



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 – 16th Sunday of the Year 2017

This morning we're going to reflect upon one sentence from our Gospel. Before we do, I'm going to tell you a story which proved to me that we here at Holy Cross have a lot of work to do preaching about trusting. One of our parishioners told me: "Last week, I was visiting the Grand Canyon. I slipped and I was falling, but about half-way down, I grabbed onto a tree branch. Holding on for dear life, I prayed loudly, 'Dear God, please help me!' Then I heard a voice saying, 'Just let go, I'll carry you to heaven...'. Then I cried out: 'Is there anyone ELSE up there?'" " We've got a lot of work to do preaching about trusting, but that's for another day and another time. Today we're gonna be talking about this sentence from our Gospel: "Let the weeds and the wheat grow together." The story of the weeds and the wheat is the story of you and me. It's a mixture, and we all are; we're a mixture of weeds

and wheat, a mixture of the good and the not-so-good. That's us! And we'll all be a mixture of the good and the not-so-good and the weeds and the wheat all our lives. One of the things that maybe happens to you, I know it does happen to me at times – we are good people! Let's take that as a given, after all, we wouldn't be here this morning if we weren't good people. But isn't it true at times as if someone else jumped into your skin and you did things, and you say things and it isn't the "me" that I wanna be! You might say of yourself, "I don't know what got into me, why did I say that, why did I do that?!!!" The reason you said that, the reason you did that is because you are a mixture of weeds and wheat! We all are! St. Paul describes his weeds this way: "I am the me I don't want to be!" Isn't that true at times for us as well? Because we are a mixture of weeds and wheat, we have to be patient with ourselves and with other people. There's no just wheat! It's a mixture. So we have to be patient with others and patient with ourselves. It was Jesus and NOT Billy Joel who first espoused: "I love you just the way you are." With all your flaws and faults, with all your goodness and generosity, with all your vices and virtues, with all your weeds and wheat. In our first reading today, we are told that we must be kind, we must be kind to ourselves and be kind to all others, because we are all a mixture of weeds and wheat. Now if I had any sense at all I would end this homily right here! But, I can't resist the temptation of ending it this way. Fifty years ago this month, the Beatles asked us: "What would you do if I sang you a song? Would you stand up and walk out on me. Lend me an ear and I'll sing you a tune and I'll try not to sing out of key." Here goes: (singing) "Inside everybody there's

some bad and there's some good. But don't let anybody start attacking peoplehood. Love them as they are and fight for them to be the many great men and women that God meant them to be. So, Up, Up with people..." with ourselves, with everyone else, mixture of weeds and wheat though we may be!