



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 – 7th Sunday of the Year 2017

Today, St. Paul asks us: "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells within you?" Another word for temple is tabernacle, so St. Paul is telling each of us tonight, that "you are a tabernacle." Just as surely as Jesus is present in that tabernacle, just as surely in us, this tabernacle. That is awesome, AWESOME! And, we as temples of God; we have the Spirit of God, UPPER CASE Capital S, HOLY SPIRIT. The Holy Spirit dwells within us. You are a temple of God and the Holy Spirit dwells in you and in me and in everyone else. That's awesome, that we're all tabernacles; that the Holy Spirit dwells within each of us. If I can see myself and everyone else as a tabernacle, with what respect, reverence, gentleness, forgiveness would I treat myself and if I saw everyone else as a tabernacle, with

what respect, reverence, gentleness, forgiveness would I treat everyone else. And then we would be ready to hear what Jesus says to us in our Gospel today from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus invites us to "turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, love your enemies, pray for your persecutors." The Sermon on the Mount is an invitation, an encouragement, for us to embark on a new adventure; a radically different way to live our lives. Nobody talks like that! He does!! And he encourages us to do the same. And if we do we will live happier, holier lives. Jesus didn't just preach the Sermon on the Mount – he lived it! And no one ever was a happier, holier person, than was Jesus. And he invites us to be the same. No one could call Jesus a doormat, a pushover. But everyone could call him a lover. He was able to see every person as a tabernacle and treated them as such. He asks us to do the same, to love others no matter what it takes. A couple of stories: When I was a young priest, my pastor was Fr. Vinnie Dooley, God be good to him. One day, Fr. Dooley sent a letter to all the students in our parish elementary school. It was a scathing letter, sharply criticizing for things that they were doing, for things that they weren't doing, that annoyed him. A few days after he sent the letter, Fr. Dooley went over to the school and he announced on the public address loud speaker, the following: "Boys and girls, I am sorry. I must have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed the day I wrote that letter. I was in a bad mood because of a lot of stuff, other stuff was happening that was upsetting me and I took it out on you. I should not have done that that was wrong. Children, please forgive me." Fr. Dooley said three little words that only a big person can say: "I am sorry, I was wrong, please forgive

me." Maybe if I said those three little words and meant them, more often, then maybe I may be able to see other people as tabernacles. The other story I will share with you concerns Dorothy Day, who is being considered for canonization. One Sunday, Dorothy brought to Mass with her, a woman who hadn't been to Mass in many years. Dorothy was hoping that if the woman had a good experience of Mass, then maybe she would return to Mass. Poor Dorothy! The Mass was a disaster, no one was friendly, the musicians didn't show up. The lectors couldn't be heard, the priest was obviously unprepared; he kept on rambling, was boring, endlessly. At the end of the Mass, Dorothy said to the woman, "I want to go over and compliment the priest." The woman was astounded and said: "Compliment him! For what? Everything was terrible! That's why I don't come to Mass anymore. Dorothy, responded: "And that's why I still come; for any church to be able to survive that Mass, God has to be with it!" So she went over to the priest and this is how she complimented him: "My, what beautiful vestments you're wearing!" But do you sense what Dorothy Day did? She was able to see some good in a person and in a situation that really wasn't very good. And maybe if we did the same, then maybe you and I could be living out the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus lived the Sermon on the Mount. He was the happiest, holiest person who ever lived. He invites us to do the same. "Do you know that you are a Temple of God and that the Holy Spirit dwells within you and within me, and within everyone else?" If I knew that I would treat myself, you and everyone else with respect,

reverence, gentleness and forgiveness. Then I would be living the Sermon on the Mount and then I would be a much happier, holier person.