



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 – 3rd Sunday of Easter 2016

We all know the story of the Last Supper. In today's Gospel we hear the story of the Last Breakfast. Jesus says to the Apostles: "Come, let's have breakfast." It was probably the last meal that Jesus and the Apostles shared together. Did you notice to whom Jesus says: "Come, let's have breakfast?" He invites those who denied him, deserted him and broke his heart! The invitation went to those who went back to fishing and gave up the mission he entrusted to them. They gave up the kit and caboodle – all that Jesus had shared with them. Notice, too, that Jesus doesn't say: "Where were you? How could you have done this? What were you thinking? Aren't you ashamed of yourselves? Are you sorry for what you did?" NO, he simply says: "Come, have Breakfast!" He forgave them totally. In fact, Jesus acts like IT NEVER HAPPENED!

Jesus is not into the PAST...he is into the PRESENT. He is not into recrimination...he is into RECONCILIATION. Isn't the same thing true for us? We have all done some things that we are not proud of, now don't raise your hands! In all of our closets we have some skeletons hanging. Maybe it is divorce, adultery, dishonesty, detachment, duplicity? Jesus says: "Let bygones be bygones, let sins be forgiven, let mistakes be forgotten – come let's have breakfast!"

Here is a true story: there were three young men who in the course of one evening drank too much and got into a car to drive home. The car swerved and hit a tree killing one of the three. The driver was arrested and charged with a DUI. The father of the dead son told a newspaper reporter: "I forgive the driver. He made a terrible mistake, but I've made mistakes too – haven't we all?" That's a true "come have breakfast" story!

Just as Jesus said to those who wronged him: "Come, have breakfast," we pray for the grace to say the same thing to someone who may have wronged us! Don't you love the exchange between Jesus and Peter those three questions – one for each of Peter's prior denials? He freed Peter, allowed him to have a clean slate and not have any guilt that would lie heavy in his head or in his heart. Peter must have been fearful that Jesus might ask him a TON of questions! And yet he asked him only one – Peter, do you love me?

When I was younger, I was scared stiff about my last judgment. I thought that Jesus would show me a movie of all my past sins! And what a L O N G movie that might have been! Thanks be to God I am now confident that when I die and meet Jesus face to face, he will ask me only ONE question: "Danny, do you love me?" When I answer, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you," I know that Jesus will say: "Come, have breakfast!"