



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 – 16th Sunday of the Year 2019

Before we get started, I'll tell you what a man said to me outside the church, last Sunday: "It's so hot, I stand next to my wife – just to get the 'Cold Shoulder...'" We'd better get right into the homily. In our second reading this morning, St. Paul talks about Satisfaction. Not the Rolling Stones song, God help us, but the theological notion of satisfaction. St. Paul tells us: "I rejoice in my sufferings for I am filling up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ." You and I can do the same thing. We can take our sufferings, join them with Our Lord's sufferings, then our sufferings, like his can have redemptive value! So, no matter what your sufferings may be: physical, emotional, relational, headache, heartache, disappointment, discouragement, grief, loneliness – whatever they may be. We can take our sufferings and join them to our Lord's sufferings. Back in the old days, long before most of

you were born. We used to talk about "Offering up." Well, if I can take my sufferings and offer them up to the Lord, well then I am not suffering alone, am I? And, my sufferings, like his, have redemptive value! Now, let's take a look at our Gospel. There have been hundreds and hundreds of books and articles written about the story of Martha and Mary. And they all come to the same conclusion. They all tell us that we should not be Martha OR Mary, rather, we should be Martha AND Mary. Both of them are canonized saints. So, I should try to be an active servant, Martha and I should try to be a prayerful listener, Mary. It's not either or, it's both and: Active servant, prayerful listener. Let's take a look at Mary. Jesus compliments her because she was a good listener. Are you a good listener? To be a good listener, takes time. To be a good listener takes patience. To be a good listener takes humility. Jesus tells us that we should love one another. A wonderful way to love one another is to listen to one another. Would Jesus compliment you as he did Mary, for being a good listener? How well do I listen to Him? How well do I listen to others? When I am listening, do I give the speaker, whether it be in prayer, in person or on the telephone, do I give the speaker my undivided attention? Am I a good listener, to Him, to others?