

## **The Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **Reflection for October 17, 2021**

from Jon Metz

Pride. Pride is a challenging thing. On one hand we want to have confidence in who we are and what we do. On the other hand, we are called by our faith as the Jesuit priest Father Pedro Arrupe stated, to be “men and women for others.” Without a sense of confidence, we could be left empty and without purpose, drive or direction, but our pride also has a way of sneaking up on us in a way that can be disproportionate and even harmful.

In today’s Gospel, James and John ask to be placed at the right and left hand of Christ. They have a sense that they have earned this. At the very least they admit to desiring this prestigious place. I think we can all relate to this feeling – this feeling of wanting more, wanting prominence or wanting credit. It is natural. After all, we work hard and should be happy with the people we have become. The problem is when we lose sight of the “other.” When we put ourselves on a pedestal rather than taking the posture that Christ gives us in the “Washing of the Feet.” Our challenge is to put our pride in an appropriate context that motivates us to be men and women for others.

- Do you struggle with your pride?
- What is something you have done for someone else lately?
- How can you personally be a “man or woman for others?”