

On teamwork – Reflection 6

This is not my story that I share with you but comes from one of my dear friends who emails me from time to time with the desire to inspire me and encourage me in my work here in the Philippines. Well I think it did both and I hope it will do the same for you. It made us, here in Hilongos, think and gave us a good topic for discussion. Team work will be vital for us if we are to succeed in what we are trying to do. I also sent a copy to Br Philip Pinto as I believe there is a lesson for the whole Congregation as we go through this difficult time of change. As long as we are pulling in the right direction and altogether we will be successful. It looks like we will be involved as teachers in the little catholic school when the new academic year starts in June. It goes from Kindergarten to 10th grade. (400 students) Fostering a spirit of teamwork is critical in times of change. The key element is trust. Trust for the leader and trust for each other.

There is a wonderful story from the play, "Some Folks Feel the Rain; Others Just Get Wet" that truly captures how people really feel about working together. Here it is...Enjoy!

A man was lost while driving through the country. As he tried to reach for the map, he accidentally drove off the road into a ditch. Though he wasn't injured, his car was stuck deep in the mud. So the man walked to a nearby farm to ask for help.

"Warwick can get you out of that ditch," said the farmer, pointing to an old mule standing in a field. The man looked at the decrepit old mule and looked at the farmer who just stood there repeating, "Yep, old Warwick can do the job." The man figured he had nothing to lose. The two men and the mule made their way back to the ditch. The farmer hitched the mule to the car. With a snap of the reins, he shouted,

"Pull, Pat! Pull, Jack! Pull, Fred! Pull, Warwick!"

And the mule pulled that car right out of the ditch.

The man was amazed. He thanked the farmer, patted the mule, and asked, "Why did you call out all of those names before you called Warwick?"

The farmer grinned and said, "Old Warwick is just about blind. As long as he believes he's part of a team, he doesn't mind pulling."