



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 – ADVENT 1 – 2017

Before we reflect upon Advent, allow me please what a woman said to me after Mass. She complained: "I wish my husband would stop trying to help our children with their homework! The other day, our son asked: 'Dad, who is considered most responsible for the development of the wheel?' he replied: 'Pat Sajak!'" From our first reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah, we pray this hymn: "Abba, father, you are the Potter, we are the clay – the work of your hands. Mold us, mold us and fashion us into the image of Jesus, your Son!" How can you and I be molded, fashioned into the image of Jesus? A woman in her mid-thirties dreads spending Thanksgiving and Christmas with her family because all here nieces and nephews and other children are there. She so wants to have children of her own but she hasn't met the right guy yet and she's despairing that she never will! How many

married couples would love to have children of their own but for whatever reason, they are unable to conceive. A priest friend of mine was told recently that he can no longer drive and that he requires assisted living. So now, he's lost his independence and he's lost his privacy. All of us could tell stories of people who are carrying very heavy crosses, couldn't we? If I'm molded, fashioned in the image of Jesus, I can be sensitive to them; I can be compassionate to them. If I'm molded, fashioned into the image of Jesus, I can listen attentively as they tell me their story and I can try very hard to understand their pain. If I'm molded, fashioned into the image of Jesus, I can pray with them, I can pray for them, I can bring a great light to the mist of their days. Our mothers taught us:

"If you don't have anything good to say about someone, don't say anything at all." St. Paul taught us, "Say only good things that people need to hear – things that will really help them. If I'm molded, fashioned into the image of Jesus, I will give my gift of speech to build up, not to tear down, to compliment, not criticize, to gather not scatter. If I'm molded, fashioned into the image of Jesus, I know that only God can satisfy my needs and I no longer expect other people to do so. "Abba, Father you are the Potter, we are the clay, the work of your hands. Mold us, and fashion us into the image of Jesus, your Son," Amen!