



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 – All Saints day – 2016

There is no feast day of any saint on my birthday and other than Daniel in the Book of Daniel, there is no mention of Daniel anywhere else in the scriptures. And there is no feast day for a St. Daniel. When I was much much younger, I was determined to change all that. I would be the first St. Daniel who had a feast day and that feast day would be on my birthday. Honestly, I had thought that for a long long time. Though I always wanted to go to heaven, I wasn't always so sure that I wanted to be a saint. Because it seems to me, that to be a saint you either had to deprive yourself of almost everything that you enjoyed, or you had to suffer horribly as a martyr. Neither of those options appealed to me! And, of course, I was mistaken – horribly off-track. Although you and I may never be canonized, though you and I may never have our own feast day, you and I CAN become saints! It's really not all that hard to do. Now I am going to share two stories with you: the first is tongue-in-cheek and has no basis in reality, but will hopefully illustrate how NOT to become a saint! The second is a true story that will hopefully illustrate how to BECOME a

saint and will hopefully give us confidence that becoming a saint is certainly within our reach. Tongue-in-cheek first: every day I took the subway to high school and every day at the entrance to the subway there was an elderly woman, poorly dressed, selling pretzels for 25 cents. Every day, I gave this woman 25 cents, but I never took a pretzel because I felt sorry for her and I thought, "this will help her out a little." So this went on for months and months and months; every day gave her a quarter, never took a pretzel. Until one day, the woman said to me: "Young man, I have something I need to tell you." So I thought she was going to thank me for always giving her the 25 cents but never taking the pretzel. Instead, she said, "The price of the pretzel is now 35 cents!" that's how you DON'T become a saint! Now this is a true story and it is about how you DO become a saint, and it's SO easy! A priest friend of mine's father was a motorman for the NY Subway and had the morning rush hour shift. Every morning before he began his shift, he would say a prayer for the thousands of passengers who were entrusted into his care. He wore a rosary ringlet on his thumb and as he pulled into each stop, he would say a few Hail Mary's for the passengers who were entering and exiting his train. He did that for years, every day. When he died, his family placed the rosary ringlet into his coffin with him. In my opinion, that man is a saint. He had a menial job which could be boring, but he rose above that. He prayed for and cared for people who were perfect strangers to him. He did that every day for many years. You and I, in very simple everyday ways, can be saintly, we can do that with simple every day opportunities to be saintly. We may never be canonized, we may never have our own feast day but that really doesn't matter, does it? All that matters is that you and I will be in that number, when the Saints come marching in!