



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 – 11th Sunday of the Year 2018

Our cantor, Greg, mentioned just before we started Mass, that today is the eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time. In Ordinary time, the first reading and the Gospel are deliberately connected. The second reading is independent; it stands alone. Today, we'll look at our second reading, then we'll reflect upon the common message found in our first reading and Gospel. In our 2000 year history, I think it is safe to say that Christianity has not had a more zealous missionary than St. Paul. He traveled extensively, he wrote prolifically, he toiled tirelessly. He lived life to the fullest and yet in our second reading this morning, St. Paul tells us that he would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. He tells us that he would rather be in heaven, than here on earth! It seems that this is not defeatism, nor

depression for us to say the same thing. We have to give this life our best shot. We have to try to fulfill our possibilities. We have to try to live our life fully. I think it's holy, I think it's healthy for us to realize that earth is not our home. We don't belong here, we are just sent to grow here. Our home – is in heaven. Paul said that exactly. Now let's take a look at how in both our first reading and in our Gospel reading God tells us how we can make a difference, a BIG difference – a bigger difference than perhaps we'll ever know! In both our first reading and in our Gospel reading, God emphasizes that it is HE who makes the difference. It is God who makes the both sides high and low – who makes the green wither, and the withered green. It is I the Lord who makes the seed sprout and grow, who makes the smallest of seeds turn into the largest of plants – it is I the Lord, who makes the difference. But, if we allow God to work with us, through us, then God will make the difference with us, through us. He'll make the difference but it will be with and through us and who knows how big a difference it could be. June 10, 1935 Bill Wilson, the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous probably had no idea of what a tremendous difference that would make in the lives of thousands of people. Jesus tells us: "I am the vine, you are the branches; a branch cut off from the vine withers and is thrown away. Without me you can do nothing. But, Jesus says, if you remain in me and I remain in you, you will bear much fruit – fruit that will endure." You'll make a difference. Mother Teresa tells us: "God does the writing, I'm only a little pencil." We might be only pencils, but God sends down messages and if we take the message, then God can make a difference through you, with you. God can make the

difference because you're connected to God. Fathers! Could we pause a moment for each of us to say a prayer for our Fathers? (Pause) Dear God, thank you for the gift our Father. If he's still living we ask you to give him all the graces he needs. If he is deceased, we ask that you bring him home to be with you. Amen.