



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 – Easter 2018 – “I’ll see you in heaven...”

Did you know that in the old days, priests were expected to tell jokes on Easter? It's true! Priests were expected to tell jokes on Easter to help people laugh because on Easter, Jesus had the last laugh! What looked like terrible defeat, was actually total victory! Because of his resurrection, on Easter, Jesus had the last laugh! And so, because of his resurrection, on Easter, we too can laugh. So, in the spirit of Easter, I am going to tell you some stale jokes. In the spirit of Easter, please try to laugh or at least smile, even if you rightfully think these are not funny jokes! Try to remember, being kind is more important than being right. If Easter means anything, it means that we should have a good self-image. One day, this kid was playing baseball by himself. He tossed the ball up in the air, took a step back, swung at

it and he missed, undaunted, he tossed another ball up in the air, swung at it and missed again. This went on multiple times – many, many swings and misses. Then the boy announces in a loud voice: “I am the greatest baseball player in the world!” His friends said, “How can you say you’re a great player when every time when you’ve swung you missed the ball?!” “Yeah, I know,” he replied, “but I’m the pitcher!” Now be kind, be very kind! What about this guy? This guy comes into work one day, and he says, “I am a genius, I just completed a jigsaw puzzle!” His coworkers said, “Well, how many pieces were in the puzzle?” “Twenty-five,” he replied. His coworkers said, “Well ANYBODY can complete a jigsaw puzzle of twenty-five pieces!” “Yeah,” he conceded, “but on the box it says ‘three to five years,’ and I completed it in six months!” You ARE being kind! Enough of these jokes on Easter Sunday, BUT the story of Easter is not a joke. The story of Easter is that God has fallen hopelessly, helplessly in love with you and with me – and with everyone who ever was, everyone who ever will be! That’s the story of Easter! And on Easter, we’re all invited to renew our romance with God! Did you know that more Christians come to church on Easter than on any other day? Why do you think more people come to church on Easter than on any other day? (Pause) Well since there’s no right nor wrong answer to that question, I’ll give you my answer. I think, more Christians come to church on Easter than on any other day is because Easter is a feast of hope. In fact, Easter is THE feast of hope! The message of Easter gives us hope on earth because the message of Easter is that we’re going to heaven. The first time I realized that I was going to heaven occurred on Easter

when, like a bolt of lightning, a wave of grace washed over me and I realized, for the first time in my life, that despite all my sins, God loved me. God loved me a lot! Up until that point, I thought I had to earn God's love. Up to that point, I thought God was only pleased with me when I was perfect and since I was never perfect, God was never pleased with me. Up to that point in my life, I thought that heaven was a reward and I knew I didn't deserve that reward. And then on that glorious Easter, I realized that God's love is pure gift, pure grace. It's unearned, it's undeserved you can't get it because it's already been given and you can't lose it because it's unconditional. I'm going to heaven not because I'm so good, but because GOD'S so good! I'm going to heaven, because, if I weren't there God would miss me! And the same is true for you! The story of Easter is that you're going to heaven. The story of Easter is that Jesus died and rose from the dead and because he did it, we will!! Tonight, tomorrow when we wish others "Happy Easter," What we're really saying to others is "I'll see you in heaven!" Maybe a suggestion, instead of wishing others "Happy Easter," say instead, "I'll see you in heaven!" The reason why Easter is "happy" is that we're going to heaven. Want to take a chance? Why don't we start that right now, just for a moment or two – to those around you say: "I'll see you in heaven..."