



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 – Fifth Sunday of Lent 2018

Today we enter Passiontide. For the next two weeks, we will be reflecting upon the suffering and the death of Jesus. We'll start that now, by reflecting upon the Stations of the Cross.



The First Station, Jesus is Condemned to Death.

For what is Jesus condemned: His goodness, his forgiveness, his truthfulness, his love? How do I respond when I'm unjustly accused, misunderstood, criticized?



The Second Station, Jesus Takes up his Cross.

He had prayed: “Father, let this cup pass from me, but not as I will, as you will.” Then he took up his cross because that was his Father’s will for him. You and I have to do the same.

When it seems that suffering is part of God’s plan for us, we have to take up our cross and we CAN with God’s help.



The Third Station, Jesus Falls for the First Time.

Jesus must have felt like a failure when he fell, but he got back up.

When I’m embarrassed, humiliated. When I feel like a failure, let me get back up and keep on trying.



The Fourth Station, Jesus Meets his Mother.

His apostles had abandoned him, his disciples had deserted him, but his mother was there for him. The same is true for us.

Mary is always there for us.



The Fifth Station, Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his Cross.

Jesus was humble enough to acknowledge that he needed some help in carrying his cross. Am I humble enough to acknowledge that there are times when I might need help in carrying my cross – the twelve step program, a counselor, a friend?



The Sixth Station, Veronica wipes the Face of Jesus.

The difference between Simon and Veronica is that Simon helped Jesus because he HAD to. Veronica helped Jesus because she WANTED to. Simon had compulsion, Veronica had compassion.

Lord, give me a heart of flesh, I have had a heart of stone for too long.



The Seventh Station, Jesus falls for the Second Time.

How unfair that Jesus had to suffer so much. His life was filled with goodness and love. This was so unfair. How do I respond when life is unfair to me? When life was unfair to Jesus, he got up and he kept on going. We have to do the same, we have to get up and keep on going even when life is so unfair.



The Eighth Station, Jesus comforts the Women of Jerusalem.

Even in the midst of his terrible suffering, Jesus thought of others, didn't he. Even in the midst of my suffering, let me know that even then it's not just all about me!



The Ninth Station, Jesus Falls for the Third Time.

At the third time, he got back up. When life knocks us down, it's not important how often we fall, what's important is how often we get back up.



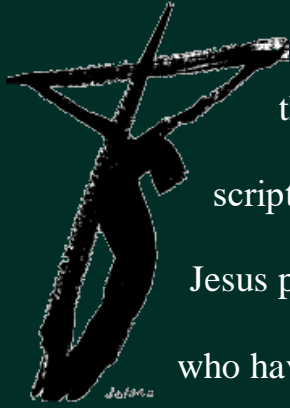
The Tenth Station, Jesus is Stripped of his Garments.

For me, this station and the next station show Jesus suffering at its worst. Whatever it is that is causing my suffering, let me put my suffering with his suffering. Let me remember that the scriptures tell us: "He took our sufferings upon himself."



The Eleventh Station, Jesus is Nailed to the Cross.

When they nailed his hands and his feet to the cross, Jesus lost his mobility and he lost his independence. Even the thought of losing mobility and independence frightens me. Dear Jesus, I pray that you give me the grace of acceptance if and when that should happen to me.



The Twelfth Station, Jesus Dies on the Cross. As he was dying on

the cross, I think Jesus uttered two of the most important sentences in

scriptures, the first: “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”

Jesus please give me the grace to be able to forgive everyone, even those

who have hurt me the most. Secondly, “Today, you will be with me in

paradise.” They might well be the best words you will ever hear. Dear Jesus, at the

moment of our death, please say to each of us, “today you will be with me in paradise!”