



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 – Funeral Homily – 09/05/18

After Mass, one of Ann's sons, will eulogize her now, I would like to tell you something that I know about Ann that might be helpful for all of us as we continue our lives. In the month before her death, Ann and I had the opportunity to have several conversations; some in person, some over the telephone. In the course of those conversations, right from the beginning, Ann told me that she was not afraid of dying – that she was not afraid of meeting God when she died. Ann and I also spoke about heaven and, it seems to me, that she was at peace, realizing that heaven can't be earned, can't be deserved. Rather that heaven was given as a gift from God. She was at peace, knowing that we go to heaven not because we're so good, but because God's so good. So, that's a little bit about her, what about us?

Do you, do I fear death? Do you, do I fear meeting God when we do die? The scriptures tell us: "Love is not yet perfect in one who is still afraid." That means that if I am afraid of death, I have not yet trusted in God's perfect love for me. So, I ask myself again: Do I fear, what do I fear? Is it an indication, and scripture says that it is, that I don't yet trust in God's perfect love. The other sentence that goes with that is: "Perfect love casts out all fear." These are hard sentences, but if I can live by them – WOW. Perfect love, now I'm never gonna get there and, don't be offended, neither are you! But If I can trust in God's perfect love for me, that will cast out all my fears! Something that I read, that has helped me deal with death both of my loved ones and eventually of myself is this: "Of all the gifts that God has given us, the greatest gift is the gift of death because that's the gift that brings us home to heaven – brings us back to God." The gift of death for Ann now, for us someday – the gift that brings us to heaven, not because we're so good, but because God's so good.