



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 – 14th Sunday of the Year 2017

From our Gospel: "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and you will find rest for yourselves." We'll start with a very simplistic explanation of the word "yoke", Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you," right? Yoke is an agricultural term, it's like a harness. And if a yoke is placed on the back of a beast of burden, placed PROPERLY on the back of a beast of burden, let's say an ox, that ox can carry an extraordinarily heavy weight. But, if the yoke is not placed properly on the back of an ox, that ox will balk and complain with even a light load. Got it? So, when you and I are burdened with whatever in life is burdening us, let us go to Jesus and let him put his yoke upon us. Then we'll be able to carry even a very heavy cross. The image of Jesus in our

Gospel today is a healthy, holy image of Jesus. Perhaps there are other images of God that we might have that aren't healthy, that aren't holy. Scripture scholars tell us that the most important question that Jesus asked his followers is: "Whom do you say that I am?" Who do I say Jesus is? What image of God do I have when I'm praying to God? Here are some examples of unhealthy, harmful images of God. A "Peeping Tom God." God is out to catch me; God is out to get me. A "Red Light God." If my life is going well, beware – grief ahead! A "Sacristy God." God is only interested in church stuff – serious stuff. God's not interested in my mundane life. A God you can bribe: "God, if you do this for me, I'll do this for you." Perhaps other, unhealthy, harmful images of God might be in our minds. Now here's what I consider a healthier, holier image of God. I had a breakthrough in my relationship with Jesus about thirty years ago one morning when I was saying prayer in the chapel of a retreat house. That afternoon, I knew that the New York Mets were about to play a very important game. But I was on retreat! And then, as clearly as if he were sitting next to me, I heard Jesus say to me, "Danny, go home, watch the ball game, then come back, I'll be here waiting for you, enjoy the game!" It was at that moment that I experienced that Jesus and I are friends. Isn't that what he says at the Last Supper? At the Last Supper he says, "I do not call you servants, I call you friends!" That's what he says! Other things that he says for us to have a healthy, holy image of God: "My wish is that my joy be in you." He says, "My peace is my gift to you. You did not choose me, no, I chose you! Just as the Father loves me, so do I love you. Before you were born, I knew you. I met you in your mother's womb." How

