



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 – 2nd Sunday of the Year 2019

Before we get started, I'll share with you this advice that I read recently. "Don't ask anyone over seventy, 'How are you,' because, they'll tell you!" The person who said that was President George H.W. Bush! This morning, I'm going to tell you two stories. Before the two stories, let's reflect together upon these words from our first reading. God is saying to each of us:

You are a glorious gem in the hand of the Lord. You are a royal diadem held by your God. You are my delight, my spouse. I delight in you and am espoused to you. As a young man married a virgin, so shall your builder marry you. As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you.

Dear God, give us the great grace to believe how beloved, how precious each of us is to you,

Amen!

Now for the two stories. The first story may or may not be true. The second story, I know IS true. The first story is based on this sentence from our Gospel: "They have no wine." It is the story of a teenage girl preparing for her high school senior prom. She and her mom had already selected a gorgeous gown. Now, it was up to her to select a pair of shoes. She knew that she would not have any problem matching the shoes to the gown, but she knew her problem was that she had very big feet. In fact, she thought that was the first thing people noticed about her – all of her life she had been teased about her big feet. So, she went into shoe store after shoe store and she said to each of the sales persons the same thing, "I want a pair of the prettiest shoes that you have!" And in each store, each sales person looked at her feet and said, "I'm sorry, we don't carry your size." She was thoroughly discouraged and she finally went into a small "Mom and Pop" shoe store. The owner, an older man, greeted her with a cheery, Hello! She said to him, "Looking at my feet, I don't suppose that you would have a pair that would fit, do you?" "I'll be right back," he said. He came back with a shoebox and he told her to stand up and try them on. The shoes were too big for her, way too big, and she started giggling with laughter, because this was the first time in her life that any shoes were too big for her. The sales person said, "Oh, I can see that these won't do, let me get you a smaller size!" He came back, she stood up, tried them on and he gushed, "Ah, perfect fit!" She looked at the prettiest pair of shoes she had ever seen! When she was paying for them, she wondered, "How could such a seasoned sales person have been so wrong the first time about the size of my feet?" Then she realized, "Perhaps he was more than just in

the business of selling shoes!" Some people have no wine left in their lives. They are discouraged, perhaps even defeated. Like that sales person, each of us can be wine for other people. In a multitude of ways, we can be the best wine they had that day? We can be, perhaps, the best wine they had in their lives. Our second story is a true story about Marilyn Monroe. Arthur Miller, in his autobiography, talks about his marriage to Marilyn. He says that he watched her descend into depression and despair. He feared for her life because of her paranoia and her growing dependence on barbiturates. One night, the doctor was persuaded to give Marilyn yet another shot. As she was in a deep, deep sleep, Arthur stood watching and wondered what would happen if, when she awoke, I was able to say to her, "God loves you, darling," and she was able to believe it. Tragically, Marilyn Monroe could not believe that God would say these words to her:

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Poor Marilyn could not believe that God was saying those words to her. Do you believe that God is saying those words to you?