



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 – 6th Sunday of Easter 2016

Before we get going allow me to share with you an error in judgment I made by asking someone to accomplish an important task; but obviously it was the wrong person. Some of you may remember that I had been concerned about my volume during my homilies. Was it too high or too low? Since that time, I was STILL concerned about this so I asked someone to sit in the front pew and indicate "too low" by cupping the ear; and "too high" by covering both ears. Guess what that person did? In the middle of my homily she squeezed her NOSE!!

Today I am going to give you half a homily and then share some words of wisdom that I encountered recently. These words enriched me and I hope they will do the same for you. For the half-homily we will reflect on this sentence from today's Gospel: "My peace I give to

you." Of what kind of peace does Jesus speak? When Jesus first came into the world, the angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth..." Immediately afterwards, King Herod slaughtered the Holy Innocents. When Jesus was leaving us, and during the Last Supper he said: "My peace I give to you..." Immediately afterwards, he was cruelly crucified. The fact is; the reality is that there IS no peace and there never HAS BEEN any peace. In the history of civilization we have not gone 50 consecutive years where war has not been waged somewhere in the world. Today we live under the constant threat of terrorism and the prospect of still MORE terrorism to come. So, of what kind of peace does Jesus speak? INNER peace, peace that dwells inside each of us. It is the kind of peace that comes from knowing that God loves you intimately, infinitely and unconditionally. It comes from knowing that God dwells, abides, within each of you deeply in both good times and in bad. If we realize that, then peace and pain can coexist; no matter what happens outside us, we can have peace inside us. THAT is the kind of peace of which Jesus speaks when he says "my peace I give to you..." The story is told of a young girl who grew up in her grandma's house. Inside that house, there were no mirrors so people asked the girl how did you know what you looked like? "That's easy," the girl replied, "Nana TELLS me!" "When I wake up, get dressed, comb my hair, I go and ask her, 'how do I look?'" She replies, "You are beautiful! Your skin is so smooth as if the sun has kissed it, your eyes shine like silver moon beams, and your hair is silky soft – you are BEAUTIFUL!" So, because the house had no mirrors and she saw herself through her grandma's eyes, the girl knew she was

beautiful. If you and I could see ourselves through God's eyes then we would have the gift of inner peace of which Jesus speaks.

Now some words of wisdom: Finally someone said to me: "Don't change, I love you as you are!" Is that the way you love me, Jesus? A Prisoner-of-War couldn't sleep at night because he was fearful about the tortures that would await him the next day. He finally realized that the ONLY reality is NOW. Notice the birds of the air and the flowers in the field. Some people are able to see beauty and goodness all around, why can't I? You can't see outside yourself, what you can't see inside yourself. How can I forgive others? If you don't condemn others, you would have no need to forgive others. For the last one, I'll use a story to illustrate the wisdom that while you can't always fix something, you CAN always just be there! A mother used to tell her son not to dilly-dally on the way home from school.

However, about two weeks later her little son came home very late. The exasperated mother asked him very pointedly: "Where WERE you!?" Her son answered: "On my way home, I noticed that down the street, Billy's tricycle was broken." His mother countered: "Are you telling me that you know how to fix a tricycle?!" "No mom," he replied, "I just sat there with him and helped him cry!" You can't always fix, but you CAN always just be there!"