

When you were “little” did you ever become separated from your mom and dad? Or perhaps feeling lost and alone? Homesick to see them? Well, guess what? Jesus’ Apostles had such a moment and we heard that in our first reading.

He is gone from their sight and they are all alone. They may have been asking: “What do we do now? Is he gone for good, leaving us alone?” I bet you might think the same way if your parent’s just disappeared from your sight.

But we know the story did not end that way, because we would not be here if it did. You see, while Jesus was on earth, he could only be there for some people, but not all people all the time.

But after he was in heaven to see his “dad” heaven could not contain the love of the Father for the Son; the love burst from heaven to every person on earth, to you and me. That is why he ascended, so he could be with everyone for all times.

+There was a nature show on television about a black bear that gave birth to two cubs. One cub died right away. Three weeks later the mother died and the cub was alone. A little cub in that condition is like a little dinner for other animals. And of course the camera immediately showed a hungry-looking mountain lion.

One day the orphan cub encountered a giant male black bear. The little cub cowered at the bear's huge size. The larger bear peered around and seemed to realize that the mother bear wasn't anywhere to be found. He gave the little cub a friendly nudge.

The camera then showed the little bear happily trailing along after the larger one. The adoption papers were signed and sealed in that nudge. Papa bear proceeded to show the cub how to look for insects and how to catch fish and how to scratch his back against a tree.

One day the two bears became separated. The cub began to cry, looking for his new father, but couldn't find him anywhere. The cub approached a stream where he'd learned to fish and something caught his attention.

He looked up to see a mountain lion ready to pounce. There was no way that mountain lion would've gone for that cub with Papa bear around, but now....

The camera zoomed in on the cub. He had remembered what his father did when threatened. He stood on his hind legs and bared his teeth. Then, in the exactly the same way his new father would have done, this cub let loose a mighty growl that should have been heard throughout the forest. But, only a tiny bear cub squeak came out.

Well, you know what was coming. But, to everybody's surprise the mountain lion lowered his head and ran off in the opposite direction. The camera panned back to the proud little cub still standing tall on his hind legs.

And then all the viewers saw what that little cub Could Not: a few yards behind him, at full, monster height, his sharp, white teeth bared in a snarl, stood Daddy bear. He may not have made a sound, but he was there.

And even though the cub couldn't see his father, his father stood guard, protecting his young. The little cub had power available greater than anything he could produce on his own. There was a greater power watching over him.

That's how it kinda is now, with your parents looking after you. But it is also true of Jesus. He is with you at all times and you can call for him and he will be there for you. He gave us the Eucharist to remind us that he is always here. See over there by the tabernacle, there is always a red candle glowing to let us know he is here.

When you receive Jesus in communion, he is also inside of you hopes that one day you might become like him. He wants you to be kind and to look after the lonely ones, those who may be picked upon or bullied. He want's people to know that through you, he is also present for others, just as he is here, as you are surrounded by those who love you.

Do you remember when you first learned how to ride a bike? Most of us started with training wheels, but eventually your parents took the wheels off and encouraged you to ride on your own. I use to crash or roll over but last week I finally did on my own!

Like the Apostles, there will be that day that you will take on your own faith and today is your first step and one day we hope you will there for others, to follow in your footsteps.