

# Welcome to the Henri Nouwen Society Winter 2018 NEWSLETTER!

henri nouwen  
SOCIETY  
www.henrinouwen.org

It's hard to believe we are drawing close to the end of another year. As we prepare to transition into 2019, we thought it would be a good time to fill you in on highlights from the year past, and what we have planned for the year ahead!

Winter 2018

# HNS NEWSLETTER

## Our Christmas Gift to You

As a religious organization that depends on gifts, we need to periodically solicit your support. We all know we couldn't do what we do without your generosity.



That said, receiving is great, but so is giving! This Christmas we're flipping things around. WE want to give a gift to YOU!

In her previous career, Executive Director Karen Pascal was an independent film and television producer. In 2004 she produced and directed an award-winning biography of Henri Nouwen called *Journey of the Heart*. This captivating film is a must-see glimpse into the heart, mind, and life of one of the most influential spiritual writers of his time.

And it's our gift to you. No strings attached! Simply go to: [henrinouwen.org/resources/videos](http://henrinouwen.org/resources/videos)

Be sure to share!

## Greetings from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Earlier this year I wrote to you about the prevalence of loneliness in today's culture. Interestingly,

a recent story in the Washington Post identified loneliness as being in "epidemic proportions" and stated that "there is a growing consensus that loneliness — not obesity, cancer or heart disease — is the nation's number one health crisis."

Henri Nouwen struggled throughout his life with loneliness and anxiety. Yet, because of his relationship with God and his ability to articulate his thoughts and wisdom, his words speak hope and encouragement to so many who suffer from loneliness.

The Henri Nouwen Society continues to focus on addressing this very personal

crisis by bringing light into the cracks of peoples' lives through various outreaches, initiatives, and, of course, Henri's deep insights — a feast of spiritual nutrition for the heart.

The Christmas season is replete with meaning and joy, yet it can be especially difficult for those afflicted with loneliness. Please remember to reach out and connect with family members and friends who might be anxious or depressed — and remind them they are indeed a beloved daughter or son of the living God.

May you and yours have a joyous and peace-filled Christmas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Karen Pascal".

Executive Director

## Sister Sue Represents!



Sr. Sue Mosteller, one of the original founders of the Henri Nouwen Society and a close personal friend of Henri's from his time at L'Arche Daybreak, continues to represent the Henri Nouwen Society through her many speaking engagements and retreats. Sue recently co-hosted a very successful international gathering in Trosly, France, that focused on Henri's classic favorite *The Return of the Prodigal Son*.  
— Thank you, Sr. Sue!

## An Update on the Oral History Project

As many of you know, we recently launched a fundraising drive for our Oral History Project. Thanks to your support, we will be able to continue capturing vital interviews with people who knew Henri Nouwen well during different times throughout his career as a priest and social activist, as an influential lecturer at Notre Dame, Yale, and Harvard, and during his final years of “downward mobility” at L’Arche Daybreak.

This is an ongoing, time-sensitive project that will speak deeply and wonderfully about the life of Henri Nouwen and will continue to influence lives for generations to come. A sincere thank you to all who donated to this important project!

## The Play’s the Thing!

We are excited to announce that the story of Henri Nouwen is coming to the stage!

The Henri Nouwen Society has embarked on a very special project in partnership with the Sheen Center for Thought and Culture in New York City. We have co-commissioned playwright Murray Watts to write a play based on the life of Henri Nouwen. Murray is a seasoned and gifted playwright whose work has been produced throughout the UK and in London’s West End. He also possesses a great love for the writings of Henri Nouwen.

The first draft of the play will be ready in January. We aim to stage the initial production in Toronto before the play heads to New York. Our goal is to have the production ready to tour by 2021, the 25th anniversary of Henri’s death.

This is a wonderful and creative way to introduce Henri to new audiences. Stay tuned for updates!



## A Daily Advent Prayer from Henri Nouwen

*Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, “Come Lord Jesus!”*

## A New Book for Caregiving Professionals – “Reflections on Caregiving”

We are pleased to announce that a new book will be added to our ‘Caregivers’ series in the coming year. Michelle O’Rourke, one of our retreat facilitators and author of *Befriending Death: Henri Nouwen and a Spirituality of Dying*, is adapting *Courage for Caregivers* for those who provide care in a professional capacity. *Reflections on Caregiving* explores the concepts of care and compassion, and focus on ways to build resilience and remain healthy while providing care to others. Check our website for updates – and to order other books from our Caregivers series.



We exist so others can experience the unconditional love of God that Henri Nouwen discovered in his life.