THE TEACHER WITHIN

by:
Ma. Luisa N. Catli

Simply put, our approach to life has been changed to survival mode from our usual mantra, “live life to the fullest” when the pandemic broke out. Suddenly, everyone was so careful with their choices, so reflective of their own lives, and so protective of their own kin. You could watch news of hoarding and cutting lines to get essential supplies, and a lot of people thought this would be the new norm, survival of the fittest, at least that’s what I’ve thought.

But in over a year of our fight against this unseen enemy, we have seen how everyone reintegrated back into the community to help and get help. Private vehicle owners offer to carpool medical front liners, individuals have set up community pantries, police officers manned borders, even private hotel establishments shifted to either provide food for frontline workers or simply offer hotel-quality food options, to keep their F&B workers despite no guests.

In all this, I have started to ask myself, where does the teacher place him/herself within that community?

The teacher is first and foremost a family member. Before I could list down all the roles the teacher takes in the community, one must understand that the teacher has to ensure the safety of his/her family first, as I have done. Communities are better protected when the basic unit protects itself.

Then the teacher assumes the role of the second parent. While we could not argue that the parent’s responsibility in the online learning setup has multiplied, the teacher continues to worry about a number of students for hours in a day, coupled with technological barriers, network issues, or simple environmental factors causing class
interruptions. Every class day is a challenge for the parent, as it is with the teacher, the second parent.

For me personally, I believe the teacher remains a spiritual individual. When restrictions limited the number of people who could join religious gatherings, mass was celebrated by the same few people needed to respond.

The teacher is also a delivery person! If you have heard of news of teachers having to deliver modules to students, you are right. While this is not always the case, sometimes it had to be done as no second parent would let their child get left behind, much like the real parents.

The teacher is also an IT Trainee. For several instances, I have tried to troubleshoot my own computer unit, navigate through online platforms, learn about the cloud, online assessments and fill online forms. And up to now, I continue to learn, to be.

So, for me, the teacher within continues to be a learner, as the community needs her to be; as the knowledge she imparts are those she has learned herself.

References:

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