



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 – Good Friday – April 14, 2017

Good Friday – why do we call this Friday Good? Today is saturated with suffering, with sadness. It's a day that deals with death and destruction. So why do we call this Friday Good? Because on Good Friday, perhaps unlike any other day, Jesus is saying to us: "No matter what you do to me, I will always love you!" Let's take a look at how Jesus handled his suffering. Crucifixion was designed by the Romans as capital punishment, but it was designed to do more than just that. It was designed to inflict optimal pain, the most any person could possibly absorb. And it was designed to publically, utterly humiliate the person being crucified. Let's take a look at how Jesus faced his crucifixion. Before facing it he prayed: "Father, let this cup pass from me!" But then he was able to say, "Not my will, but your will be done." Jesus knew what crucifixion meant, but it seems to me that his

agony in the Garden of Gethsemane wasn't about whether he should choose to submit to death or whether he should invoke his divine power and walk away from it. No, I don't think the choice for Jesus was whether to die or not to die. Rather, I think, his choice was how am I GOING to die? Will I suffer with bitterness or with love? Will I suffer with hardness of heart or softness of soul? Will I suffer with resentment or with forgiveness? We know how Jesus chose to suffer. And, isn't it the same for us? Suffering is part of life. It was for Jesus and it is for us! We cannot choose whether or not we'll suffer. Suffering is a given, but we can choose how we're going to suffer. Are we going to suffer with bitterness, with hardness of heart, with resentment or do we choose to accept our suffering the way Jesus did? Hopefully, here is a hint that might help us when we're choosing how we're going to suffer. We often enough say to one another: "I'll pray for you," don't we? We often enough ask one another, "Please pray for me," don't we? Well, why can't we add to that by saying to one another: "I'll offer up my sufferings for you." By asking one another, "please offer up your sufferings for me," offering up your sufferings brings purpose, and meaning, and dignity to your sufferings. Offering up your sufferings makes it much easier to accept your sufferings. Offering up your sufferings unites you to the sufferings of Jesus. Offering up your sufferings unites to your suffering sisters and brothers. So, for example, if I have a headache, could I offer it up to Jesus whose head was pierced, crushed with the crown of thorns. Could I offer it up for my sisters and brothers who suffer from migraine headaches? If I have arthritis, could I offer it up to Jesus whose legs were broken. Could I offer it up for

my sisters and brothers who were crippled? If on this Good Friday for any reason I am heartbroken, could I offer it to Jesus and to Mary whose hearts were broken on the first Good Friday? Could I offer it for the parents who have suffered the heartbreak of having a child die? You get the idea, right? By offering it up, you are not alone in your suffering, and it can make all the difference! Tonight, when we venerate the cross, when we touch it or kiss it or embrace it or thank Jesus for it. Could we also offer up all our sufferings to the suffering Jesus? Could we also offer up all our sufferings for our sisters and brothers who are suffering? Good Friday – why do we call this Friday Good? Today is saturated with suffering, with sadness. It's a day that deals with death and destruction. So why do we call this Friday Good? Because on Good Friday, perhaps unlike any other day, Jesus is saying to us: "No matter what you do to me, I will always love you!"