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Eremos Consulting Group April 2011 Newsletter



Dear Elizabeth,

This time of year is a sacred time in both the Christian and Jewish traditions. It is a time when we stop and reflect and hope and remember.

We remember

- Those things which have kept us in bondage
- That we can do without
- What we let go of that hinders our progress
- That change, transition, and transformation are difficult
- That in the midst of it we can feel abandoned and experience it as "hell" and as "wandering in the wilderness"

And we remember ...

- That we are not alone
- That community matters, family matters, friendship matters
- That to leave the bondage we must risk stepping out into the unknown future
- That resurrection and the promised land are possible
- That there is a fuller vision for us and for the world which we have only glimpsed
- That the Holy calls us and will guide us as we move into the new life that is beckoning

Spring is a reminder of these messages and more. It sometimes feels trite, but each spring I am struck anew by the daffodils and crocus and tulips, whose bulbs have been hidden in the cold earth for months. They inch their way through hard ground and snow with tender green shoots. And suddenly there is a splash of color announcing that new life is possible.



In the work that I do, I am constantly aware of the life, death, and rebirth struggles that individuals, couples, and congregations are constantly going through. During this sacred time of year we are reminded that life is a process, not a goal; it is a journey, not a destination. And I am reminded again of the words written by Oscar Romero years ago ...

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.*

*Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.*

*No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about:
We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.*

*We cannot do everything
And there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
An opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*We may never see the end results,
But that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.*

Blessings to each of you during this Holy season of the year. May you experience your own transformational journey as you plant seeds, and water those that were planted before you. May tulips break forth in the barren grounds of your life.



Rev. Elizabeth Denham Thompson
Eremos Consulting Group
303-902-7805

Summer Clergy Mini-Sabbaticals Coming!

The feedback was unanimous ... *"Please make the mini-sabbaticals a quarterly offering. They were fun, well put together, relaxing, interesting, stimulating and were great for connecting with others."*



So reserve these dates now ...

- **Thursday, July 21st - Fort Collins, CO**
- **Thursday, August 4th - Loretto Spirituality Center, Lakewood, CO**

More information will be forthcoming, but if you know now that you would like to participate feel free to RSVP directly to either -

Rev. Elizabeth Denham Thompson at ethompson@EremosConsulting.com

Rev. Jane Anne Ferguson at jaferguson11@gmail.com

Openings in Clergy Wellness Groups

There are a small number of openings in existing clergy wellness groups in the front range region of Colorado.

Professionally facilitated, these groups provide clergy with the opportunity to share with each other and to give & receive consultation on professional interests in a safe and supportive environment. A mutual discernment process is required for effective placement in existing groups.

New groups are also being formed, including a Virtual Group for clergy in more remote areas.

Taking its lead from leadership consultation groups across the country, the Virtual Group will meet twice a year in a retreat setting and then meet monthly using today's technology for group conference gatherings. These group conference gatherings allow clergy to stay in their own location, eliminating the need for travel with long drives and sketchy weather conditions.

Professionally facilitated, these groups provide a way for clergy who often feel isolated a way to connect with others serving in similar situations and camaraderie despite the distance.

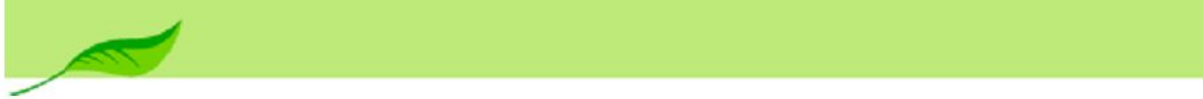
So whether you would like to join an existing group, help form a new group, or are interested in the Virtual Group, there is a place for you to feel connected and where you can safely discuss your life and ministry.

If you are interested, or know someone who is, please forward this information along or contact:



Rev Elizabeth Denham Thompson
303-902-7805
or email ethompson@EremosConsulting.com

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