



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 – 27th Sunday of the Year 2018

This afternoon, you and I are going to reflect together on two topics from our Scripture readings. They both are a bit heady, so we'll start with this silly story which has nothing at all to do with either of the two topics. A recent immigrant to our country was totally amazed by how many instant products are available in American supermarkets. On his first visit to Publix, he saw powdered milk: just add water and you have milk! Then he saw powdered orange juice: just add water and you have orange juice! Then he saw baby powder and he exclaimed: "Wow, what a country!" In any event, we had better get right into the homily. In the first sentence of our first reading: "The Lord God said: 'it is not good to be alone.'" Note, please, that God does not say: "it's not good to live alone." Many of us live alone.

Some of us live alone because of choice, some live alone because of circumstance. Living alone is fine, being alone is not fine. Do you see the difference? Recognizing that you can be alone in the midst of a crowd, I bet you that all of us know someone who is alone. Whether that person is married or not, whether that person lives alone or not, that person is alone. Perhaps its someone with whom we live, someone with whom we work, someone with whom we worship, someone with whom we go to school and that someone might well be yourself. Someone who seems to be sad, depressed, lost, isolated, alone. The person like that who comes to my mind is someone who lives with four other people, but I know is isolated – is alone. Could we pause for a moment now, please so that each of us could think of someone who is alone, someone perhaps who is a relative, a friend, a coworker, a classmate, a parishioner, married or not, living alone or not – and include yourself – someone that you know is alone. Could you think of such a person, please? And then ask yourself, what can I do, what WILL I do to try to help heal his or her aloneness? (PAUSE)

“The Lord God said: ‘It is not good to be alone.’ ” In our Gospel this afternoon, Jesus talks about divorce. In the society in which Jesus lived, women rarely, if ever, owned any property and they had no means of independent living. Marriage meant support for them and for their children. Stable marriages were essential for the most vulnerable members of Our Lord’s society – women and children. Jesus criticized those who advocated easy divorce – those who advocated that you could easily dismiss your wife, putting her and her children into poverty. Jesus did as he always did, show compassion for the most vulnerable. Jesus is

