



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 – Easter 2016

Very few people know that up to the time of the Protestant Reformation in the Sixteenth Century, priests were expected to tell jokes on Easter Sunday! The reason is that Jesus had the "Last Laugh" in his Easter Victory. What looked like defeat, was, in fact, total victory. Unfortunately, after the Council of Trent, the church became very somber. Fortunately, in our life time, that is changing. So, in keeping with that tradition, here is a stale joke. **FAIR WARNING**, some might be slightly offended because it is based on what you do or did in your career! One day in heaven there was a bright eyed and bushy tailed couple who were in love so they told St. Peter they wanted to get married! St. Peter said yes, but to come back in a month and he would have everything ready for them. Every month they came back to him but he kept delaying them. Finally after a while they did get married. After a time, the

couple realized that heaven was Endless Ecstasy and so they told Peter that they were really happy but didn't need to be married to stay that way – they wanted to get a divorce. An exasperated Peter said to them: "It took a year and a half to find a priest up here! How long do you think it will take for me to find a lawyer?!!!" Well, we's better get to the Homily!

Soo, here is a sad story: I know a person who when they were small, were always chosen last for a team, and when chosen was sent to right field because fewer balls landed there, on the team he always batted last. Now it is Easter and God says: I choose you FIRST, I choose you with Enthusiasm, I choose you with excitement. You're on MY team, always and forever. You're not a handicap, you're my CHILD. St. John's Gospel sums up the whole message about Easter when he writes: "Jesus, was fully aware that he CAME from God the Father and he was to return TO God the Father." Who was Jesus? He was God's beloved Son who came from the Father and was to return to the Father. Who are you? You are God's beloved child – you came from God and will return to God. If you are fully aware of that, I guarantee that you will experience inner joy and inner peace that no one can ever take away from you. There is so much darkness in our world and maybe in your world there is darkness as well. But no matter how dark things become, if you are fully aware of who you are, your inner joy will prevail against the darkness. Soo, the bottom line message of Easter is: "We're going to Heaven"!! Jesus died and rose and because He did – WE will!! It is not because we're good, but because Jesus is GOOD! We don't Earn it – we INHERIT it! Soo, here's a suggestion: An appropriate greeting for this Sunday is not "Happy Easter" but: "I'll see you

