



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.

## Fr. Danny Murphy – 24th Sunday of the Year 2018

This morning, you and I will reflect together upon this sentence from our Gospel, Jesus says: "Who do you say that I am"? Scripture scholars tell us that this question and Jesus' response to this question was the turning point in the public ministry of Our Lord. When Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am"? And Peter responded, "You are not John the Baptist, you are not Elijah, you are not one of the prophets – you are the Christ"! Then, for the first time, Jesus began to speak openly about his suffering, death and resurrection and from that time on, he journeyed to Jerusalem where those events would occur. So, "Who do you say that I am," is a very important question. Hopefully, our reflecting upon it will help us know who Jesus is a little bit better. We'll start with a silly story, but this story, silly as it is, might

segue right into our Gospel – let's see! When Gerald Ford was president, one day he was visiting an assisted living facility. He saw one of the residents in the hallway and President Ford, smiling broadly said to the man, "Sir, do you know who I am"? the man responded, "No, but ask one of the nurses and she'll tell you who you are"! Now, isn't that awful?? Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am"? Thankfully we have a clue to who Jesus is in our second reading when St. James tells us, "If a brother or sister has nothing to wear, has no food for the day and you say to them, 'Go in peace, stay warm and be well,' but you don't give them any necessities for the body, what good is that"? Our English word "Idiot" comes from the Latin Ideo which means to turn in on one's self. So, if I'm turned in on myself, I am an Idiot, by definition. Psychologists tell us that when we help others we feel better about ourselves – that helping others is a win-win situation. When I act like God, I feel like God and God is never depressed! So by my helping others, they benefit, by my helping others, I benefit: it's a win-win! Jesus asks: "Who do you say that I am"? Jesus is someone who wants us to help others. Jesus asks: "Who do you say that I am"? Jesus is someone for whom actions speak louder than words. "Who do you say that I am," he asks. There are many, many ways how we can help others. We can help others financially, by encouraging them, by listening to them, by complimenting them, by being friendly to them and the list can go on and on for each of us. Let's do what St. James tells us to do in our second reading. Let's put our faith into works. Let's not be idiots, by turning in on ourselves!