



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 – 5th Sunday of the Year 2020**2020**

We're going to get right into the homily, but before we do, I think I should mention that today is World Marriage Day. Each year, the second Sunday of February is World Marriage Day; the day we honor the vocation of marriage. Maybe we should do that more than one day a year. It seems to me that marriage is taking a terrible beating these days! Just last weekend, I read in the paper the story about a husband who was always complaining to his wife that she talks too much, so he made her a 500 dollar bet that she could not remain silent during their twenty minute helicopter ride. At the end of the ride, the pilot complimented her for her silence. She said, "Well, I was tempted to say something when he fell out...but, 500 dollars, is 500 DOLLARS!! And what about last week, at our men's prayer group, the question was posed: "Why did God create men before women?" One of

the guys said, "because He didn't want any advice as to how to do it!" World Marriage Day, we better leave that aside because we had better get right into the homily. This morning we will reflect together on this sentence from our Gospel, when Jesus says to each of us: "You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world." How can I be the salt of the earth, the light of the world? In our first reading, Isaiah tells us that. To be salt of the earth, to be light of the world, "share your bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, do not turn your back on others, remove from your midst: oppression, false accusation, malicious speech." Dear Jesus, please show me the best way that I can do that. And then, dear Jesus, please give me the grace to do it. Here's another way that you and I can be salt of the earth and light of the world. It might seem that salt and light are very different from each other. But they share this quality in common: Neither of them adds anything but rather, both of them bring out that which is already there. So, for example, if you put salt on your steak, if you put some salt on your eggs, the salt helps bring out the flavor that's already in those foods. You turn the light on in a dark room. The light helps you to see that which is already in that room. Jesus says to each of us, "You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world." We don't have to add anything, we have to help bring out that which is already there. We don't have to make people good, they're already good. God made them good. But you and I have to try to do is to bring out the goodness that is already there within them. Years ago, I was in a parish where the employees just did not like each other. They were often rude to each other. They often made nasty remarks

about each other behind the other person's back. Then a new employee came on the scene they were rude and nasty to her also, but she was able to rise above it. Often, she would bring in bagels and donuts for the other employees to enjoy. She was consistently pleasant to them. Slowly, but surely, the atmosphere started to change. The employees started to talk nicely to each other. They even started to like each other. That new employee was the salt of the earth, the light of the world because she helped bring out the goodness that was already inside the other employees. St. John of the Cross tells us, "Where there is no love, put love and you will find love." Jesus says to each of us, "You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world."

make Jesus known! So, when you make mistakes, don't be too hard, too harsh on yourself. We all make mistakes. But, in the midst of our mistakes, in the midst of my faults, in the midst of my sins, let me always remember the Lord formed me from the womb; I am made glorious in the sight of the Lord, and so are you!