



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 – Second Sunday of Easter – April 28, 2019

We'll start with a cute story which I hope you GET! One of our parishioners died, went to heaven and outside the pearly gates, St. Peter asked her, "Where are you from?" She replied, "Vero Beach!" St. Peter said, "Uh oh, then you may not like it HERE!" Uh...Vero Beach?? You didn't get it! You know, I say these things to myself, several times and I say to myself, "If I laugh, maybe they'll laugh!" Murphy's law! I have two more masses this weekend and we'll see how it will go with them! But enough of that nonsense, today you and I are going to reflect upon our Gospel, the story of "Doubting Thomas." But, before we do that, let's do this. As some of you know, the Second Sunday of Easter – today – is Divine Mercy Sunday. The day when we celebrate that, no matter what I do, no matter what I've done, God forgives me – God always forgives me! God's mercy, like God's love is everlasting. It is unearned, undeserved, unconditional. Some of us might find it difficult to accept that.

Some of us are more comfortable when we earn, when we deserve. We like things to be fair. But that is not how God behaves! An example of that is the story of Jesus washing his Apostles feet at the Last Supper. Jesus washed John's feet – John, the only one who stayed with him at the foot of the cross on Calvary. And, Jesus washed the feet of Judas, even though he knew that Judas was about to betray him. Jesus washed the feet of all his Apostles. God's embrace includes everyone. The story of Jesus washing his Apostles feet is a revelation of Divine Mercy. God embraces everyone equally. Okay, the story of "Doubting Thomas." Why doesn't God cure cancer, Alzheimer's disease, strokes? Why does God permit hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes? Why does God permit terrorism, violence, war? Why does God permit these and so many other things to occur? Does God really care about me? Does God really know everything I need before I even ask? Does God really love me, despite all my sins – past and present? These and many other questions might raise doubts about God. Thomas had his doubts and maybe we have our doubts. What do you do if you have doubts? I suggestion – do what Thomas did. Thomas spoke with Jesus, Thomas spent time with Jesus, and then Thomas proclaimed: "My Lord and my God!" When we have doubts, we can spent time with Jesus, we can talk with Jesus. Prayer dissolves doubts! In prayer, you might not get an answer to all your questions, but in prayer you realize that you don't that you don't need the answer. In prayer you can join with the psalmist – Psalm 131: "I busy not myself with great things, nor with things too sublime for me. Rather, like a little child on its mother's lap, so I rest in you, my God." Prayer can help you say that. In prayer

