



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 – 27th Sunday of the Year 2019

Whenever you see me close the lectionary that indicates that we will not be reflecting on the scripture readings. That's a decision that should be made very infrequently. What I am going to talk about this morning is strictly my opinion. You may agree with all of it, you may agree with some of it, you may not agree with any of it. One of my favorite sentences in the scriptures is when Jesus tells us: "Do not live in fear, little flock." This morning, I am going to talk about what you hear and see in the media, what we read, what we say and hear from one another in conversations that might lead us to live in fear. We'll start with the weather, even though, thank God there has been no storm activity for weeks, we are reminded, don't become too complacent – the hurricane doesn't conclude until the end of

November and there is always the threat of tornados, the threat of global warming, climate change and other conditions, so – live in fear. Our health. We read and hear frequently that you don't stand a chance of being healthy unless you exercise at least these number of hours every week, if you eat plenty of this food, very little of that food and even if you follow those directives, you still could suffer a stroke, fall, discover you have an infection, have a disease. You could be told you have cancer, you might lose your mobility, you might lose your independence, you might need to have assisted living and you're worried about how you will pay for all of that. So, live in fear. Remember what I told you, what I am saying to you this morning is strictly my opinion. You may agree with all of it, with some of it, or maybe none of it. Concerning our country. You may well ask, will the mass shootings in schools, in churches, in malls, in movie theaters, in playgrounds, in parking lots – will they ever end? You may well ask, will America ever be able to recover from September 11, 2001? We read and hear talk about terrorism and the constant threat of more terrorism. We read and hear about other nations building and stocking nuclear weapons that could be used to destroy us. So, live in fear. We turn now to the Catholic Church. We were rocked to our very foundations by the scandal of pedophile priests and cover-up bishops causing catastrophic, life-long damage to the victims, causing billions of dollars in damage to the church. We read and hear that a relatively low percentage of Catholics come to church each Sundays. We read and hear that a relatively high percentage of Catholics do not believe in the real presence – thinking that the Eucharist is only a symbol of Jesus. And we read and

