

Reflection for October 3, 2021

The Twenty-seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

from Jon Metz

Let me say a few words about relationships. Relationships are really important. We know, from Catholic Social Teaching, that God created people as social beings. The absence of this has been especially felt during COVID. With this social aspect of life there is a responsibility to care for one another and to engage and participate in our community. As humans we do this in a special and intentional way in our intimate relationships. Our relationships are great gifts from God. They provide us companionship, comfort, stability and joy. God wants only the best for us. God wants us to be happy.

I know that today's Gospel can be difficult, even hurtful, to some of us as Jesus addresses the topic of divorce. Statistics tell us that half of all marriages today end in divorce. I remember when my parents got divorced when I was in middle school. I was sad and angry. I remember asking my mom about this reading and her response was, "Of course marriage is the ideal. It was what I wanted, and it is what the Church holds up as the ideal, but that does not mean it always works that way." We do have plans and ideals, and it is ok to name those, but life is also just messy. It does not always go to plan. Our job as people of faith is to lift each other up... especially when plans do not go the way we want or expect. Let us remember each other in the messiness of the human experience and do what we can to support each other. After all, God made us social so we could lift each other up.

- Do you know a person who is suffering right now because things didn't go according to plan?
- What can you do to lift this person up?
- How can we as a Church do better to comfort those who feel alienated?