



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 – Easter 2019– “I’ll see you in heaven...”

Some of you may know that Deacon Wayne Creelman, who is the Director of our RCIA Program, is also Dr. Wayne Creelman who is a licensed psychiatrist. The other day, I said to him, “Dr. Creelman, a lot of people seem to be concerned about climate change. Do you believe in climate change?” Dr. Creelman pondered and then replied, “Well, of course, as I tell my patients, they must first WANT to change...” Well, I can see that many of you didn't care for that, I don't think Deacon Creelman cared for it either because then he said to me, “One out of four people in our country is mentally imbalanced, Fr. Danny, think of your three closest friends, if they're OK...” Deacon, Dr. Wayne Creelman, right here!! Well, enough of that we need to get right into the homily. We're going to reflect together tonight on Christ as light. The Paschal Candle is the symbol of the Risen Christ – the Light of the World, the light that has conquered the dark. No matter how dark the world is, no

matter how dark YOUR world is, Christ the Light shines in the midst of the darkness – a darkness that has not, will not, cannot ever extinguish it. There is a lot of darkness in our world, isn't there. So many tears, so many tragedies, such sadness, such cruelty, such violence, such terrorism with always a threat of more terrorism. It is clear to see that there is a lot of darkness out there, but maybe it is not as clear to see that there is also darkness within – a darkness that impedes us from experiencing the true joy of Easter. Here's the story of how I discovered the darkness within me, the darkness that was impeding me from experiencing the true joy of Easter. Some time ago, a wave of grace washed over me and for perhaps the first time in my life that despite all my sins, God loves me – God loved me a lot! He loved me so much so, that just as Jesus died and then went to heaven, so to when I will die, I will go to heaven. Up to that point in my life, I thought I had to earn God's love. I thought that heaven was a reward – a reward that I knew I certainly didn't deserve. Up to that point in my life I thought that God would love me only when I am perfect. And since I am never perfect and God is only pleased with me only when I was perfect, well then God was never pleased with me!! And then, on that glorious day, the wave of grace washed over me and that darkness was lifted! It was on that day and, thank God, ever since that day, I realized that God's love is FREE, it's grace, it's pure gift, it's unearned, undeserved. You can't do anything to get it, because it's already been given. And you can't do anything to lose it, because it's unconditional! WOW. It was on that day, thank God ever since that day, I realized that I'm going to heaven, not because I'm so good, but because God's so good.

And, of course, what I say about me, can be said about each of you, too! The message of Easter is that Jesus died and rose and because he did – we will! The message of Easter is that we're going to heaven! Tonight and all day tomorrow, when we say to others Happy Easter, what we're really saying to others is "I'll see you in heaven," because that's what makes Easter happy! Here's a suggestion, tonight, tomorrow, instead of saying to others, "Happy Easter," say to others instead, "I'll see you in heaven, because that's what makes Easter happy! So could we start that right now, just turn to another and say: "I'll see you in heaven!"