



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 – Funeral Homily – August 10, 2016

The Catholic Church provides us with two goals at Funeral Masses. If we look at both of Let me start by sharing with you the last time I saw Alan. It was on the day he died. It just so happened that it was just the two of us. He couldn't speak, but I know he understood. He knew I was there, that I was a Catholic Priest. Here's what I said: "John, you are in a 'win-win' situation. All of the people at Holy Cross including your family and friends are praying for your healing – that you might get well And return. That's a 'win'! If you don't get well and God takes you home, that's ALSO a 'win'!" According to the mystics (and you can't argue with MYSTICS), heaven is described as Endless Ecstasy. When I told this to John, he seemed to nod in agreement. Today, we know which of the two events prevailed – God indeed took John home to experience the endless ecstasy of heaven. I tell you this with

great confidence not only for John, but also for each one of us. Why? I do so for two reasons. First of all, I am convinced that when life is over, heaven does await us because this life is too tough for all of us. God is love and he has to have a better plan than this life! That plan is Eternal Life. Secondly, Eternal life is indisputable because God says so so frequently in scripture. Dan Kroger is our liturgy and musical director and he knows something about sacred scripture. I'm going to embarrass him today when I ask if he can verify something. I believe there are forty five references to Eternal Life that is mentioned in the Scriptures.\* I encourage everyone here to decide whether to believe these words or not. If we do believe them, the only conclusion we can come to is that heaven awaits us. Today's Gospel is one of the forty-five references:

Jesus said to his disciples: "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you with me, so that where I am you also may be." Jn 14:1-6

I don't think it can get any clearer than that! If we do believe, then Jesus does have a place for us and he is coming back to take us there – to take us home. It happened to Allen, someday it will happen to us. We await the endless ecstasy of heaven, no matter how tough this life may be.

\* Dan jokingly countered that he thought it might be 46, but after looking up the number of references in Nelson's Complete Concordance of the New American Bible, he found the exact number of references to be: 45!

