



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 – 19th Sunday of the Year 2018

This morning we're going to reflect together on our second reading, but before we do, let's take a peek at the great Prophet Elijah in our first reading. The great Prophet Elijah wasn't having a great day, wasn't he? He thought all his hard work was in vain. He was physically and mentally exhausted. He had had it! So, he sits under a broom tree, falls asleep and wishes that he would sleep forever! His mood is not totally unlike our mood at times, is it? It seems to me that we all have our "Elijah days!" Days when nothing seems to be going right in our lives. Days when we wonder, am I accomplishing anything in our life? If misery loves company, know that there



are many people for many different reasons who are sitting under a broom tree. Some of them show it, most of them don't. Two suggestions: because you don't know who might be sitting under a broom tree, try to be gentle and kind to everyone including yourself! Second suggestion; in a few moments, when I hold up the paten and the chalice at the consecration of our Mass, you think of someone who might be sitting under a broom tree, and that someone might very well be yourself. Then place that person on the paten or in the chalice and offer her or him or yourself up to God for healing. In our second reading this morning, St. Paul urges us to be imitators of God by being kind, compassionate, forgiving and living in love. God is kind, compassionate, forgiving, loving to each of us. So, to imitate God, we should try to be kind compassionate, forgiving, loving to others including ourselves. Two stories: the first I witnessed, the second I read. When I was a young priest, the parish where I was, was celebrating its 100th anniversary. Many sisters and priest who had served in that parish over the years, returned for the major Mass. As the sisters and priests were walking down the aisle at the start of Mass, the people in the pews were poking each other: "There's Sister so and so, I had her in the third grade! There's Father so and so, doesn't he look old!" On and on it went until suddenly, the whole church burst into applause when this one priest walked down the aisle and they wouldn't stop applauding. He had to finally come into the sanctuary where he held up his hands and asked them to please stop. Well I knew I had to find out why that priest was so revered. So at the reception after them Mass, I asked some people why and they all told me the same thing. "That was Fr.

Kiley...Fr. Kiley was so kind! If you had trouble of any sort, all you had to do was go to Fr. Kiley! He would figure out some way to help you. You could tell Fr. Kiley anything, even share your darkest secrets and he would never think anything less of you. No matter how busy he was, he was never too busy for you!" None of the people mentioned Fr. Kiley's homilies; none mentioned any of his accomplishments. All of the people mentioned Fr. Kiley's kindness. We can all be like Fr. Kiley! We can all be like that. A little kindness goes a long way, so does compassion, forgiveness and love. So, to imitate God, let's you and I be kind, compassionate, forgiving and loving to others AND to ourselves! Here's another story that I read. This woman was having a real "Elijah day." She was tired, lonely and discouraged and it was all she could do was to lift her little boy up to his high chair for dinner. As she put his food on the tray she started to read that day's mail – another bill that she knew she couldn't pay. She started to cry softly – this was the last straw! Well, the little boy saw his mother crying and he took the pacifier out of his mouth and he handed it to his mom! She started to laugh through her tears, she hugged her son and she knew she would get through! A little kindness goes a long way! So does compassion, so does forgiveness, so does love. If you and I imitate God, if you and I were kind, compassionate, forgiving, loving to others and to ourselves, there'll be a lot fewer people sitting under the broom tree!

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