



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 – 7th Sunday of the Year 2019

Before we get into our homily this morning, I just have to tell you about a conversation I had with one of you in Publix, this week. A parishioner approached me and said, "Fr. Danny, I hope that you eat only organic and natural foods!" I replied, "I know you mean well, but, at my age, I need all the preservatives, that I can get!" We'd better get right into our homily! It is going to be only a half-homily because I want to spend some time to re-read our Gospel which I consider to be an absolute gem! The sentences from our Gospel, upon which we'll reflect are these: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Two true stories that hopefully, will make these words come more alive for us; the first true story is this one: When I was about ten years old, my mom, my sister Kathleen and myself went to the home

of one of my father's brothers to have dinner. My father was not able to join us because he was a New York City fireman, and he was on duty that evening. During the course of the evening, my father's brother got drunk and became terribly verbally abusive to my mother. He said horrible things to her and horrible things about our family. My mother said quietly to my sister and me, "we'll be going home now." My mother, despite my uncle's horrible behavior, never said a negative word about him to me nor to my sister. Despite his disgraceful behavior, my mother continued to send him birthday cards, Christmas cards – she continued to be kind to his family. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Our second true story: In one of the parishes at which I was stationed in Brooklyn, our music director was a nun. One night, after choir practice, when was alone locking the church, when suddenly, from the reconciliation room where he was hiding, emerged a young man with a gun. He put the gun to the temple of her head and twice told her: "Unless you give me money – I will kill you!" The young man escaped that night, but soon thereafter, he was apprehended. The whole parish knew how shaken, this sister was – shaken to her core. How did the parish respond to that horrific incident? They formed a committee that regularly visited that young man at the Brooklyn House of Detention where he was being kept. They started a prayer circle which prayed for the young man every day. They visited the young man's mother's home and assured her that they were there to help her and support her in any way they possibly could. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who

curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Now let's listen to the words of our Gospel, which is a blue print for how to live our lives according to Our Lord's way. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well. If a person takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you and for the one who takes what is yours, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."