



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 – 26th Sunday of the Year 2016

Many years ago, I made myself a promise that I would not tell people in the pews what to do if I, in the pulpit, wasn't doing the same thing too. So with that promise in mind, then perhaps this should have been a Silent Sunday because what I am about to suggest that you, I'm not sure that I do even though I am sure that it is the right thing to do. Let me see if I can explain a little bit. In today's first reading we heard: "Woe to those who live comfortably, who eat, drink and advance but are not made ill by the suffering of others." I live comfortably – have I ever been made ill by the sufferings of others? Have YOU ever been made ill by the sufferings of others? As Mark twain writes: "It ain't those parts of the Bible that I DON'T understand that bother me, rather it's the parts that I DO understand." It seems to me that today's scripture is pretty easy to understand, aren't they? We'll take the Gospel as an example. The Gospel is a simple story of a rich man and a poor man. The rich man dressed splendidly, dined sumptuously. The poor man, lying at his door, covered with

sores, so downtrodden that the dogs would come and lick his sores. I think that's the story. When the rich man died he went to a place of torment. Why? Why do you think that when the rich man died, he went to a place of torment? Because he was rich? No, I don't think so. No, I think he went to a place of torment, not because he was rich, but because he was insensitive. Instead of having compassion, he was complacent. He wasn't made ill by the suffering he saw of the poor man and he did nothing to comfort the suffering of the poor man. So it seems to me that the rich man went to a place of torment not because of something he did, but rather because of something he didn't do. Way back in the day, when your grandmother was still a little girl, I learned that there are two kinds of sins: sins of Commission and sins of Omission. Sins of Commission are those things that we do that we shouldn't do. Sins of Omission are those things that we didn't do but we should have done. Hang on the Bible! I don't know if I ever confessed a sin of Omission. Why is it that I am pretty aware of the things that I have done wrong, but I am so unaware of the things that I should have done right? Now, all sin is wrong, but in my opinion, the sin that most breaks the heart of Jesus is the sin of insensitivity – sins of Omission. That was the sin of the rich man in the Gospel story, right? Is it my sin as well? Dear Jesus, for me in the pulpit and for anyone in the pew who might need it. Please change our complacency into your compassion. Please give us the great grace of being made ill when we see others suffering, and then give us the grace to comfort them. Amen.