



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 – 15th Sunday of the Year 2017

Our reflection this morning will be based on our Gospel: "The Parable of the Sower." But before that, let's take at least a little peak at the first reading where the Prophet Isaiah tells us that "God's Word is not to return empty or void." Here's a suggestion that I think will help God's Word, as we hear it in the homilies, not to be "empty or void." Many years ago, I heard a priest in the parish where I grew up say this one Sunday morning in his homily, "Our parish is blessed with priests who are good preachers, but I am not one of them. However, if you say a little prayer to the Holy Spirit before I start preaching, you will get something out of even my worst homily." You know what? He was right – he was 100% right! I have been doing this for over sixty years – ever since I heard that, I never forgot it. For over sixty years, before every homily I hear, I say a little prayer to the Holy Spirit! Now

the homily might be ten minutes long and only ten seconds out of those ten minutes might come to me. But the homily, if I say a prayer before it starts, no matter who's preaching, that homily will not be empty or void for me. Something will come. You might want to try this out yourselves. Say a little prayer before the preaching starts, that the Holy Spirit will in some way or another, different for you – different for the person next to you, have something from that homily, not be empty or void for you.

Now let's get into this homily: It's the story of sowing seeds. Most of the seeds that were sown, didn't produce any good fruit. But some did produce GREAT, good fruit – thirty, sixty, a hundred fold! We have to sow the seeds of goodness and leave the results up to God. Some years ago, I started a dedicated telephone line for people who had had abortions. It was my experience that most people who had had abortions later deeply regretted it. But they had a very difficult time forgiving themselves – and a difficult time accepting God's forgiveness. So, I established this telephone line where people who had had abortions could talk to me anonymously, confidentially with the hope that I had, that perhaps I could help them forgive themselves and I could help them accept God's gentle, unconditional forgiveness. I aggressively publicized the telephone number. I put it in the Diocesan Newspaper, several secular publications and many parish bulletins. Guess what? I did not receive ONE phone call! So, after three and a half years, I discontinued the telephone line. But, I am so glad that I did what I did! I tried to do some good! Sometimes, isn't life like

that telephone line? So much effort, so little results. So much energy, so little return. One possible example? For years you sow seeds of faith and yet often enough your children, your grandchildren don't come to church! It's easy to throw in the towel and say: "What's the use of doing good? It doesn't do any good!!" It's easy to become discouraged by lack of results – easy to become frustrated when the weeds seem to be winning! But we have to be in love with the process of sowing seeds of goodness without demanding to see the harvest! The harvest is God's business, the growth – it's not up to me, it's up to God. But there'll be no harvest, there'll be no growth if we don't sow the seeds! In the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus is described in this way: "He went about doing good – he went about doing good!" He saw that much of the good that he did, didn't do much good! But he kept on doing good. That's what you and I have to do – we have to sow seeds of goodness – scatter them all over the place! What will be the result? Hey, you never know – all you have to do is sow