

**Sts. Peter and Paul
St. Mary, Siloam Springs**

We've often heard it said that "two heads are better than one." This is certainly true in my own life. I've often benefited from the ideas and solutions that occur to others that never would have popped into my head. No one person has the corner on creativity. And then I've noticed that two people working together can accomplish so much more than one person by themselves: one person's strengths compliment the weaknesses of the other. Just think of the great duos of recent history. In the movies there was the incomparable Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. In comedy we all remember Laurel and Hardy, Abbott and Costello, and Cheech and Chong. In crime fighting there was Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, and my personal favorite, Batman and Robin. In sports you had Roger Staubach and Lynn Swan for the Cowboys, and Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul Jabbar in Los Angeles. Heck even here at St. Mary's Fr. Tyler and I compliment each other. I'm older, and wiser, and more handsome, while, he is, well, young. But you see, two heads are better than one.

This weekend the pope decided to make the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul supercede the 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time. That's why today's readings are not the ones you would expect for this Sunday. The Holy Father wants to kick off today a whole year focused on the person and mission of St. Paul. But the pope knows that "two heads are better than one," so he chose this double feast of Peter and Paul to

start things off. You could say that in Church history, they are the greatest “dynamic duo.” And like all great pairs, the strengths of one compliment the weaknesses of the other. For example, St. Peter preached to the Jews, while Paul preached to the Gentiles. Peter stayed for the most part in Jerusalem, while Paul traveled all over the known world. Peter was an uneducated fisherman, while Paul was a high educated Pharisee. St. Paul, prior to his conversion, tried to destroy the Church, while St. Peter was the rock on which Jesus built His Church. You see, one of the reasons the Church grew so much and expanded so rapidly in those early years is due to the two holy and zealous leaders that guided her, Peter and Paul. On this double feast, it’s easy to see that two heads are better than one.

Recently, I’ve been reading a book by John Maxwell called, *The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork*. His contention is that you can achieve so much more working together as a team than as a “lone ranger.” Let me share some quotations that he cites in the first chapter. He quotes an old Chinese proverb that states: “Behind every able man there are always other able men.” Here in the U.S. we could easily change “man” to “woman,” and we better, too! Later he recalls what President Lyndon Johnson once said: “There are no problems we can not solve together, and very few we can solve by ourselves.” Think about that for a minute. He also quotes another U.S. president, Woodrow Wilson, who said: “We should not only use all the brains we have, but all that we can borrow.” You see, John Maxwell makes his point

very emphatically that nothing of great value was ever accomplished by going it alone, it was always the result of teamwork. He summarizes his argument by saying: "individuals play the game, but teams win championships." I bet Kobe Bryant is thinking that very same thing right now! Obviously, John Maxwell believes that "two heads are better than one."

Folks, are you ever tempted to think you can do things better on your own than together with another person, or with a group? Sometimes in school we face this temptation when we have to work with others on a paper or a project, but we'd rather work alone. On sports teams those with exceptional talent feel that developing players are a burden to the team, and resent them. At work it takes time and patience to train new employees, and we often feel that we could just as well do the task ourselves, and do it so much faster. Sometimes even husbands and wives feel they would be better off alone – perhaps separated or divorced – than living and loving together. You know, it kills me to hear Catholics say, "I can pray to God better in the woods by myself than together with others at Mass, standing next to people who sing off key!" Ever heard anyone say that? Maybe you've said that yourself. Some people even wonder: "Why do I need God or the Church because quite frankly I'm very happy alone." Yes, you can go it alone, but you will miss out on the real joy of living, and you will not accomplish anything of lasting value.

Today we celebrate the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, the greatest “dynamic duo” the Church has known. We marvel at what they achieved together: laying the foundation of the Church. May God give us the grace to work together with others, to accomplish great things for Him. Because you know, there are no “dynamic unos.”

Praised be Jesus Christ!