



Father Danny Murphy is a retired Pastor from Brooklyn NY. A gifted man with a God given talent to inspire and God's gift to us at Holy Cross Church in Vero Beach Florida. This is just one of his inspirational homilies.

Fr. Danny Murphy – Christ the King 2016

Before we reflect on the Great Feast of Christ the King, please allow me to share with you a conversation I had here after Mass last Sunday. As I was saying goodbye to people as they were leaving church, a young man approached and asked: "Fr. Danny, where does the universe start and where does the universe end?" I replied: "That question has stumped the world's greatest thinkers." "I know," he quipped, "That's why I thought I'd start asking the question around the other way." (Dead silence...) uh... "the World's Greatest Thinkers..." on the other end, he asked ME??? (finally laughter...) Dan! Dan is our music director – you know what he does? Dan strikes off stories, jokes whatever that I can never repeat again. Put that one on our strike-off list, Dan! Christ the King! When you hear the word "king" what image comes to your mind? King Ludwig of Bavaria – madman who built all those castles? King Herod of Jerusalem – madman who killed all those babies? King Henry VIII of England – with his many wives and his many chins? King Lear, Henry V, Richard III from Shakespeare? Even Elvis, the "King of Rock" or Michael Jackson the "King of Pop", they had

their problems too, didn't they? And then, there's Christ the King! His kingdom isn't in the world – it's within. The only law in his kingdom is the Law of Love. He doesn't call his followers his subjects, he calls his followers his friends. He doesn't force – he attracts. His kingdom is within. He dwells in silence and because Christ the King lives inside of me, I can always enjoy the glorious freedom of the Children of God. I never need fear anything or anyone. The only law in his kingdom is the law of love. Recently, I blew an opportunity to practice the law of love. Someone commented to me: "I find it so hard to stay awake during Sunday night and Monday night football games because they start so late, they don't start until 8:40 p.m." Immediately, I corrected him, "No, no they start at 8:30 not 8:40." Did I need to do that? Did I need to put him down? And is that a pattern in my life, that I eagerly correct, criticize even if only in my own mind, the words and actions of others. How can I more fully live the only law in his kingdom, the law of love. He calls us his friends, friends spend time together, friends have fun together, friends trust each other, and friends love each other. He calls me his friend. He doesn't force – he attracts. Do I come to Mass because I have to, or because I want to? Do I pray because I have to or because I want to? Do I try to live a good life because I have to or because I want to? Does he attract me? Now, I'm going to switch gears a little bit now. We're going to apply today's feast day of our church with today's situation in our country. The feast of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. In 1925 the world was a mess. Mussolini was the dictator in Italy, Hitler was on the rise in Germany. World War I had just ended and everyone knew that World War II was imminent. The Great Depression was just around the corner. Communism and Atheism were gripping Europe. So, the Pope proclaimed that Christ is the King. In the midst of all this sin and suffering, Christ is the King. He is in charge – always was and always will be. He is the Alpha and the Omega. Even in all the darkness of the world, he is the Light of the World. He is in charge. Because Christ is the King we can remain calm in the midst of all of the chaos that is currently in our country.

Because Christ is the King, we cannot allow our families to be fractured, our friendships to be terminated, our serenity to be surrendered because of the election. Christ is the King! He's in charge – always was and always will be! (Applause...)

Dan, someday we may hear a little applause after one of those jokes??