



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 – 28th Sunday of the Year 2016

"Where are the other nine?" that's the sentence from today's Gospel upon which we'll base our reflection. Jesus cleansed ten lepers, nine did not return to give him thanks – only one did. So, Jesus asks the searing question: "Where are the other nine?" Indeed, where are the other nine? What do you think? What's your opinion on why the other nine didn't return to thank Jesus? What do you think? Why? (Pause). Well perhaps they didn't return to give thanks because they didn't have a grateful heart. They took things for granted, rather than taking things with gratitude. What about me? Do I have a grateful heart? Do you have a grateful heart? Do you and I pray for a grateful heart? Or do you, like the other nine, take SO MUCH for granted? Many years ago, late one night after a long meeting in the rectory, when everyone else had gone home, I was cleaning up and I carelessly cut my hand on some glass. It bled profusely. I was the only one in the house and there was no one there to help me. I prayed earnestly: "Please God let the bleeding stop, please God don't let me have to go to the emergency room, please God don't make any glass get into the cut that might

cause an infection, please God let me be alright." Now, of course by "alright", I meant, let me be as I was before I cut my hand! But before I cut it, was I grateful for my hand, am I grateful for all the other parts of my body that have served me so well and for so long? Do I have a grateful heart? If you or I were to go to our hospital or any hospital and speak to the patients, I bet this is what you will hear: "I just want to be well; I just want to go home!" We ARE well, we ARE home, but are we grateful? We know how grateful we are that hurricane Matthew, for the most part, did not affect us severely. THANK YOU GOD! But it might have had, it got me to start thinking: Am I grateful for my home, am I grateful for electricity, am I grateful for running water, HOT running water? Or do I just take that for granted. Am I grateful for Holy Cross Parish, for the availability of daily Mass, for the availability of the Blessed Sacrament chapel? Or do I just take these things for granted? Do I have a grateful heart? Just before we were ordained, shortly before, a classmate and I were having coffee in a diner – his name was Eddie – Eddie said to our waitress, "I have a splitting headache, would you be able to give me an aspirin?" She explained very courteously: "Sorry, we're not permitted to do that!" But a few minutes later she came back and kinda slipped Eddie two aspirin, she said: "I know what it's like to have a splitting headache, I hope these help!" Well Eddie was so grateful, he left a twenty dollar tip for a cup of coffee! And I knew at that moment, Eddie was going to be a good priest, because Eddie had a grateful heart! That's the key! See if you agree with this sentence: Happiness is not what makes us grateful; gratefulness is what makes us happy! Jesus asks: "Where are the other nine?"