



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.

Danny Murphy – Immaculate Conception – 2017

If you went to a Catholic grammar school and were taught by the nuns, you may well have heard this story about our Blessed Mother. Back in the day, it was one of the nun's favorite stories and it still is one of my favorite stories about Mary. One day, Jesus was walking through heaven and he noticed that there were a lot of new residents, so he went out to the gate and spoke to the gatekeeper St. Peter: "Peter, you failed me again!" "What did I do this time?" "You let in a lot of new people who shouldn't be here!" "Don't blame me," protested Peter, "I didn't do it!" "Well, who did!?" "You're not going to like the answer!" "Tell me anyhow!" "Well, when I said they can't come in the front gate, they walk around to the back door, and your Mother lets them all in!" That story can sum up our relationship with Mary. Mothers take care of their children. Mary takes care of each of us! Here are three questions

about our Blessed Mother. After each of the questions, I'll pause so you can reflect upon your answer then I'll share with you, my answer. After his resurrection, why didn't Jesus appear to Mary first? After his resurrection, why wasn't Mary the first person that he appeared to? What do you think? (PAUSE) It seems to me, that Jesus didn't appear to Mary first, because Mary knew that he had risen. Mary knew it in her heart, so she didn't have to see it with her eyes. Mary, please give me the great faith that you have! Second question, Mary always seemed serene, what was her secret? Mary always seemed serene, peaceful, calm, what was her secret? What do you think? (PAUSE) Mary was serene, peaceful, calm because, from the beginning, to the very end, she said: "Let it be done to me as you said." Through all the ups and down of her life, Mary said "Yes" to God. Mary, please give me the grace to always say "Yes" to whatever God's plan might be for me. Final question: Sociologists tell us that many Catholics do not have a close relationship with Mary. Why? (PAUSE) Well, it beats me! How foolish can we be? That tops the list of how foolish we can be. Dear Mary, please grant us the great grace to have a very close relationship with you. Thank you, Amen!