



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 – 26th Sunday of the Year 2018

People who preach homilies are taught to select one thought, one theme from the scriptures readings of the day and to stay with that thought, that theme, throughout the homily. Well, this morning, you and I, instead of doing that – we're going to reflect on all three scripture readings with NO attempt at all to tie them together! Hopefully, we'll find enrichment for our lives in each of the three readings. In our first reading from the Book of Numbers, Eldad and Medad missed the meeting, so Joshua wanted to exclude them from the community. For Joshua, it was all about rules and regulations. If you missed the meeting – you're out! Jesus way is inclusion and forgiveness. For Jesus, it's "All are welcome in this place." In my relationship with myself, in my relationship with others, do I

more resemble Joshua or do I more resemble Jesus? With myself or with others, do I demand perfection? Or with myself and with others, do I allow some tolerance? The great Babe Ruth hits a home run about once in every eleven times he was at bat. Which means that ten out of every eleven times he was at bat "the Babe" did not hit a home run! Do I expect myself to hit a home run every time? Do I expect others to hit a home run every time? Sometimes I am going to strike out and so are they. Sometimes I am going to have a bad day and so are they! In our second reading today, St. James criticizes the wealthy because they became wealthy by hurting others. Do I hurt others? Some ways that I might hurt others are by jealousy, by pettiness, by selfishness, by self-centeredness. Do I look at every person as a precious child of God? Do I talk to people or do I talk about people? And when I talk to or about people, which do I do more frequently: compliment or criticize? All students of English know that the figure of speech that Jesus is using in our Gospel this morning is called hyperbole. Hyperbole is using extravagant exaggerations in order to make a point. So, for example the expression: "If I told you once, I told you a thousand times!" is an example of hyperbole. In our Gospel this morning, Jesus talks about plucking out our eyes, cutting off our limbs rather than committing sin. Jesus is using hyperbole and although we don't take those words literally, we should take those words seriously! There are some people, perhaps you may even know such a person, who of course wouldn't pluck out their eyes or cut off their limbs, but don't want to be separated from God even just a little

