



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 – 6th Sunday of the Year 2017

Murphy's Law is always in effect. You know Murphy's Law: "Whatever could go wrong, will go wrong." Today is the second Sunday in February. Every year, the second Sunday in February is World Marriage Day, a day when people throughout the world are encouraged to honor and pray for married couples. On this World Marriage day, guess what the Gospel talks about: Adultery and Divorce – of ALL Days: Murphy's Law. We're going to talk about the Gospel in a minute, but first, I want to share with you that I am very happy that we do have World Marriage Day – a day when we are encouraged to honor and pray for married couples. In fact, maybe we should have this more than just one day a year because marriage is taking a beating these days. Give you an example. Some time ago while at a wedding

reception, the bride asked me if I would bestow a blessing on all the married couples who were in attendance. So I announced: "Will all you married men please stand next to the person who has made your life worth living!" The bartender nearly got crushed to death!

Did you hear the story about the guy who goes to his parish priest and he says: "Father, I think my wife is trying to poison me, what should I do?" The priest says, "I'll have a talk with her, then I'll get back to you." The next day, the priest calls the guy and says: "I had a long, long talk with your wife, for over three hours..." the man says: "What should I do??" the priest replied: "take the poison!!" There is a story about a husband who asked his wife: "Honey, if I die, would you remarry?" "Oh no, dear," she replied. The husband retorted angrily, "Why not, don't you like being married??" "Of course I do, dear, okay, I'll remarry," she replied. "Would you let him wear my clothes?" he asked. "Yes, dear, if he wants to, I think I should..." "Would you take down all the pictures of me and replace them with pictures of him??" "Yeah, I think that's what I should do..." "And would you let him use my golf clubs?" "Oh no," she replied, "He's left-handed!"

World Marriage day! God knows we need it! Now we'll get into our Gospel. Poor Jesus, it seems like he was in constant conflict with the Jewish authorities concerning the Law. It seems to me that he is telling the Pharisees that the Law is good, but Love is better. Sure you should not murder, but you can do better than that. Sure, you should not commit adultery, but you can do better than that. Sure, you should not swear, but you can do better than that. The Law is good, but Love is better! The Law forbids you from shooting your neighbor, but the Law cannot force

you to hear your neighbor's heart when it is broken; to listen to your neighbor when they are lonely. Only love can do that. The Law forbids you from abusing children. But the Law can't force you to get on the floor and play with them, to pick them up in your arms to hug them, only love can do that. The Law forbids you to steal, but the Law can't force you to share, only love can do that. The Law forbids you to treat other people with prejudice but the Law can't force you treat other people with tenderness, only love can do that. And on and on, the Law is good, but love is better – and we can be better. In our Gospel today, Jesus says, "I did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfil it." The Law is good, but love is better. The Law can't raise the bar in our society, only you and I can do that. Do you agree that the bar needs to be raised? It's amazing how low our society can go! Jesus spoke out fearlessly about the lax morality and injustice in his society. He's encouraging us to realize that our society can be better than this; we can be better than this. He's inviting us to be that betterness; though while the Law is good, love is better. He's inviting us to follow his law, the law of love!