



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 – 2nd Sunday of Easter 2016

Not only is today the Second Sunday of Easter AND Divine Mercy Sunday, BUT it is also Opening day for the New York METS!! And before we get right to the homily, let me share a story about one of our parishioners who OBVIOUSLY did NOT get the Easter spirit! As a gift, a husband commissioned a local artist to paint his wife's portrait. His wife told the painter to include in his portrait a diamond necklace, diamond earrings, a diamond bracelet and a huge diamond ring. When the artist protested that she didn't have ANY of those things she responded: "I know, but if I should die and my husband remarry, I want his next wife to go nuts looking for those diamonds!" So you see she really DID miss the message of Easter.

You know, that every year, on the Second Sunday of Easter, the Gospel passage is always the story of "Doubting Thomas". Do you agree that in some ways, HIS story is also OUR story? Just as Thomas doubted, at times doubts may arise in our hearts too! There are so many questions about God that can bring those doubts into our lives. (Holds up the Book of the Gospels) Our whole lives are based on this book! What if this book is a phony? There are other questions as well. Why can some couples conceive a child and others not at all? Why is it that a baby is born only to die a few weeks later? Why do some young parents die leaving children behind? Why doesn't God cure cancer or Alzheimer's disease? Why doesn't God prevent terrorism or disease or war? Does God even care if I get laid off from my job? Does God care about me at all? Does God really notice every hair that falls from my head? Does God really know what I need BEFORE I ask him for it? When I die, am I really going to heaven? These and so many other questions can bring doubt into our lives. How did Thomas deal with HIS doubt? He spoke with Jesus and he spent time with Jesus. What happened? His doubt dissolved into faith, after he spoke with Jesus and spent time with Jesus. It seems to me that the same is true with us. If we speak with Jesus and if we spend time with Jesus, we may not GET answers to our questions, but we may begin to realize that we may not NEED answers to our questions! If we speak with Jesus and if we spend time with Jesus, perhaps we can say: "I don't know what you are doing nor why you are doing it, but that is OK because I trust you. If we speak with Jesus and if we spend time with Jesus we may realize that God always brings good out of the things he allows to happen. If we speak

with him and spend time with him we might begin to agree with my all-time favorite scripture passage – a passage that has changed my life – from St. Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 8 verse 28: "For those who love God everything works for the good". So what am I worried about?? See if you can agree with this: "Faith is doubt that has said its prayers"!! So we can then say: "Dear Lord, I believe, help my unbelief"

Let's see if we can summarize Divine Mercy Sunday. Fr. William Bausch tells this story. When he was a little boy, he used to go to Mass in his parish church. This church had, in the ceiling a huge triangle within which appeared an enormous eye. Little 8 year old Billy was frightened and intimidated by this huge eye because he felt it was God watching him and all the bad things he was doing so he could then punish little Billy! One Sunday he was at Mass with his grandmother and he leaned over and told her about his fear of that eye. His grandmother smiled and whispered back: That isn't God watching to catch you doing wrong! Rather, God loves you SO MUCH that he can't take his eyes off of you! God doesn't just HAVE Mercy – God IS Mercy!! God always forgives us no matter what we have done nor how many times we have done it. God's Mercy is infinite and unconditional and so is his love. Think about the Responsorial Psalm we have just sung: "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting." Whether you sing it or say it, you have to MEAN it. We sang it five times and since St. Augustine said: "When you sing you pray twice," that means we actually said it 10 times! Jesus says: "I have love you with an

