Greetings from the Executive Director – Karen Pascal

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a beautiful reminder of the Incarnation and God’s eternal love for each of us. Christmas is also a reminder that another year has come and gone. The passing of time offers an interesting paradox in that it is both invisible yet so perceptible, nostalgic yet hopeful and full of promise.

This paradoxical reality that permeates our existence is expressed beautifully by Henri Nouwen:

Our life is a short time in expectation, a time in which sadness and joy kiss each other at every moment. But this intimate experience in which every bit of life is touched by a bit of death can point us beyond the limits of our existence. It can do so by making us look forward in expectation to the day when our hearts will be filled with perfect joy, a joy that no one shall take away from us.

My Christmas wish for you is that you may be blessed beyond measure in the midst of whatever happiness or sorrow you may encounter. And may you have a renewed expectation for the joy that awaits you. A joy that no one shall take away!

Karen Pascal
Executive Director

Our New Addition!

Liz Leake has joined our small, dynamic team at the Henri Nouwen Society. Liz takes on the role of Events & Development Coordinator. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in the world of non-profits and Christian outreach. Welcome, Liz. Great to have you with us!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT THE HENRI NOUWEN SOCIETY
The Henri Nouwen Play

This time last year we announced that the Henri Nouwen Society and the Sheen Center for Thought and Culture were about to collaborate on a play based on the life of Henri Nouwen. Well, the time since that announcement has been extremely productive. The script by Scottish playwright Murray Watts has been workshopped twice in New York by a group of professional actors – and we are hoping to move toward production in the very near future.

Of course, mounting this wonderfully unique and creative production is dependent on a number of factors, particularly the financing. We will be looking at a variety of possibilities, including corporate sponsorship and/or investment opportunities. We will be greatly appreciative if you can get the word out to anyone who might be interested in lending their support. What a splendid opportunity to introduce Henri to new audiences. Literally!

25th Anniversary Conference

As many of you know, 2021 marks the 25th anniversary of Henri Nouwen’s death. The Henri Nouwen Society and the University of St Michael’s College of the University of Toronto are joining together to present a three-day conference exploring Spiritual Formation as Viewed by Henri Nouwen.

This promises to be a dynamic, impactful event featuring a host of exciting speakers and presenters – and one that is not to be missed. The conference will be held at various locations throughout the beautiful U of T campus, situated right in the heart of downtown Toronto. If you’ve never been to Toronto, plan on adding a few extra days to explore everything this beautiful city has to offer.

Dates will be posted on our website as soon as they are announced. We hope that you can join us!

An Update on Caregiving

One of the most significant and appreciated outreaches the Henri Nouwen Society has developed over the last few years is our Courage for Caregivers books and retreats for at-home caregivers. Too often the one providing care neglects – or just doesn’t have time – to care for themselves. A natural extension of this outreach is to encourage and spiritually nourish those who are in the profession of caregiving.

Healthy Caregiving by Michelle O’Rourke does just that. A much sought-after speaker and retreat facilitator, Michelle brings more than 35 years of experience as a Registered Nurse, primarily in critical care and emergency. The book will be available on March 1, 2020, through Novalis Books in Canada and Twenty-Third Publications in the United States.

**HENRI NOUWEN SOCIETY**
**Toll Free: 1-866-226-2158**  
**Email: admin@henrinouwen.org**  
**www.henrinouwensociety.org**