



eNewsletter of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual

1 December 2012

## **World AIDS Day Ritual December 1, 2012**



The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt

### **Remembering Love's Story By Diann L. Neu**

*World AIDS Day draws attention to the reality of HIV/AIDS that faces the world. The theme for this year's World Aids Day is "Getting to Zero": Zero new HIV infections. Zero deaths from AIDS-related illness. Zero discrimination.*

#### **Light a candle.**

Think of those you know who are living with HIV/AIDS, those who have died of AIDS-related causes, those who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

These beloved ones are with us now. Remembering them reminds us that we are all people living with HIV/AIDS—those we remember, those who have lost loved ones, those who care for them, and every one of us struggling to eradicate this virus. HIV/AIDS has changed our lives.

## **Remembering the Face of HIV/AIDS**

We are friends, partners, lovers, family, and neighbors.

**We know the face of HIV/AIDS. We are here, right here in your midst.**

We are care-sharers, justice workers, health care professionals, social workers, and ministers.

**We know the face of HIV/AIDS. We are here, right here in your midst.**

We are students, teachers, parents, sisters, and brothers.

**We know the face of HIV/AIDS. We are here, right here in your midst.**

Some of us are wise elders; some are caring adults; some are searching youth; some are wonder-filled children.

**We know the face of HIV/AIDS. We are here, right here in your midst.**

Some of us are lesbian; some of us are gay; some of us are straight; some of us are bi; some of us are trans; some of us are queer.

**We know the face of HIV/AIDS. We are here, right here in your midst.**

Some of us have or might get HIV/AIDS.

**We know the face of HIV/AIDS. We are here, right here in your midst.**

Some of us feel angry and sad, fearful and fragile, vulnerable and alone.

**We know the face of HIV/AIDS. We are here, right here in your midst.**

We are multi-colored and many cultured people.

**We know the face of HIV/AIDS. We are here, right here in your midst.**

All of us are people of faith who long for the day when HIV/AIDS is a distant memory.

**We know the face of HIV/AIDS. We are here, right here in your midst.**

**Poem:** "The Concert" by Ken Cierpial, who died with HIV/AIDS October 23, 1992.

For my soulmate, Bob Canavello

I have learned how to learn,  
How to read,  
How to practice.

But today, I am getting ready for my life's performance

By forgetting everything I know  
And letting everything go.

Look! How I am now dancing between the notes  
Of the music that my soul plays!

## **Reflection**

HIV/AIDS affects all of us and takes us to places where we would rather not go. How does HIV/AIDS affect you? What love story do you tell?

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

Compassionate Holy One, open our hearts and minds and hands so that we may connect ourselves to the global community responding to HIV/AIDS as we pray:

We remember all women, men, and children in this country and around the world who are living with HIV/AIDS.

**Justice demands that we remember and respond.**

We remember all who care for people living and dying with HIV/AIDS in their homes, in hospices, and in support centers.

**Justice demands that we remember and respond.**

We remember all who are involved in research and hospital care that they may respect the dignity of each person.

**Justice demands that we remember and respond.**

We remember all partners who are left mourning their beloved ones.

**Justice demands that we remember and respond.**

We remember all parents who learn the truth of their children's lives through their process of facing death.

**Justice demands that we remember and respond.**

## **Prayer of Hope**

We bring together many candles, many lights.  
As those who keep the night watch await the dawn,  
We remain vigilant,  
Until a cure for HIV/AIDS is found,  
Until those dying with HIV/AIDS are comforted,  
Until truth sets us free,

Until love drives out injustice,  
Until we get to zero.  
We shall not give up the fight.

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