



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 – Feast of the Holy Family – 2018

The Feast of the Holy Family – This feast affords us an opportunity to reflect upon the Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This feast also gives us an opportunity for us to reflect upon our own families and to see how, perhaps we can make our families holier. Families come in all different sizes and shapes. We have our nuclear family, our extended family, our parish family. We have the family of our friends, our classmates, our coworkers, our neighbors, and we have the family of each other. We're all sisters and brothers, we all have the same Father. Here's a suggestion that I think will help to make all the families to which we belong – holier. It's a suggestion that all of us, of all ages, can do easily. To have a holy family say these five words often: "YOU DID A GOOD JOB." Mark Twain quipped: "A good compliment can keep one going for a week." To have a holy family, say these four words

often: "WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?" To ask someone's opinion and then to listen carefully when he/she says it, is to respect that person. Most people are never asked their opinion, so when they are, they feel honored! To have a holy family, say often these three words: "I WAS WRONG." It's much easier to say, "I am sorry," than to say "I was wrong." How many relationships could be healed, how many marriages could be strengthened if we could say those three words often. To have a holy family, say these two words often: "THANK YOU!" If you wish to have your relationship with God improved instantly, cultivate a grateful heart. A saint tells us that the only prayer that we have to say to God is Thank You! Psychologists tell us that we can't be grateful and miserable at the same time. So, let's all of us say these two words often. To have a holy family, say this one word often: "WE," not me – we! Our motto for this word could be St. John the Baptist who said of Jesus: "He must increase, I must decrease." Years ago after a parish retreat, a parishioner told me that she was disappointed during the retreat because the retreat leader had used the word "I" so often. She said that many of his sentences began with the word, "I." What about us, in my conversations, how often do I use the word "I?" YOU DID A GOOD JOB! WHAT IS YOUR OPINION? I WAS WRONG. THANK YOU, WE. Don't you think that if we said those words often, all of the families to which each of us belongs will be holier?