

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 13, 2017

Today's first reading is the middle section of a great story. It is always better when reading scripture to look what took place before and what takes place after. I am going to fill you in on the before and the after.

Elijah was commissioned to be a prophet for God. This was going to be a difficult job to speak to Ahab, the king of Israel, married Jezebel. Who worshipped pagan gods. She persuaded the King to promote the worship of her god Baal. Elijah calls for a showdown between the priests of the pagan god and himself. He stages a sacrifice and whichever god accepts the sacrifice will be the true God. The pagan prophets knock themselves out but nothing happens. Then Elijah pours water on the sacrifice and God burns up the sacrifice and in their excitement the people kill the false prophets. This is the stuff of movies! Jezebel vows revenge on Elijah and he runs away. Elijah then throws a pity party and he is the only one who attends. Has this ever happened to you when you thought God had done you wrong. I have had a lot of those parties and they are no fun at all. He ends up in a dark cave on Mount Sinai when our reading begins. He finds God on that mountain. Next Elijah, complains to God and says: I've been working my heart out for you and look what has happened to me. God listens with patience and then gives him more assignments and one is to anoint a successor to the king. How do you think this is going to go over with his enemies? Find out the details by reading the Book of Numbers, it is an epic like the TEN COMMANDMENTS Movie.

In Church today, we have a lot of prophets which are called to speak to others on behalf of God. We speak on behalf of God in these ways: Parents guide their children in the ways of the faith, teachers teach the values of the kingdom, as parishioners we show by our loyalty to the Church in our attendance and support, at work we bring Christ into the work place by the way we treat others, as students in giving good example to our classmates, in Organizations like the Knights or the Catholic Daughters which reach out to the poor and the needy and

all of us that have to accept the bad breaks of life, sickness and the problem of aging, economic problems, and the challenges at work.

Like Elijah, who thought his life would be a picnic or we lose track of God's past support and lack of confidence that God will have our backs in the work to come. The secret to being a good prophet is to give it our best shot,, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and accept whatever happens as God's will for us. In baptism, we like Jesus are Priests Prophets and Kings. Thank God, we have not been asked to walk on water! Yet!