



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 – 23rd Sunday of the Year 2016

Many of you know that Mother Theresa will be canonized this weekend in Rome. Allow me to share two of her quotes that mean a lot to me and I hope will mean a lot to you also: 1:

"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." And 2:

"Perhaps the best thing you can give to another person is your smile."

Today we'll first take a peek at the responsorial psalm and the Gospel and then reflect on the Second reading. Today's Responsorial Psalm is taken from Psalm 90: "In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge." When we're young, when we're old and all the years in between, you have been our refuge, O Lord. "No storm can shake my inmost heart when to that rock I'm clinging..." In my nay days and in my yay days, you O Lord are our refuge, of what

or whom should I be afraid? In St. Luke's gospel today we read that great crowds were following Jesus. Well – Jesus Certainly doesn't work the crowd when he tells them and us to hate their brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, wife and children, hate our own life and all of our possessions! We should always take the scriptures SERIOUSLY but not always LITERALLY. It seems to me that the Lord is telling us that we don't need anyone else nor anything else – all you need is ME. So, enjoy everyone and everything but all you NEED is me. You are my ENOUGH O Lord – you are my enough! Let's take a look at our second reading from Paul's letter to Philemon first a brief summary, then an application to our lives. Philemon was a co-worker of St. Paul. He owned a slave named Onesimus who had escaped and somehow met Paul when Paul was in prison where they became friends. Paul returned Onesimus to Philemon and in the letter we read today we hear Paul urging Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother rather than as a runaway slave. That's the basic story, now let's see how this could apply to us. Notice that St. Paul accepts slavery, even as he urges Philemon to treat him kindly, but still accepts the fact that Onesimus was, in fact, a slave. Apparently Paul didn't see slavery as an evil; he didn't see that we don't own a person like a possession. Therefore, when it comes to slavery, we can say that Paul had a blind spot. So if St. Paul had a blind spot, and couldn't see clearly, you can bet your bottom dollar that we have blind spots too. In our own lives there are times when we don't see that something isn't right – we don't see these things clearly or correctly. Maybe we don't WANT to see these things correctly! A friend of mine recently discovered a blind spot in her life. She

knows this guy who is a pain in the neck: egotistical and self-centered. But she had to stop one day and consider that this man's wife loves him – she thought maybe I'm not seeing him correctly. Good for her – she discovered a blind spot, and a common one to which we might be able to relate. Do I accept people as they are or do I expect them to be as they should be in my eyes? Jesus accepts me as I am. He says, does he not: "Love one another as I have loved you." Here are some common blind spots, but if I listed them all we'd be here 'till Tuesday! Do I drink too much? Am I judgmental, self-centered, selfish, do I lack generosity? Am I passive-aggressive? Do I forget to give thanks to God for all things? Or rather, do I take all things for granted? Do I gossip? Am I a person of deep integrity? Perhaps one of the biggest Blind Spots in history occurred fifteen years ago on September 11 when a group of zealots killed thousands of people and forever changed the lives of millions of others all in the name of God and Country. Do I allow myself to become so passionate about issues that I become blind? This list of blind spots could go on and on. It might be more helpful if we look inside and made our own list of blind spots; areas in life that are just not right, places we don't see or don't want to see. St. Paul had them – for him one of them was slavery; what are some of mine?