

**"SACRED ART OF LIVING AND DYING"  
LIFE DISCERNMENT RETREAT  
(An End of the Year CAC Retreat)**

RG.  
11-12/80

Richard and Mary Groves, creators of the *Enneagram Contemplative Retreat*, and the *Sacred Art of Dying Series*, will bring a unique retreat experience to participants who gather from December 29 through January 1 at the Madonna Center in Albuquerque. **This retreat is based on extensive work with the Enneagram as a tool for addressing spiritual pain at the end-of-life. The Groves interpret the "gifts of the dying" for those of us still very much involved in the "sacred art of living."**

"Our research from medieval Christianity speaks about *spiritual sacramental midwifery* as an apt description of the amazing parallel between being born and the nearly universal experience of the dying process," writes Richard Groves whose work is now being used extensively by hospices and hospitals across the country. The Great Tradition always calls us to explore the place *where life and death kiss* which is why this retreat is so relevant for persons in all stages of life," adds Mary Groves, whose life-long experiences in ministry include her current role as Bereavement Counselor. We die much as we have lived; this is not a threat but a powerful invitation for transformation. By studying the unique patterns of what each enneagram often presents at the end-of-life, we can profoundly learn about the real meaning of life. The wonderful paradox here is that it is truly the dying who become our great teachers in living with enhanced spirit, meaning and purpose.

The Groves are enthusiastic about coming to New Mexico to present this retreat experience which is consistently called "life changing" by so many people. Regardless of how much we may have studied the Enneagram, this retreat process offers powerful new insight into a spiritual tool that has the power to cut through decades of personal resistance to growth. Other national retreat centers have remarked that, "This retreat is utterly and un-apologetically spiritual . . . returning us to the Enneagram's essential soul work."

The four-day, three-night program incorporates a rich variety of cultural and spiritual experiences that draw on sacred arts and are described as a "feast for the senses." The Groves also weave a unique perspective on the Enneagram that includes a tour of the world's great contemplative traditions and skills of spiritual discernment from Judeo-Christianity. Creative presentations are followed by nine different prayer experiences that enable participants to ponder a particular *sacred question*. Ample periods of quiet reflection lead the soul to assess life priorities and *"Let yourself be silently drawn by the stronger pull of what you really love."*—Rumi. The Groves have much to offer drawing from their twenty years of experience as Catholic film and video producers including the De Sales Adult Education program and the InnerAction Series. As religious educators and chaplains, Richard and Mary bring the gift of being a real team: "Our passion is to show the connection between ancient tradition and contemporary application . . . the ultimate concerns of life and death. This retreat works because people only need to come to life exactly as it is; the rest is a grace which can rarely be achieved in isolation, but miraculously happens together under the tent of community."

Cost (includes Friday dinner through Monday lunch): single occupancy \$300; double occupancy \$275; commuter (includes meals) \$185.

Note: *Richard Rohr will be present and will conduct final eucharistic liturgy.*

is to Date in 2000

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