



# Food for the Soul

## *Topic*

### *Marianist Family Collaboration: An Amazing Partnership*

## The Four Cs of Collaboration

By Carol Ramey

**Coordination:** Sometimes in teams trying to collaborate, the need for coordination, the role of someone with the big picture is missing. Collaboration sometimes is interpreted as equal say in how the process is going. No, it means everyone has a chance to contribute, from his or her special gift of perspective, but someone has to place the pieces into the puzzle in a way that the pictures comes into sight.

**Creativity:** Each person has a unique “eye” for something that might fit into the puzzle that not everyone else sees. It is a composite of creative gifts that help accomplish the task at hand.

**Cooperation:** A synonym for “collaboration” but cannot be taken for granted. We cannot assume everyone on a collaborative team will cooperate. There is a phenomenon called emergence which basically means the “whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” In organizational theory it is referred to as the complex process whereby the right person or idea emerges exactly at the right moment. This cannot happen if we have a team of “Lone Rangers.” It will only happen within a collaborative environment.

**Communication:** When we bring our spiritual selves to collaboration, we know that communication depends on people having good listening skills, an attention to avoiding negative words and gestures (like sarcasm or eye-rolling). It takes internal discipline to know when to speak up, when to let the group be silent for time to think, when to truly listen (instead of planning the next thing we are going to say). We believe the Spirit is present and gives us strength for the required discipline.



*Suggestion: Find YouTube Video Clips from the movie Apollo 13 for further discussion on collaboration.*



## Sense of a Goose (Author Known)

Next  
 fall, when  
 you see Geese  
 heading South for  
 the Winter, flying along  
 in V formation, you might  
 consider what science has dis-  
 covered as to why they fly that way:  
 as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an  
 uplift for the bird immediately following. By  
 flying in V formation the whole flock adds at least  
 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.  
*People who share a common direction and sense of community  
 can get where they are going more quickly and easily  
 because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.*  
 When  
 a goose falls  
 out of formation,  
 it suddenly feels the drag  
 and resistance of trying to go it alone  
 and quickly gets back into formation to take  
 advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.



## Quotations for Reflection

“Art is the collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better.” - Andre Gide

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. . . .

It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” - Andrew Carnegie

“When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.” - Ethiopian Proverb

**LORD**, bless us in our searching and our questions:

The way to wisdom, enlightenment  
and peace, the way to our hearts.  
May the Lord bless us in our gifts:  
These are God’s providence to the world  
to ennoble it, to enrich it, to bring it to love.

May the Lord bless us in our vision:  
No matter the climb, it is a mountain peak  
calling us to experience God.

May the Lord bless us in our leadership:  
That we may witness to the Word,  
the Word that is searched and contemplated,  
professed and proclaimed.

**LORD**, bless us in our reflections and ideas:  
No matter the doubts,  
they are seeds seeking nourishment,  
sunshine, life-giving water.  
May the Lord bless us in all our ways,  
**AMEN**



### Closing Prayer

(adapted from <http://prayers.htm>)



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