



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 – 25th Sunday of the Year 2021

We're going to get right into the homily, but before we do, I'll tell you that, the other day, one of you asked me why I mention the hereafter so frequently in my homilies. I replied: "because, recently, every time I go into a room I ask myself, 'what am I here after?'" We'd better get right into the homily! We'll start with an overview of our other scripture readings, then we'll zero in on one aspect of our Gospel. Who do you think is the holiest person you know? – Let's pause for a moment so each of us can consider: who is the holiest person I know? PAUSE. What do you think constitutes holiness? Let's pause for a moment so each of us can consider, what do I think constitutes true holiness? PAUSE. Maybe holiness is found in our First Reading, trusting that God will always take care of us. Maybe holiness is found in our Responsorial Psalm, not being afraid, trusting that the Lord upholds my life. Maybe holiness is found in our Second reading, being content with what I have, trusting that it's all I need. OK, now let's reflect together on this passage in our Gospel: "Jesus took a little child and placed it in their midst. Then he put his arms around the child and said, 'Whoever welcomes one such child, welcomes me.'" Some time ago, I spoke with a man who had just spent thirty-eight months in jail. He told me that what he missed the

most during his time in jail was little children – Little Children – not his own children, he didn't have any of his own children, just children: the sound of little children laughing, the sight of little children playing. Whether we have children of our own or not, a world without little children would be a sad, sad world. The wonderful gift of children.

Dostoyevsky writes, "The soul is healed by being with children." Little children can help us in many ways to live better lives. Among the many, let's take a look at these two: 1. Children help us to be humble. Child wouldn't know or care if I was a CEO or had a PhD. A child wouldn't know or care if I'm pretty or handsome. A child wouldn't know or care if I'm overweight or underweight. Children can help us to be humble. 2 And, Children can help us to be helpful. An interesting aspect about human beings is that we have the longest dependency period of any creatures on earth. Many newborn animals can shift for themselves within a few weeks or a few months – some within a few days or a few hours. But human babies are dependent on others helping them for years. Shouldn't we continue helping one another even when we're no longer babies? Jesus tells us, "Whatever you do for anyone, that's what you do for me." Sometimes, I say to others, "If there's anything I can do to help you, just let me know." Jesus didn't do that, did he? The scriptures tell us, "He went about doing good." It doesn't say, "He went about asking if he could do some good." Many people don't ask others to help them. So let's you and I not wait for others to ask us to help them. Instead, let's you and I ask others, "What's the best way I can help you?" What do you think of this: "A perfect listener hears you even when you say nothing."