

Welcome to the Henri Nouwen Society Summer 2019 NEWSLETTER!



henri nouwen
SOCIETY

www.henrinouwen.org

It's that time of year again – time for shorts, sandals, and sunblock. It's also the speediest time of the year. (At least that's how it feels!) So make sure to get out and enjoy this wonderful season before it whizzes by. Whatever your plans, we wish you a safe and blessed summer.

Summer 2019

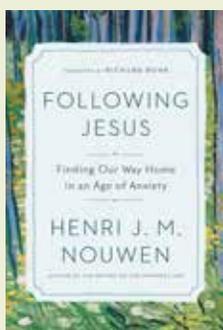
HNS NEWSLETTER

Following Jesus

A new book by Henri J. M. Nouwen is coming in September!

At one of the lowest points in his life, Henri Nouwen gave a series of lectures on the importance of following Jesus in an age of anxiety. Drawn from those talks, *Following Jesus* reveals the deep turmoil and sometimes turbulent inner life of a man who has become an icon of compassion and vulnerability for Christians and non-Christians alike.

In *Following Jesus*, Henri speaks eloquently about calling and purpose and he explains why, with so many choices available to the twenty-first-century seeker, the greatest reward for those looking for fulfillment is to choose belief in God. Along the way he offers insightful spiritual



practices to help readers navigate the narrow, sometimes arduous, but ultimately fulfilling road of conviction and faith.

The book is available for pre-order now at penguinrandomhouse.com (USA) and penguinrandomhouse.ca (Canada).

Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I so look forward to summer. Not only because of the wonderful weather, but because summer offers the opportunity to relax, revitalize, and refocus – an opportunity that's especially welcome during the very busy, yet rewarding, year that we continue to have.

Our latest book in the caregiving series will be released in the coming weeks. *Reflections on Caregiving* by Michelle O'Rourke offers Henri Nouwen's compassionate approach to caregiving and self-care to those tasked with caring as a profession. It will be available as an eBook or paperback through Kindle Direct Publishing. Details will be on our website.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about a very exciting initiative for children called the *Wisdom Project*.



The response to our initial proposals for this project has been phenomenal, suggesting there is incredible need to help young children understand who they are and how they fit in. We are delighted and honored to be able to impact young lives in such a positive way.

And, of course, we are very busy planning for special events to be held throughout 2021, the 25th anniversary of Henri's death. Please check our website at henrinouwen.org for updates as they become available.

From all of us at HNS, best wishes for a happy and rejuvenating summer season!

Executive Director

Oral History Project

Earlier this year, we had a lovely visit with Peggy McDonnell Walsh, a friend of Henri's who frequently offered him the use of her guesthouse as a secluded space to write. Peggy had some wonderful stories to tell of her times with Henri – which we recorded to include in the Oral History Project. Many thanks to all of you who donated to help keep this very important project moving forward!



Our New Children's Initiative



Without exaggeration, we are over-the-moon excited about a dynamic new outreach we are developing called the *Wisdom Project*. This delightful initiative is designed to imbue grade school children with a sense of identity, belonging and purpose in life by having them examine their own experience in light of classical philosophy and Christian spirituality.

If it sounds heavy, it's not!

Presented as engaging, interactive videos, the Wisdom Project encourages children to apply thought and wisdom to their daily interaction with others while equipping them with the tools for sound decision-making and positive actions. This will be an innovative and invaluable program for young people – and a wonderful way to introduce Henri Nouwen to a new generation!

This inventive and entertaining outreach to 10-year-olds will be reinforced by easy-to-follow video tutorials and teachers' guides to ensure the Wisdom Project sustains long-term results for a lasting impact. We are aiming to have the Wisdom Project ready to go by early 2020.

Podcasts for You to Enjoy!

If you receive Henri Nouwen's *Daily Meditations*, you are familiar with our podcasts that feature intriguing profiles and conversations with people such as Sue Mosteller, Jean Vanier, Robert Ellsberg, Gabrielle Earnshaw, Ron Rolheiser and Shane Claiborne – all of whom have a profound connection with Henri. But if you don't subscribe to the free *Daily Meditations*, you might not be aware that we archive all of the podcasts on our website.

You can access them whenever you want. Simply go to henrinouwen.org and choose RESOURCES, then click on PODCASTS from the drop-down menu.

...And while you're there, subscribe to our free Daily Meditations!

A Word from Henri

Here's a lovely thought from Henri to encourage you every day this summer and beyond...

Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy. It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity.

– Bread for the Journey

Courage for Caregivers Update

In response to the ever-growing number of family caregivers, the Henri Nouwen Society has published a series of books geared toward supporting and encouraging the important work that caregivers do. The *Courage for Caregivers* series is filled with stories of caregiving, and inspiring wisdom found in Henri's writings as well as his own life experiences, both as a caregiver and care receiver. The books can be used personally, or as resources for retreats or support groups.

Over the last year, we have had the wonderful opportunity to offer our one-day caregiving retreats in Canada and the USA to those who care for others, either personally or professionally. These days are a chance for carers to come together with others who share similar challenges, and a place to share their stories. It is also an opportunity to be inspired by what they do, and be nourished and refreshed. The days include time for learning, for sharing in small groups, as well as personal reflection time. Participants have shared with us how valuable they find these days:

"From the opening welcome to the closing prayer, it was evident that we, the participants and caregivers, were loved, appreciated and being cared for."

"I sat with an amazing group of women from different backgrounds but similar caregiving situations. It was so easy to share and talk to each other."

Training sessions are now being developed to help those who work with caregivers learn to use these materials in their own settings. Visit the website for information on upcoming events.