



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 – 29th Sunday of the Year 2016

Today we will reflect on the first sentence of today's Gospel wherein Jesus told his disciples the necessity of praying always without growing weary. But first, let me share two quick prefaces: First, about fifteen years ago the Church changed the translation of the lectionary, so today instead of using the current translation, I'm going to use the old translation: "pray always, without losing heart." The second preface is a story about praying. There were two young brothers who were visiting grandma's house. One starts to pray in a very loud voice: "DEAR GOD, PLEASE SEND ME A NEW BICYCLE!!" His brother asked him, "Why are you shouting? God is not deaf!" To which he replied: "I KNOW God isn't deaf, but grandma is!" The necessity of praying always... A priest-friend tells the story about a man in his parish who did indeed pray always. This man would come into the church every day, walk up the aisle, stand in front of the tabernacle, smile and then leave. The whole visit lasted about thirty seconds, and this went on for several months. One day the priest went up to the man and told him how inspired he was by his daily visits. He said to him, "I'm curious, what is

your prayer?" The man replied, "I look at the tabernacle, I smile and I say: 'Hi, Jesus, it's Jim,' then I leave, that's all." My friend was eventually transferred from that parish and the years went by. He eventually heard that Jim was in the hospital and was dying. He went to see him and he met a nurse coming out of his room who told him, "Father, I'm so glad you are here. Jim is in constant pain but so serene, with a smile on his face. He has been here for several weeks and has had no visitors. That is so sad!" So my friend anoints Jim and brings him Holy Communion. He told him, "Jim, I promise to see you as often as I can, your nurse told me you have had no visitors." Jim replied, "The nurse is mistaken, I have a visitor every day! He stands at the foot of the bed and says: "Hi, Jim, it's Jesus!" Jim is a contemplative! He IS praying always even though it seems he seldom prays! Pray ALWAYS, not always PRAY! If we pray always, we know that God is always with you and within you and have that sense 24/7. When you have that sense, then you are always praying. St. Teresa of Avila the Spanish mystic teaches us that: "Everything you do is God's work." If this is true, then do everything with God and you will pray always: Have your morning coffee with God, go to school, go to work with God, go shopping with God, play golf with God, have dinner with God, watch TV with God (although I'm not sure about the Presidential debates), cook and clean with God. If you do everything with God you will be praying always. This is not over our head, we can do this and have that sense 24/7. If we do then we can know that God is with us and within us and we will not lose heart! It is the saddest thing to lose heart. It can happen because life can be tough at times. Maybe the reason Jesus teaches us to pray always is that he knew how tempting it can be to lose heart. If we pray always we can "take a licking and keep on ticking!" remember the words to the old song: "Winners never quit and quitters never win; smilers never lose and whiners never win, so open up your heart and let the sun shine in!" By that I mean both s-u-n and S-o-n! Even in the deep dark moments you won't lose heart if you pray always.