”

We all know the rest, God creates Eve from the rib. And what Adam says next is something that deserves our attention:

*This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.*

In the same way, as a young man who had strong desires to see the whole world, once I got home, I realized that here was where I had come from and that here was where I belonged.

Through the Incarnation, God became a human being. In this way, God – through Jesus Christ – can say of us, “this one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” And Jesus ascended into heaven at the end of His earthly life. To make a place for us. And he also left us the Eucharist, which we will very soon partake of.

We’ve heard over the past few days in the first chapters of Genesis how God blew “the breath of life” into the first man; and how we are made “in [the] image, [and] after [the] likeness” of God.

Let us spend this day with a higher awareness of the things around us. And as we approach this altar to receive the Eucharist, let us give thanks for the joy of having a place to call home – a familiar place. Never forgetting our ultimate home, that is heaven, the place where we belong eternally with Jesus Christ, who is our Savior, and is “bone of our bones and flesh of our flesh.”