



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 – 27th Sunday of the Year 2016

Our reflection today will be based on our first reading which means we are going to take a peek at the book of the Prophet Habakkuk. Now be honest, when was the last time you took a peek at the book of the Prophet Habakkuk? When was the first time?? Well, even though this is a somewhat obscure book of the bible written all those centuries ago, I think its message is very applicable to us today here in America. Habakkuk angrily asked God: "Why must I see such violence, ruin, destruction, discord, strife?" and then he angrily asked God: "Why don't you intervene?" Well, all these centuries later, isn't it true that you and I here in America see violence, ruin, destruction, discord, strife and maybe we too may want to ask God: "Why don't you intervene?" Mystics sometimes speak about going through a dark night of the soul. It seems to me that America is currently going through a dark night. God gently answered Habakkuk then. God gently answers us now: "My vision has its time, it's pressing on to fulfillment. It will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it. It will surely

come." What can you and I do to help make God's vision come to America now. Of all the answers that I have heard to the aching question: "God why don't you intervene?" The best one I have heard comes from the Jesuit, Fr. Anthony DeMello. Tony tells the story about this guy who every morning on his way to work, he saw a little girl about five years old, shabbily dressed, filthy dirty, begging for money. Well one morning the guy couldn't take it anymore and he looks up to heaven and he angrily asks: "God why don't you do something about this!!" God answered: "I did do something about this – I created you!" God does intervene. God intervenes through us! St. Teresa of Avila tells us: God has no hands but yours, God has no arms but yours, God has no voice but yours, God has no heart but yours, God does intervene. God intervenes through us. America is going through a dark night, I think. But, it's not nearly as dark for us, as it was for Jesus in the country where he lived. The Greek, Roman, Jewish society where Jesus lived was violent, cruel, selfish and greedy. In many ways it was barbaric: women were devalued, children were devalued. Slavery was accepted, abortion was accepted, and sexual and physical abuse ran rampant along with many other evils. They were just accepted and then came Jesus. He was sensitive, kind, caring, loving and totally inclusive. To him, every person was precious. He taught that the greatest people among them were the people who serve other people. He encouraged us to become like children. He taught us to love our enemies, to bless and pray for our persecutors, to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. And he taught to forgive everyone – every time. He turned the society in which he lived totally upside down. He knocked their socks off! We have to do the same! We have to be the light in the midst of all the darkness that seems to be pervading America. And we can do it, we can do this! We can be his hands, his arms, his voice, his heart. We can be him wherever we go with whomever we are. We can trust what the scriptures teach us: the way to overcome evil is by doing good. So we have to do good. We have to be good, maybe now more than ever before. So, in the dark night that our beloved country is experiencing, we can make it a

brighter day. God says to Habakkuk and to us: "My vision will come, it presses on to fulfillment, it will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it – it will surely come!" Dear God, please help us bring your vision to America, Amen!