

Afscheid Anneke



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Anneke Kemper – A Leader full of Wisdom and Compassion

True leadership is based on the ability to overcome one's need to affirm a sense of power and the willingness to surpass one's self. A true leader takes on the quest to form a leadership that seeks to find and cultivate the quality of leadership and value in each person. This type of leadership is a genuine expression of wisdom and compassion: a wisdom that encompasses an understanding of one's self and others; a compassion that is extended all, without discrimination. It requires that one has is clear and firm in one's perspective of things so as one's yes is yes and one's no is no (James 5:12).

When such a leadership is placed in the realm of health care chaplaincy, its meaning and significance has a great point of gravity. It is directed to the spiritual 'well-being' of the sufferer, his or her family and those that care for them, a 'well being' that is related to the community of the faithful and the community at large. The cultivation of personal strengths and charisma is essential. Discernment and the ability to care are important in offering a sense of meaning and hope.

When I first met Anneke Kemper at the European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy's Eighth Consultation that took place in Dublin, Ireland in September of 2004, I immediately noticed her strong qualities of leadership. Her firmness and her genuine ability to be compassionate came out in a glow that radiated from her inner being. She was dynamic in such a way that it was obvious that she loved the true qualities of life, that she was committed to her work and dedicated the development of health care chaplaincy at large. This was recognized by all of the participants European Network in that she has been elected twice as a member of the Network Committee.

In serving as a member of the Network Committee throughout the years, Anneke has made a great contribution in that she has given a broad perspective of chaplaincy, many times crossing traditional lines while maintaining a serious and professional stance. She is willing to listen and understand, even if she has objections in the position the other takes. Her honesty promotes a feeling of trust and reliability on an interpersonal level. But most of all, throughout her term as President of the VGVZ and as a member of the Network Committee of the ENHCC, she been a strong believer of European Chaplaincy – a believer of unity and fellowship, of co-learning and co-operation.

Although Anneke's term as President of the VGVZ is ending, she will continue to be a vital resource for all of us in Europe, both on a professional and personal level.

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