

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – B

- When I was a boy – no AC in our car.
 - Every year we'd drive half way across the state to see family during vacation time
 - At one point – no matter how hot – we'd roll up the windows
 - Pig farm – the stink was incredible, I can still remember it.
- In EPH St. Paul says 'Jesus handed himself over so we become a fragrant aroma for God.'
 - We are called to become a beautiful fragrance in the world
 - To be an aroma for Christ
 - Remember Mary anointing feet of Jesus and aroma filled the house?
 - That is what we are called to do for the world
 - To anoint the feet of Christ with the perfume of our lives
 - To fill the world with the aroma of Christ
- People who don't know the Lord still long for His fragrance
 - They can't bear the stink of the world - they long for the beautiful aroma of Jesus
 - We have been given a great commission and a great responsibility
 - We've been called to fill the world with perfume – the fragrance of JC
 - The perfume we have can overcome the stink of the world no matter how strong it is
 - That is why we cannot give up filling the world with His fragrance
 - We'll be tempted to give up – like Elijah in the 1st reading
 - He'd had enough of the pagan world
 - He'd confronted the prophets of Baal and defeated them
 - Now Queen Jezebel had sworn to kill him & Elijah was on the run
 - Elijah says 'Look, I can't do this anymore, I'm done – I can't do this myself'
 - Now – out of food and water – he laid down & prayed for death
 - But the angel of the Lord brings him food and water
 - With that food he walks 40 days to Mt. Horeb
 - The world needed the aroma of the Lord Elijah was called to provide
 - Elijah was correct, He couldn't do it alone – But he wasn't alone!
- Like Elijah, there are times we all feel spiritual drained
 - We're tempted to give up and let the stink overcome the perfume
 - It takes strength **to be a good husband or good wife**
 - Its easier to stop disciplining the kids and leave them on their own
 - It takes strength **to live the single life**
 - Its easier to go to the disco and wake up God knows where, or with who
 - It takes strength **to be a good child**
 - Its easier to be like other kids and be nasty or rude – even to parents
 - It takes strength **to be a good Teen or Young Adult**
 - Its easier to find ways to drink, or experiment with drugs or sex
 - It takes strength **to allow God's plan to take place**
 - Its easier to let go – even when you're clinging to a soaring eagle
 - IN FACT – the higher the eagle soars, the further we fall when we let go
 - HOLD ON!
 - All of us are tempted to give up - All of us, at times, feel drained – like Elijah in the desert
 - Jesus tells us to get up and eat – like Elijah
 - We still have a long journey ahead of us – with temptations and struggles
 - BUT WE ARE FED
 - The world does not have to stink – it can be filled with perfume

- Its up to us to be that fragrance for Christ