



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 – 4th Sunday of the Year 2019

During the homily, my job is to talk to you, and your job is to listen to me. If you finish first...What I am going to talk to you today is love, because our second reading is St. Paul's hymn to love 1 Corinthians 13. Allow me, please to share with you, some things that have helped me in my attempt to live the love of which St. Paul writes. Long before your time, even before my time, American humorist Will Rogers claimed: "I never met a person I didn't like." That was me too, up until twenty-two. At twenty-two, when I was a student in the seminary, I met the first person I didn't like. He was another seminarian and I just didn't like him at all. I felt guilty not liking him, because I thought that, as a good Catholic, you should like everyone. Since then, thanks be to God, I realized that liking and loving are not the same. Liking is a feeling, loving is a decision. With the grace of God, I can decide to

love someone, even if I don't like that person. With the grace of God, I can decide to love a person, even when I don't have any loving feelings towards that person. My problem was that I was combining liking and loving. But, liking is a feeling and loving is a decision. Feelings are neither right nor wrong – they're neutral, they just are. We're not responsible for our feelings, but we are responsible for our decisions, our actions. I can decide to love even if I don't feel loving towards a person. I can decide to love no matter how I feel, I can make that decision – it's not based on feelings. I can decide to love no matter what! We are not asked to like everyone, but we are asked to love everyone. Another breakthrough that I experienced in my attempt to live the love of which St. Paul writes came when I realized more fully the primacy of love. Jesus asks us to do one thing and one thing only: to love one another. That's it! He says: "My commandment is that you love one another." That's commandment: singular, period, nothing else. The only thing that I have to succeed in in life, is love. I used to think that I had to succeed in many things and when I didn't I felt embarrassed and my self-esteem took a nose dive. Now, thank God, I realize that I only have to succeed in one thing – in loving. If I succeed in that, even if I fail in many other things, my life is a success. If I fail in that, even if I succeed in many other things, my life is a failure. The great mystic, 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, how well you have loved." So, who finished first, me talking, or you listening?