



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 – Funeral Homily – 013118

This morning we'll try to get intertwine Robert's death with our lives. Let's see if we can intertwine the two. The church tells us that there are certain people, the saints who are definitively in heaven. Today is the feast of St. John Bosco, so the church declared that, yes, St. John Bosco is in heaven. It seems to me that it isn't just the canonized saints that we can be pretty sure are in heaven. I have several reasons that lead me to believe that Mr. M now and someday you and I will be also be with the saints and our Blessed Mother in heaven. Here are some of my reasons for being confident in that. The first is something that has been a tremendous source of strength for me. We are going to heaven not because we're so good, but because God's so good! There is a world of difference there! We believe that we

are the children of God, each of us is a child of God. As God's children, our inheritance is heaven. The scriptures have many citations that cause us to believe that. I am always God's beloved child, I don't always ACT like God's beloved child, but I AM always God's beloved child. That fact never changes, but unfortunately, my response to that fact changes at times. Children receive an inheritance. Our inheritance is heaven. I also have so many places in the sacred scriptures that talk about why I believe we are going to heaven. One of them is contained in the Gospel I chose for us this morning, I didn't make this up – you can look this up! St. John's Gospel chapter 14, verses 1 – 6. I have this memorized because it guides me through my life, here's what Jesus says: "In my father's house there are many dwelling places, I am going there to prepare a place there for you and then I will come back and take you with me so that where I am, there also you may be." Now, I don't know what other conclusion you can come to: In his father's house, that's heaven, he's prepared a place there for each of us, then he's going to come back for us at the day and the hour of our death. He came back for Mr. M on the 29th. But on the day and the hour of his death, on the day and the hour of my death, on the day and the hour of your death, "I am going to come back for you and take you with me, so that where I am," and he's in heaven, "you also will be!" I don't know how much clearer Our Lord could have made that. And there are so many other places, oh my goodness, there are so many other places that help us realize that heaven is what awaits us. One final reason, why I am so confident that Robert and one day you and will be in heaven is because this life is too tough! We try not to wear our troubles

on our sleeves, but we all have troubles and sometimes we have big troubles, He suffered, how many of our loved ones have suffered, how much have we suffered? Physically, emotionally, through death, heartaches, through tragedies, we realize life is too tough. If this is the only life that God has for us, how can we say that God is a loving God? God has something much more than just this life and that's what the great prophet Isaiah kinda knew, he knew it. So he talked to us in our lector's reading this morning: "There is a place where every tear will be wiped away, and death will be destroyed forever. The reproach of the sins) will be taken away and we will indeed be saved." So, for Robert now and for us at the day and the hour that God chooses, heaven awaits, not because we're so good, but because God's so good!