



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 – First Sunday of Lent – 2018

If you and I were together at Mass last weekend, you might recall that I mentioned to you that last Sunday was World Marriage day and then I proceeded to tell you some stale jokes about that. Well, I would GLADLY send you a copy of all of my best jokes, BUT, you will have to provide the postcard! Where did that one go, Dan? "Way DOWN, Father, way down..." Dan is my barometer – which ones stay and which ones go! We'd better get right into it! The First Sunday of Lent! The church encourages us especially in these early days of Lent to pray for the grace to discern how I can best spend this lent – 2018. No matter what you discern as to the best way you can spend this lent. Perhaps all of us could include THIS this Lent. This Lent – LISTEN! Really LISTEN! This Lent, listen to God. Try to carve out some time, some place where it's just the two of you – you and God! Just the two of you, in Silence and in solitude. And this Lent, try to listen to other. Really listen to others. In

the 1960's there was a group called the Lovin' Spoonful. One of their songs is entitled: Darling, Be Home Soon. It's the story about a guy who is separated from his girl and he's pining for her to return. The last line of the song is: "I miss the great relief of having you to talk to." We all want someone to talk to, don't we? We all do. But there are few people who are willing to listen. This Lent, let's you and I be numbered among those few people who really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no multi-tasking, no looking around, no humorous remarks, just listening, allowing the other person to tell their story. Listening demands time, listening demands effort, listening demands humility. To listen is to risk that our conversation might develop into friendship. To listen is to hear about and be concerned about the other person's problems when I have problems of my own. In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul tells us: "Love is patient, love is kind, love is not selfish, love is never rude." And of course, he doesn't say it, but it is implied: Love takes time. Don't you think that that description of love is also a description of a good listener? A good listener is patient, a good listener is kind, and a good listener is neither selfish nor rude. To listen is to love. This Lent – LISTEN!!