

RELATIONS: POWER AND MUTUALITY - REFLECTION



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

Grace: That we develop a sense of power that is just and serves a good purpose

What kind of man is needed today by the Church, by the world? A man who is a “man-for-others.” That is my shorthand description of him. A man-for-others. But does this not contradict the very nature of man? Is not man a “being-for-himself?” Gifted with intelligence that endows him with power, does he not tend to control the world, making himself its center? Is this not the vocation, the history of man?

Yes; man, gifted with conscience, intelligence and powers is indeed a center. But a center called to go out of himself, to give himself to others in love—love, which is his definitive and all-embracing dimension, that which gives meaning to all his other dimensions. Only he who loves fully realizes himself as a man. To the extent that he shuts himself off from others man does not become more a person; he becomes less.

The man who lives only for his own interests not only provides nothing for others. He does worse. He tends to accumulate in exclusive fashion more and more knowledge, more and more power, more and more wealth; thus denying, inevitably to those weaker than himself their proper share of the God-given means for human development.

Pedro Arrupe - Men for Others

But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

John 15:15-16

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How do I relate to power? Have I ever abused of the power I had? How did it make me feel at the beginning and after some time?