



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 – 25th Sunday of the Year 2016

This Sunday, God forgive me, I'm not going to reflect on the scripture readings. It is the last weekend of the summer and I thought it would be helpful to share with you some lessons for life that I learned this summer. I hope they can help you as well. I also hope that you had a wonderful summer – at least ONE person I know did! Someone came up to me and said that they went to the doctor. The doctor told him that he had arthritis and said that I should drink lots of water when his joints got stiff. The man replied that the joints where I get stiff don't serve water!! But enough of this silliness! Now for the lessons of life, I'm going to share two quotations from prominent Catholic authors, both of whom are now deceased. First of all, Thomas Merton who said: "God gives us money so we can experience the joy of giving it away." That reminds me of the true story that someone told me. It seems there was a man who called all his children and grandchildren together as he was preparing his will. He told them: "I'm not leaving anything to any one of you." Instead he expressed deep love to each of them then he told them he was going to leave all that he

owns to help the poor. Wow – what a legacy and example for his children and grandchildren. The second story comes from Fr. Andrew Greeley the sociologist and novelist who said: “The way we can save the Church is to save the Church from being boring.” He went on to say, “the way to do that is to radically live the way Jesus lived.” Jesus was NOT boring! He mingled with lepers, with the blind, the deaf, the mute, the lame, the crippled. He spent time with the poor, the sic, with children and with kings. He was comfortable in the company of criminals, rabbis and sinners. He was comfortable with adulterous men and with greedy men – with EVERY one. He did not lead a boring life, not at all!. For Greeley, it would break our Lord’s heart that to know that, the Church’s presentation of Jesus, many find boring! Another story comes to us from a friend of mine who lives in Brooklyn. One afternoon she was coming home from work on the subway and noticed a man with two suitcases. He was holding a piece of paper in his hand which turned out to be an address. He would show a person the piece of paper, and that person would spend some time describing which trains and transfers the man needed to take to reach his destination. But to my friend, it became increasingly apparent that there was a language barrier and the traveler did not understand any of the directions he had received. My friend then gestured to the suitcases and the man eventually understood that she would show him the way when she gestured to follow her. They switched several trains and walked six blocks in the heat and humidity. Because of the language barrier, they could not exchange any words. Finally, at the man’s destination, she smiled and handed him the other suitcase. The man took her arm and in his broken English he said: “You Christian?” She smiled and nodded, then the man went into the home. Now THAT’S Evangelization. There are many books written on evangelization but even if we have read none of them, we can still evangelize! We can still witness to Christ like my friend did. Remember the words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, “Preach the Gospel, if necessary, use words.” Jesus said that the world will know me by how well you love one another and giving witness to Jesus is NEVER boring!