



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 the Year 2018

Before we get into our scriptures, I'd like to acknowledge that today is World Marriage Day. Every year, the second Sunday of February, the Sunday nearest Valentine's Day is World Marriage day. And let me tell you something, we need World Marriage Day. If what happened here outside the church is any indication, marriage in our parish is in bad, bad shape. Just last Sunday a woman comes up to me and she says: "When I asked my husband why he insisted that our marriage ceremony occur in the morning, he quipped, 'well, that way, in case it doesn't work out, I don't blame the whole day!' " And what about the poor husband who says to his husband who, in all sincerity, "Honey, when I go, I want to leave this world a better place!" His wife replied, "Don't worry, when you go, it WILL be!" Right outside the church a husband comes up to me and says to me, "You know, I said to my wife,

honey, I am so discouraged, I think everybody hates me!" She says, "Nonsense! I know for a fact that that's not true!" Then I said, "Really, honey?" "Yeah, not everybody has met you yet!" We got to get into the scriptures: Did you notice the difference between how the leper was treated in the first reading and how the leper was treated in our Gospel reading? In our first reading, the leper was embarrassed, humiliated, ostracized. In our Gospel reading, the leper was treated with tenderness, compassion, healing. In Leviticus, treatment of lepers was designed to protect the community from contagious disease. But it seems to me that they treated lepers so harshly, so unkindly. Our Gospel today is one of my favorites, because, in it, Jesus not only healed the leper, but also he touched the leper. He didn't have to touch him to heal him. It seems to me, the reason Jesus touched the leper is because Jesus realized the leper needed to be healed not only on the outside, but also on the inside. He needed to be healed from being rejected, ignored, excluded. Some of us might need healing on the outside, All of us, ALL of us need healing on the inside. So, let's allow Jesus to touch us. One of the saddest stories I ever read comes to us from Bob Considine who tells us that shortly after the Vietnam war ended, he was bringing a baby war orphan to America so that he could adopt her. During the long flight to the United States, Bob Considine noticed that the baby's eyes were often overflowing with tears, but she never made a sound; no sound at all with her crying profusely. So Considine asked the flight attendant, "How can this be?" The flight attendant explained that this is normal behavior for war orphaned babies because the babies realized long ago that when they cry, nobody

