



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 – Funeral Homily – December 16, 2017

Some of us might have read the obituary for Pat in our local newspaper which so vividly described her different stages of life. After Mass, this morning, Pat's two sons will eulogize their mom, so we'll be able to reflect again upon her life. What I propose to do now is not to reflect on her life because we'll hear that later and you might have read about that earlier, but rather, to reflect upon OUR own lives. How, perhaps, with the grace of God, no matter what stage of life we're in, you and I can live a full life until the day and the hour when God calls us home to heaven to be with Patricia and all of our dear ones. The suggestions that I'm going, to offer to you today on how we can live a full life, not quantity of years, but quality of days, come from two mystics (A Mystic is someone who was given the remarkable, rare gift of knowing well the things of God). The first mystic from whom

perhaps, hopefully we can learn to live the rest of our lives well is the medieval mystic, St. Julian of Norwich. She tells us: "The highest honor one can give God is to live happily." It seems to me, the way we can live happily is to live gratefully. Psychologists tell us and they're pretty unanimous in this, that no one can be grateful and miserable simultaneously. Ya can't do it. You didn't make you, I didn't make me! God made us, and the way God made us is that we cannot be grateful and miserable at the same time! So, the first suggestion then, from the great medieval mystic, St. Julian of Norwich, "The highest honor one can give God is to live happily." And the way we can live happily is to live gratefully. And the other suggestion is from the great sixteenth Carmelite mystic, St. John of the Cross. St. John of the Cross tells us: "In the evening of your life, you will be judged on one thing and on one thing only – how well you have loved!" Dear God, until the day and the hour that you choose to bring us home to the endless ecstasy of heaven that you have prepared for us when we will be with Pat and all our loved ones. Until that day and hour that you choose, please give each of us the great grace to live happily, gratefully and lovingly, Amen!