



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 – Third Sunday of Lent – 02/28/16

Last week we heard from Fr. Terry Ryan who also led out parish mission. We heard some wonderful stories about his life and background. I thought that it was time for you to learn some things about me as well. Know that I do NOT: text, type, google, twitter, skype, have a website, write a blog, use a GPS, use MapQuest, have a smartphone, tablet, iPod or use blue tooth. You can call me irrelevant, old fashioned, over the hill. I DO love that "old time Rock and Roll." Can you relate to that? Remember when people were smarter than their smartphones and could spend a whole day not taking pictures of anything? Well...we'd better get to the Homily!

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us about the blood Pilate mingled with the Galileans in the sacrifices in the Temple. Jesus says that they were no worse sinners than the other Galileans. He went on to say that the Eighteen who were crushed by the tower collapse were no more guilty than everyone else. In this Jesus teaches us a profound truth: Sin causes suffering, but NOT in direct proportion. Your sin causes suffering, but not to me; OUR SIN causes suffering.

Let me say it another way. If I sin fifty times and you sin five times, I won't suffer fifty units of punishment and you won't suffer five units of punishment. But BOTH you and I will add to the general suffering in the world. The eighteen who died in Siloam were no more guilty than anyone else.

Have you experienced suffering or tragedy? It is easy to ask how could God do that to me? But sin does cause suffering, but not in direct proportion.

I recall a 22 year old woman I once knew. She and her family were very involved in my parish: Her mother and father were both Eucharistic Ministers, her younger brother was an altar server and her older brother coached the parish basketball team. She contracted a disease that was very painful, ultimately disfigured her and killed her.. People who visited the hospital, the wake the funeral and even the cemetery were tempted to ask: "How could God send that kind of suffering to her and to her family?"

Driving home from the cemetery, we passed several topless bars and then it hit me: God didn't cause the suffering – SIN did – the sin symbolized by those bars.

Sin causes suffering! Before sin, the garden of Eden was a paradise and in heaven there is no suffering – because there is NO Sin!

A wonderful way to spend the rest of Lent – indeed the rest of our lives is to love our sisters and brothers. You and I should try hard to be sinless because when there is less sin – there is less suffering. Remember – we are in this together!