



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 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – 2019

I belong to the Mutual Admiration Society. The Mutual Admiration Society doesn't have any meetings, doesn't have any dues and has only one rule: we don't ever say anything nasty or negative about anyone. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that Paul and Barnabas often reassured and encouraged the other people in the early church. In fact, the name Barnabas means "One who encourages." So, perhaps it was Barnabas who started the Mutual Admiration Society! What about us? Do we reassure, do we encourage other people? Do we build them up, or, God forbid, do we tear them down? St. Paul tells us: "Say only the good things that people need to hear; things that will really help them;" so, no gossiping, no tearing down. We often don't know what's going on in the lives of other people. Many people wear masks, so the outer veneer, might not be the inner reality. Because of their

masks, what we see on the outside, might not be what's going on in the inside. We often don't know what's behind their masks – what's going on, what's going on behind the walls of their home, what's going on behind the walls of their heart: marital stress, medical stress, financial stress, employment issues, fear, guilt, grief, sadness, loneliness and perhaps much, much more. So, be a Barnabas, be one who encourages others. Even if you are a member of the Mutual Admiration Society, at times, some of us have to correct or admonish others: teachers, parents, priests, spouses, employers, police officers and many others. If our responsibility is to correct or admonish someone, as members of the Mutual Admiration Society we follow the philosophy of Mary Poppins who says that, "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down." So, if our responsibility call us to correct or admonish others, members of the Mutual Admiration Society will use not only a spoonful, but a bushel full of sugar because Mary Poppins claims that "helps the medicine go down in a most delightful way!" The other day, I wrote affirming notes to four people as soon as I finished writing them, I couldn't wait to mail them, because when you build up other people, you build up yourself as well. And the opposite is also true, when you tear down someone else, you lessen yourself as well! So, be a Barnabas, be a Mary Poppins, be a member of the Mutual Admiration Society!