



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.

## Danny Murphy – 6th Sunday of Easter 2018

Before we get started, did you notice that one of our restaurants in Vero Beach recently changed its name? The reason it changed its name was that under its old name it just wasn't doing much business! The new name is MISTER STEAK, the previous name was MISS STEAK! Should I keep that one, Dan or can it? Our music director, Dan Kroger tells me whether I should keep or discard, but whether or not, we need to get right into the scriptures! Before you go to sleep tonight, I suggest that you thank God that you're here at Mass this morning. We should always be grateful, of course, for every Mass, but I think especially so this morning because of the scriptures that we just heard. We all want to be happy, don't we? No one wants to go through life gloomy, unhappy, and unsatisfied. It

think it is natural for us to be happy. Well, our scriptures today tell us that not only do we want to be happy, but also that Jesus wants us to be happy – not a little happy, but completely happy. Here's what he says to us: "I tell you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." That's what it says, "...our joy may be complete." Now what does he tell us that makes joy be in us and our joy complete? This is what he tells us: "as the Father has loved me, so also do I love you." That just might be the most profound sentence in all of the scriptures. Jesus loves us as his Father loves him. That's what it says. How does his Father love him? Totally, completely. So how does Jesus love us? Totally, completely. Well, we might object: "Well, yeah, the Father loves Jesus totally and completely, but Jesus was perfect, he never sinned! I'm far from perfect, I sin a lot!" Of course you do, we ALL do. But this is what St. John tells us in our second reading today: "This is love, not that we have loved God but that God has loved us." God loves us despite our response to that love. God's love for us is not dependent on our love for God. God's love for us is not affected by our love for God. That is astonishingly good news! But I think that, over the centuries we have turned the tables on God's love, I really do! I think that we say: God loves me when I'm good and the better I am, the more God loves me – that's what we say. Here's what God says: I love you – PERIOD, all the time, when you're good and when you're not good. If we believe in, trust in God's unconditional love for us, we'll want to be good, we WILL be good. And the more we believe in it, the better we'll respond to it. Perhaps the church is hesitant to let us know that God loves us unconditionally, all the time

