

# Welcome to the Henri Nouwen Society inaugural NEWSLETTER!

henri nouwen  
SOCIETY

As July is now upon us, we thought it would be nice to connect and let you know what we've been up to, fill you in on some of our exciting initiatives, and let you know what we have planned for the coming year – as well as to wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer!

www.henrinouwen.org

Summer 2017

# HNS NEWSLETTER

## Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,



I suspect many of you share my experience of being introduced to Henri Nouwen through a book offered by a trusted friend at “just the right time” – a time when we most needed to hear Henri’s wisdom and encouragement. Over and over again I hear stories of people discovering a passage or a book of Henri’s that feeds their heart and their spirit just when they needed it most.

Since taking on the role of executive director, I have met countless kindred spirits who love and value the writings and teachings of Henri Nouwen – people who have been touched by Henri’s transformative words. With that in mind, I’d encourage you to pass on your favorite quotes or books by Henri. He offers readers such life-giving insights into the intricacies of the human heart.

*Thank you, Henri, for leaving us the legacy of your own search for meaning – and for helping to instill in us that we are each beloved daughters and sons of a passionate and caring God - now and for all eternity!*

Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

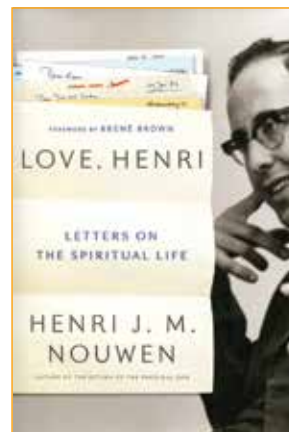
*Karen Pascal*

## Love, Henri

As many of you know, Henri Nouwen’s new book *Love Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life* is a selection of over two hundred letters (from the thousands collected for the project) that Henri sent to friends, colleagues, and even complete strangers who had written to him seeking spiritual counsel and direction. The book was edited by Gabrielle Earnshaw.

One of the highlights of last year’s *Way of the Heart* conference was Gabrielle and Joe Abbey-Colborne’s presentation of the letters. Gabrielle treated the audience to an engaging timeline of Henri’s life

and spiritual journey while Joe offered a compelling and convincing portrait of Henri – Dutch accent and all!



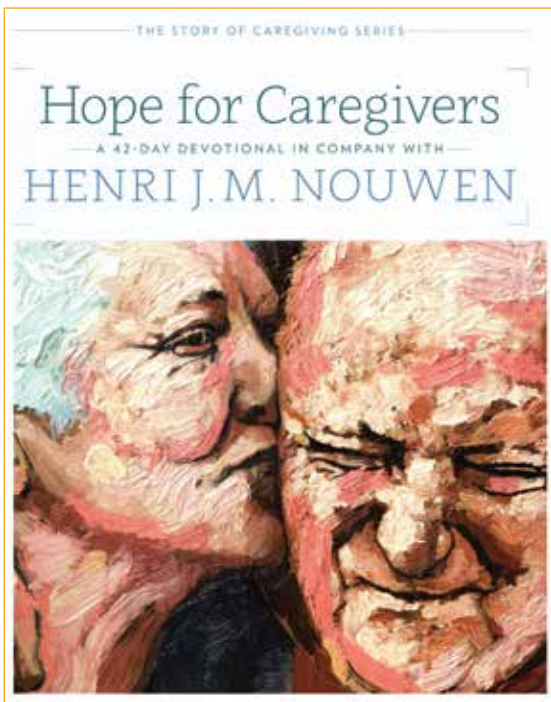
The presentation proved such a success it’s now been booked at numerous other events – including two recent gatherings at the Trinity St-Paul Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts in Toronto and the Summer Institute 2017 at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.

If you haven’t done so already, be sure to pick up a copy of *Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life*. It makes great summer reading – and it was named by Publishers Weekly as one of the top five religious books of 2016.

## Journey of the Heart Screened in Minnesota

Before Karen Pascal became executive director of the Henri Nouwen Society, she spent years as an independent film and television producer/director. Among her credits are the outstanding BBC production *C.S. Lewis: Beyond Narnia*, a penetrating profile of Jean Vanier titled *Belonging*, and *Hidden Heroes*, a real-life account of some of the individuals and families who risked everything by hiding Jews from the Nazis during WWII.

At the invitation of Dr. James Smith, a former student of Henri’s, Karen recently visited Chapel Bethel Seminary in Saint Paul, MN, to present her documentary *Journey of the Heart: the Life of Henri Nouwen*. She had a wonderful time meeting Nouwen fans from around the Midwest and was delighted to be able to introduce him to others through her film. Thanks to all in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area for your gracious hospitality and support!



## Hope and Courage for Caregivers

Church Health of Memphis and the Henri Nouwen Society have partnered to create resources for those in caregiving roles – whether professional caregivers, or those who find themselves unexpectedly caring for a family member or loved one. *Hope for Caregivers* is a six-week devotional filled with meaningful passages by Henri Nouwen, prayers, and Scripture readings aimed at encouraging and nourishing the hearts, minds and spirits of those overwhelmed and drained by the demands of tending to someone who requires constant care. The devotional is available through our website: [henrinouwen.org](http://henrinouwen.org).

Coming this fall is another new publication aimed specifically at those who, either by choice or by circumstance, find themselves in the role of caregiver. *Courage for Caregivers* by Marjorie Thompson (and its companion workbook) will be an invaluable resource for all caregivers in need of inner courage, peace, patience, and self-care.

HNS will be rolling out caregiving workshops beginning later this year and expanding to various centers around North America throughout 2018. We'll keep you posted on our website.

## Save the Date!



On Friday, August 18, and Saturday, August 19, 2017, the Henri Nouwen Society and St. Matthew Catholic Church in Charlotte, NC, present *Living a Compassionate Life: Reflections on the Writings and Teachings of Henri Nouwen*. Keynote speaker on Friday evening and Saturday is Fr. Ron Rolheiser.

If you love Nouwen and you're up for a road trip, this is a gathering not to be missed! For more information, check our website at [henrinouwen.org](http://henrinouwen.org)

On November 3 - 4, HNS partners with Yale Divinity School and the Thomas Merton Center to host *Nouwen and Merton: Contemplatives in Action*. Speakers include Robert Ellsberg, Monica Weis, Michael Higgins, and Jim Forrest. Registration details and more information will be posted on our website over the coming weeks.

A two-day conference on *Liberation Spirituality* is planned for February 9 – 10, 2018, at the University of San Diego. Details are on our website.

## What Are You Listening To?

If you spend much time in the car (or on the treadmill), you probably listen to a lot of radio or tunes on a playlist. You could be spending that time nourishing your spirit with actual talks by Henri Nouwen available on audio CDs and MP3s. These significant and edifying recordings will transform your time in the car or the gym into the best part of your day. You can find a list of Henri Nouwen's recordings at [nowyouknowmedia.com](http://nowyouknowmedia.com)



## An Encouraging Word from Henri

*You are not what others, or even you, think about yourself. You are not what you do. You are not what you have. You are a full member of the human family, having been known before you were conceived and molded in your mother's womb... Choose now and continue to choose this incredible truth. As a spiritual practice claim and reclaim your primal identity as beloved daughter or son of a personal Creator. – Home Tonight*

**Have a wonderful summer!**

Henri Nouwen Society | [www.henrinouwen.org](http://www.henrinouwen.org) | 1-866-226-2158