



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 – Pentecost 2017

This afternoon, I am going to share with you three random, unconnected stories. And as I do, you might try to figure out what these three stories have to do with the story of Pentecost and you might want to try to figure out what these three stories have to do with the story of our lives. First Story: A young boy was on a train making a long journey between two western cities. These were the days before air conditioned trains and it was a hot, uncomfortable trip. The scenery was uninspiring and monotonous. But the little boy sat there patiently, looking out the window. When a kind woman leaned forward and said to him in a sympathetic voice, "You must be tired and uncomfortable on this long journey." The little guy looked up brightly, smiled and said, "yes, a little, but I don't mind the journey so much because I know that at the end of the journey, my father is going to meet me."

Second story: the driver of a pickup truck slid off the road and ended up in a ditch. He saw a farmhouse nearby and he asked the farmer, "Can I borrow your tractor to pull my pickup out of the ditch." The farmer replied, "I don't have a tractor, but I have a mule, his name is Blue and Blue will take you out of the ditch." The motorist protested, "No mule is strong enough to get my truck out of the ditch." "You don't know Blue!" beamed the proud owner of the mule. So they hitched Blue to the truck and the farmer called out, "Pull, Blue!" and the truck didn't move. The farmer called out, "Pull, Elmer!" and the truck moved a little. The farmer called out, "Pull, Biscuit!" and the truck was free. The motorist thanked the farmer and he asked the farmer, "Why do you call your mule by three different names?" "Simple," he replied, "Blue is mine and if he thought he was pulling alone, your truck would still be in the ditch!"

Third Story: During the Great Depression a government agency had the task of travelling through mountainous backwoods areas to see poor farmers living there, and to give them a government grant so they could buy some seed or repair their homes. One agent came upon a poor old woman living in a shack, it had no floor, and several windows were broken and covered with masking tape. She had only meager essentials and was barely eking out a living on a miserable plot of land. The agent asked, "If the government gave you two hundred dollars, what would you do with it?" Without skipping a beat, she said, "I'd give it to the poor." Ok, three stories! Now, what do those three stories have to do with the story of Pentecost and what do those three stories have to do with the story of our lives? In the first story, the little boy making a long journey was uncomfortable,

but he was buoyed by the thought that at the end of his journey, his father was going to meet him. That is the story of Jesus' Pentecost promise: "You may have to suffer for a while, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice with the joy that no one can take from you!" In the second story, a mule was able to pull much more than his weight when he thought that he wasn't pulling alone. That reminds us of Jesus Pentecost promise that he will send us his Spirit to be with us always, indeed to be within us always. Last Sunday (the feast of the Ascension), I made a suggestion and I told the people that if they followed this suggestion, I would guarantee that they would have a happy summer. I am so convinced that this can help us, I am going to make the same suggestion with the same guarantee, tonight. If you follow this suggestion, I guarantee that no matter what happens, you will have a happy summer. Here's the suggestion: Every day between now and Labor Day, say to yourself, ""Jesus is with me." You're never pulling alone, Jesus is always with you. And in our final story, about the poor woman who didn't succumb to be "poor me," but rather thought of others worse off than she, reminds us that a sure way of pulling yourself out of a funk is by performing Spirit-inspired acts of kindness for others. Our Pentecost Gospel tells us that Jesus passed through locked doors in order to have his Holy Spirit descend upon his disciples. There is no barrier that can keep Jesus from sending his Holy Spirit upon us. Come, O Holy Spirit, fill my heart. Enkindle within me the fire of your love. Have your Spirit recreate me to make me the best ME I can be and then with you I can help renew the face of the earth, Amen!

