



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 – 10th Sunday of the Year 2018

This morning we're going to reflect together on two sentences from our second reading. But, before we do, I think that it might be helpful if I try to explain this sentence from our Gospel reading. Jesus says: "All sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness but is guilty of an everlasting sin." What do you do with that sentence? Here's what you do with that sentence: you completely totally forget about it! And I'll tell you why: I am going to give you now a pre-kindergarten – very basic explanation for that sentence and I hope it will clarify what Jesus is saying to us. What is this blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? It is to believe that Satan is stronger than God! Now if you believe that Satan is stronger than God,

then, consequently, you believe that God can't forgive sin, because Satan is stronger than God! Got it so far? It's easy! Now, God always offers us forgiveness for all our sins, but if you believe that Satan is stronger than God and therefore God cannot forgive sins, even though God offers it, you do not accept the forgiveness because you don't believe God can give it. You and I with ALL our problems do not believe that Satan is stronger than God, so we have enough sins to work on without worrying about this sin against the Holy Spirit.

Now let's reflect upon these two sentences from our second reading; First, St. Paul tells us that the one who raised Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us in his presence. Now, I am going to repeat that sentence and then I am going to ask you to ask yourself, what conclusion do you come to after hearing this: the one who raised Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us in his presence. What conclusion do you reach upon hearing that?

(PAUSE) Do you agree with me when I tell you that I conclude that in that sentence, St. Paul is telling us that we are going to heaven? The one who raised Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us in his presence. To seal the deal, in the last sentence of our second reading today, St. Paul says that "we have an eternal dwelling in heaven." Dan, I think that I have told everyone this at least twenty-three times, right? I think it has been at least twenty-three times! Someday, you have to decide whether or not you are going to believe the words of the scriptures. You can't go through your lives without making that decision, you have to decide! And you heard the words of the scriptures that St. Paul told us in our second reading today – do you believe them? Now, the other sentence – you're getting me

all worked up!! St. Paul tells us, "we are not discouraged: although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is getting renewed day by day." Now, looking around, it's clear that all of you are WAY WAY too young to be worried about your outer self wasting away!! But, believe me, there is something going around and if you catch it, your outer self is going to be wasting away. What's going around is getting older and if you catch that, your outer self is going to start wasting away, but St. Paul does not become discouraged because, his inner self is being renewed day by day. Let's take a look at our inner self. It's difficult not to get discouraged at times, isn't it? Not only because our outer self is wasting away, but also because of all the other challenges that life brings to us. The way St. Paul did not get discouraged was by having his inner self renewed day by day. I think we can do that by spending some time, day by day in prayer. If day by day, I spend some time with Jesus telling him all that is going on in my life, listening to him, allowing him to heal me, allowing him to smile upon me, allowing him to die for me. If I do that, day by day, I'm not going to get discouraged for very long. Prayer brings perspective, prayer brings peace, in prayer, I can say: with Jesus, I can get through anything, anything with him. So therefore, I'm not discouraged!