



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 – Fifth Sunday of Easter 2018

When I was in Brooklyn, I taught a religion course to High School Seniors. One of the many lessons I learned from that was that not only did they complain that homilies were too long and too boring, but also they complained that homilies didn't speak to the lives that they were living today. Jesus always spoke to the lives that people were leading. This evening, let's take a look at our scriptures and see how they relate to the lives that we are leading today. In our first reading, we hear that Paul was feared. He was not trusted, he was not accepted. Then Barnabas took charge. Barnabas introduced Paul to the Apostles and Barnabas told the apostles that Paul was an A-OK guy. Barnabas then connected Paul with the other disciples. Am I a Barnabas? Do I connect people? Do I bring people together?

One of the best ways that we can do that is for us to do what Barnabas did. Barnabas spoke well of Paul, we can speak well of others, can't we? We can do that! Bob Murphy, no relation, was a baseball broadcaster for the New York Mets for over forty years. Bob Murphy always spoke well of everyone. One example; in the 1990's the Mets had a pitcher by the name of Anthony Young. Anthony Young set an all-time Major League record which probably will never be broken by losing an astonishing nineteen games in a row. While he was in the midst of losing his nineteenth consecutive game, Bob Murphy says: "Well it seems that Anthony Young doesn't have his real good stuff today."" Today! Anthony didn't have any real good stuff! Bob Murphy spoke well about everyone, even Anthony Young. We can speak well about others, can't we? Do we? In our second reading we hear that "Love comes alive, not in words, but in deeds." Here's a story of a man who practiced that. He was well known for doing acts of kindness. When he was asked why he so often helped so many others, he explained: "Some years ago, I lost my job and as a result of losing my job, eventually I lost my house. And then, eventually, I had no more money. One morning, I went into a diner and I ordered a big breakfast knowing that I couldn't pay for it. But I was so hungry that I just had to have something to eat. When the bill came, I fumbled around in my pocket pretending to look for my wallet. The owner of the diner had sized me up, he came around the counter and was staring at the floor and he says: 'look! A twenty dollar bill! You must have dropped it!' Well, that twenty dollar bill not only payed for my breakfast, but also it gave me a few dollars for food for the rest of that day. I never forgot

that man's act of kindness and now I try to pass along acts of kindness to other people." We can do that, can't we? Can't we be kind to other people? And remember, maybe acts of kindness do not require any money at all. In our Gospel, Jesus says: "If you remain in me and I remain in you, you will bear much fruit." It seems to me that a trait that is common to all of us is that we would like to make a difference. We would like to think that some person is a little bit better because of me. That some place is a little bit better because of me; that I'm making a difference. How can you make a difference? You don't have to figure it out! Here's how to make a difference, Jesus tells us: "If you remain in me and I remain in you, you will bear much fruit." If I remain in him and know that he remains in me, I will bear much fruit, I will make a difference. The scriptures do speak to the lives we lead today. Because the bottom line of the scriptures and the bottom line of our lives is that Jesus is in love with me. That's true for each of us and that's true yesterday, today and forever!