



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 – Solemnity of Mary – 2017

We have so much for which we could reflect this morning. So here's what we'll do; first we'll take a look at the Holy day and then we'll take a look at the Holiday. What a beautiful blessing to start the New Year: the book of Numbers, our first reading. "May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace." Yes, Lord, yes, throughout this year, throughout all of our years! And then in our second reading, St. Paul tells us that we are Children of God and as Children of God we are heirs. And our inheritance is nothing less than eternal life, heaven, endless ecstasy. That's what it says! Now, there's a little parenthesis here and I've said this to you before and I'll say it to you again and I'll probably say it to you again after today too! I STRONGLY suggest, that someday, may not be today, although

today may be an ideal day to do it, you know "new year, new beginning and all of that!" But someday, you have to decide, whether or not you will believe the words of this book (points to the Book of the Gospel). You have to make that decision. Of course, I don't know, nor do you, I don't know how many more new year's I'll be welcoming in. But I do know this, in some year, in some day, I'll be welcomed into heaven. Dear Father, please help us remember this year when we're experiencing pains and problems, when we're experiencing love and laughter, whatever we're experiencing. That you are with us, that you are always with us until we are together forever in heaven. And the feast: Mary the Mother of God. Every Marian feast, every feast of Mary affords us a golden opportunity to review, to revise, to renew our relationship with Mary. Another suggestion, and this one you gotta do today, if you take it up. Why don't you do just that? Why don't you review, perhaps revise maybe renew your relationship with Mary. This summer, back in Brooklyn I was visiting an elderly priest in the hospital. He was quite sick. When I entered his hospital room, I saw that he was sleeping and in his hands were his rosary beads. Then I knew that this priest was in good hands. He was in good hands because he was in Mary's hands.

OK, now let's take a good look at the holiday. Up until recently, I would make resolutions at every New Year's Day. This year I am going back to that practice. I have made a New Year's resolution and I'll tell you what it is and maybe you can consider making the same New Year's resolution for yourself. My New Year's resolution is this: Juan Manuel Santos

won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2016. In 2017, I want to win the Nobel Prize for peace. I want to be a peace-filled person. That is my New Year's resolution: to be a peace-filled person. Jesus says to us: "Peace I give you, my peace is my gift to you." You are always supposed to pray for things, right? Pray, ask "ask and you shall receive..." In my opinion? I don't think you can pray for peace: "Dear God, please give me peace..." he already GAVE it to you!! He doesn't take it away: he gave it to you! So you can't pray for it, cause he already gave it. Am I experiencing the peace he gave...are YOU?? Or do I allow guilt about the past, anxiety about the present, fear about the future; do I allow that to diminish the peace he gave me. You could pray: "Dear God, please remove (with my cooperation) that which is blocking the gift you gave me, the gift of peace." And if you have inner peace, that peace comes out, doesn't stay in and it is not just for you – it goes out! So you'll want to heal hurts rather than allow them to fester, you won't allow molehills to become mountains, you'll allow your anger to melt rather than to boil, you won't say anything when you're upset, lest what you say be hurting or cutting. If you're a person of peace you'll look for ways to compromise rather than ways to win. You'll look for ways to reconcile rather than ways to avenge. If you're a person of peace, you'll go to confession rather than not go to communion. If you're a person of peace, you will have a care, compassion for all your sisters and brothers even for those who live in countries you've never heard of and that you'll never visit. What's happening to them there affects you here, if you're a person of peace. And if you're a person of peace, you'll come to realize that you may not be able to

reconcile all relationships. Tell me if I'm wrong, but I don't think that Jesus ever reconciled with the Chief Priests and the Pharisees. We may not be able to reconcile all our relationships either. But we can do what he did. In all our relationships we can decide to forgive and in all our relationships we can decide to love. Do you see why I want to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017? Are you going to be my competition? I hope you are. I hope we all strive to be peace-filled people. Good New years – good life resolution. Talking about life, on the average we get between twenty-five to thirty thousand days to live, on the average! Some of those days have already run out, but a new year wipes out all of yesterdays and gives us 365 tomorrows. Dear God, please let each of us use those days, those tomorrows well throughout this year, so that because of you and with you we will indeed have a happy new year, Amen.