



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 – Ascension Sunday 2016

Today we could celebrate the Seventh Sunday of Easter...but it has been bumped in favor of the Feast of the Ascension. And, God forgive me, the Feast of the Ascension will be bumped because today is Mother's Day! Today we honor, give thanks for and pray for Mom. One thing I LOVE about Mother's Day is that it is a day that unites us all. First of all we all have the same Mother – Mary – the BLESSED Mother, who is mother of us all. Secondly, this day unites us because we ALL have a mother whether she is living or has already died. This is our first time celebrating Mother's Day, together – you and I, so you may not be aware of my annual tradition. Each Mother's Day, I sing a little ditty to honor my mom. So as I sing this song to MY mom, I suggest that you might think of your mom, too and pray for her:

M-O-T-H-E-R

"M" is for the million things she gave me,
"O" means only that she's growing old,
"T" is for the tears she shed to save me,
"H" is for her heart of purest gold;
"E" is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
"R" means right, and right she'll always be,
Put them all together, they spell "MOTHER,"
A word that means the world to me.

One thing is for certain, we can ALL go about "Mothering". When my sister, Kathleen's daughter was about 14 or 15, she got her first job as a cashier at a local drugstore. No sooner was she hired, than she was FIRED!. The boss came and told her that she was making too many mistakes. He sent her home, devastated and in tears. My sister took her by the hand and they went back to the drugstore and asked to see the boss. She told him: "My daughter Kathy Ann is an intelligent, capable young woman and the reason for her mistakes is not for her lack of skill, but because you didn't teach her how to do her job!" If you take her back, she will turn out to be your best cashier!" My sister affirmed her daughter and, in so many words, said: "I believe in you and in your gifts!" We can do that for one another!

Here is one final tribute, and again, I suggest that during it, you might think of your own mother, whether she is in heaven or still with you: Once upon a time, a boy was to be born and sent down from heaven to the earth. He began a dialogue with God:

Boy: "I know you are sending me to earth. How will I live? I am so small and so helpless?"

God: "Don't worry, among all the angels, I am sending you one who will teach you, sing for you, smile at you and make you happy."

Boy: "How will I learn to talk with other people?"

God: "Your angel will teach you how to speak – patiently, lovingly."

Boy: "God, how will I talk with YOU?"

God: "My angel will help you put your hands together and teach you how to pray."

Boy: "I hear there are evil people on earth."

God: "My angel will defend you, even if it means giving up its very life."

Boy: "I'm going to miss you, God..."

God: "Your angel will teach you all about me. Don't worry, I will be with you until the day when we shall meet again!"

Boy: "God, what is the name of my angel?"

God leaned over and whispered into the boy's ear and very softly said: "My angel's name is 'Mommy'!"