



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 – Corpus Christi 2017

Tonight we celebrate the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, tomorrow, we celebrate Father's day, so let's reflect a bit on both. Did you ever ask yourself, "Why are Catholics, catholic? Why do we choose the Catholic Church when there are so many other churches from which to choose?" Could we pause for a moment so each of us could ask ourselves, "Why am I a Catholic?" (PAUSE) My thinking is, the main reason why we are Catholic, why we remain Catholic – is the Eucharist. Recently, a friend of mine told me the good news that she has returned to the Catholic Church after about an absence of about fifteen years. She was a cradle Catholic, she went all through Catholic schools, she attended Mass regularly. She had some issues with the Catholic Church and gave me some examples of some of her issues: she was upset that women are denied ordination, she believes that priests should have

the option to marry, she thinks lay people should have a say on who becomes a bishop and she gave me some other issues as well. Then, the way the Church handled the sexual abuse scandal was the straw that broke the camel's back for her, so she left. After I warmly welcomed her back, I asked, "What prompted your decision to return?" She said, "Well, the refreshing outlook of Pope Francis certainly had something to do with it, but the main reason why I just had to come back was because I so missed receiving Holy Communion. I tried other denominations, I tried Transcendental Meditation, I tried Yoga, but I so missed Communion. And I know the only place where I can receive Communion is the Catholic Church, so I'm back, and I'm back to stay!" What an awesome privilege that we Catholics have to be able to eat his sacred body, to drink his precious blood the body and blood of Christ, wow, no wonder why we're Catholics!

FATHER'S DAY: A long time ago, a parishioner told me that I should urge my fellow priests not to talk so much about their mothers. So, tonight I won't talk about my mother, instead, I'll talk about my father! We'll start with a couple of silly, tongue-in-cheek stories. My dad would love these! One day I noticed that my dad had red marks on both sides of his nose. So when I asked him what caused those red marks, he replied: "Glasses." My mom chirped in, "Glasses of WHAT??" When my dad read that drinking is an evil, he stopped READING!! No more of that! I want to tell you something about my father that was very helpful about my father, it helped me and I hope it will help you as well. One of the virtues that my father possessed was the virtue of being able to accept whatever life brought to him. He was the youngest of

twelve children, so, growing up, he was always surrounded by other people. Then, he married and he and my mom had my sister and me so again, he was part of a family unit. Suddenly, almost overnight, all of that changed. He retired, his siblings either died or moved away. My mom died. My sister married and moved away. I became a priest and moved away and my father was all alone. He once told me that this is the first time in his life that he was alone. It was difficult for him, but he accepted it and he accepted it without complaining. He played the hand that life dealt to him and he did it without complaining. And what about us? Do we rigidly hold on to what was, to what we want it to be or are we open to what is, to what may be? Do we play the hand that life deals to us? Without complaining even they are not all Aces! Let's conclude by taking a moment right now to say a quiet prayer for our fathers whether they are alive or deceased...Amen!