



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 – 14th Sunday of the Year 2018

Have you ever experienced rejection? I bet you have, I bet we all have. Let's take a look at some possible rejections we might experience as we go through our life. As a kid, all your friends were going to so and so's house for a party, but you weren't invited. As a teenager, you found it so difficult to get a date with someone you liked. Throughout your levels of school, you tried out for various activities but you weren't accepted. You campaigned for student council, you weren't elected. You had all the qualifications for valedictorian, but you weren't chosen. You brought your carefully, professionally prepared résumé to job interviews, you thought they went well, they said they would get in touch with you, they didn't. When you reached out to them you discovered that the position had been taken.

Years ago, the Righteous Brothers sang, "You lost that lovin' feeling..." and now you realize that that applies to your spouse who announced: "The spark is no longer there – I'm leaving you." The list of rejections could go on and on, couldn't it. Life brings us rejection.

Rejection can hurt, just ask Jesus. We hear in our Gospel this morning that he was rejected by his own hometown folks. Let's take a look at his rejection. The people who rejected Jesus were mean and nasty, not only because they rejected him, but also in how they rejected him. They sneered, "Isn't this the son of Mary?" In those days, people referred to children of their father, not of their mother. Instances of this abound throughout the scriptures: you are a child of your father, they didn't mention the mother. For example, when Jesus is speaking to Peter: "Blessed are you Simon, son of John." When he was discussing his apostles of James and John he called them "The sons of Zebedee." So for the people in our Gospel this morning to refer to Jesus as the "Son of Mary," they were clearly intimating that he had no father, that he was illegitimate. That was mean, that's nasty, that's unnecessary. They weren't rejecting what Jesus said, they were rejecting him! Jesus never did that. He almost always rejected what the Scribes and Pharisees said and did, but he never rejected them. We have to follow his example. I might always disagree with you, but I will never reject you. I can attack what you say and do, I can't attack you, see the difference? Could we, wish that our country had as our motto, this motto from the Christopher's: "'Lord teach me how to disagree without becoming disagreeable.'" The rejections that Jesus experienced, hurt him, but they didn't defeat him. He just kept on going living his life the

way he always did. You and I have to do the same. Rejection might knock us down, but we can't allow it to keep us down. Look at St. Paul in our second reading this morning. Three times Paul begged Jesus to remove this thorn of affliction from him. Jesus rejected Paul's pleas but Paul knew that Jesus didn't reject him. Let me ask you a question, which would prefer, to have your prayer answered as you requested it, or to be at peace whether or not your prayer is granted? Jesus and Paul did not allow their rejections to defeat them, to keep them down. They both knew, and please God each of us knows, that God never rejects us – that God always accepts me, loves me, and cherishes me. And that's all that counts.