



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.

Danny Murphy – 28th Sunday of the Year 2017

Before we begin our reflection this morning, I just have to share with you how my ego was shattered last Sunday! After mass, one of you said this to me: "Fr. Danny, I love your homilies. I love Fr. Murphy's homilies and Fr. Jim's homilies also, because they're both so intelligent!" We better get right into THIS homily! This morning we're going to reflect on two essential elements of Christianity: we're going to reflect upon heaven and we're going to reflect upon serenity. Sociologists tell us that many Catholics don't think very often about heaven. Perhaps the reason for this is that we don't know what heaven is like. Here's a true story that I think illustrates that we don't know what heaven is like. One of my first theological questions came from a young woman who said to me, "My boyfriend sins an awful lot. Because of his sins, he's probably not going to heaven. But I love him dearly and

I don't want to be separated from him. I want to go to heaven, but I guess I should sin a lot, right, so that we can be together?" How do you answer that? Where were Fr. Murphy and Fr. Jim when I needed them? That is a true story! When we think about heaven, a more common question might be, "What do you do all day in heaven?" All day, every day for all eternity, what do you do?" Wrong question! Heaven is not about doing, heaven is about being. Heaven is about being one with God and being one with one another. As the prophet Isaiah tells us in our first reading this morning: "God will destroy the veil that veils all peoples; the web woven among all nations." In heaven we'll be one with God and one with one another and that brings endless ecstasy. What is heaven like? Heaven is endless ecstasy. In our second reading this morning, St. Paul tells us how we can live in serenity. He says: "I know how to live in humble circumstances, and in abundance. In every circumstance, at all times, I have learned the secret of being well fed or going hungry, of being in abundance or being in need." That's living in serenity. The secret, it seems to me, to which St. Paul refers is this: Paul was not self-sufficient, Paul was "God-sufficient." He says: "In all things, God will fully supply my needs." Maybe St. Paul learned the secret of living in serenity from our Responsorial Psalm, this morning. "The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. Even though I walk in the dark valley, I do not fear, for you are at my side." That's living in serenity!