

## Father Soprano's Homily – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 2019

As human beings, we hunger to belong. Tracing genealogy has over 30 million individuals (“Ancestry.com” connections). Studies of young people reveal they are more passionate about where they belong than about what they believe.

Belonging was important in Jesus' time too. It would take an angel to convince Joseph to take Mary into his house. “Just” man – he took her in. He offered this young, pregnant Mary a roof and a family lineage. He offered her a place and a people. Thus Jesus, adopted as his son under Jewish law, became a descendent of Joseph's House of David.

To have land and a people were both important to the Hebrews. They are important to us. Yet millions of people are uprooted refugees and immigrants, have no country, no place to belong. Children grow with no security of belonging. They live on the edge of society. Do we, in this comparison, know how deeply blessed we are?

As Advent people, we say we are pilgrims on the earth. We live on the edge of place. St. Paul tells us we belong to Christ, not to the world. We do not abandon our family or heritage, but everything we are and have *is God's*. God is really our home. He is our source and our goal. The Lord has called us into being, taken us in, and fully adopted us. God has given us a place to belong.

Let's ask in these days before we celebrate His birth again for Him to take us into his heart – then share what we receive with those in greater need.