

Welcome to the Henri Nouwen Society Summer 2018 NEWSLETTER!



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SOCIETY
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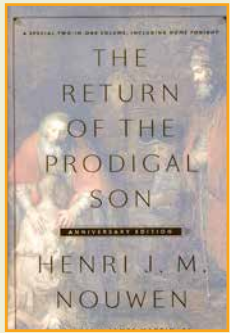
What are your plans this summer? Travel? The cottage? Spending time at the beach or relaxing in a hammock with a good book? Whatever you do, we wish you a safe, enjoyable, and blessed summer. And to help kick it off, here's a few things of interest from the Henri Nouwen Society. Happy Summer 2018!

Summer 2018

HNS NEWSLETTER

Summer Reading Recommendation

Summer is always a great time to catch up on the books you've been intending to read since... well, since last summer. Whatever it is that feeds your mind and imagination, be it intrigue, mystery, romance, biographies or science fiction, be sure to leave a little room for something to feed your spiritual self as well.



In a recent discussion with journalists, Pope Francis listed ten books that have had a lasting influence on him. The list is surprisingly varied. But

not surprisingly, each selection helped contribute to his understanding of humanity, the world, and God. Interestingly, #6 on the pope's list is Henri Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. (In his book *Pope Francis, Pray for Me*, Robert Moynihan writes that Henri Nouwen is a favorite author of the pope.) If you haven't read *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, be sure to put this book on your list of must-reads this summer. It's a fascinating, intimate, and uplifting analysis of Rembrandt's glorious masterpiece that overflows with Nouwen's inimitable food for the soul.

Greetings from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As much as I love all the seasons – spring with its promises of new beginnings, glorious autumn with its reminder that

without death there can be no new life, and the bone-chilling cold of winter that never fails to give me a renewed appreciation for home – summer is the time I feel most free and invigorated.

Early sunrises and late sunsets, street festivals, barbecues on the patio, drives to the country, campfires, late-evening strolls by the lake – these are just a few of the fruits of this most wonderful season. It is also the one season where I consciously make time for myself. Time to relax, time to read, time to appreciate my life, my relationships, my

place in the world. In particular, I take time to thank God for the incredible community of people, people like you, who make up the Henri Nouwen Society.

Thank you for journeying with us throughout the year via our Daily Meditations, Henri's books, and our various events, retreats and outreaches. And thank you for supporting our work.

On behalf of all of us at HNS, I wish you a happy and blessed summer season. May you find renewed hope, joy, and purpose during the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Everybody Loves Love, Henri!

What started out as a unique way to complement a speaking engagement has turned into something of a mini-cottage industry for book editor Gabrielle Earnshaw and actor Joe Abbey-Colborne.

Shortly after the release of *Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life*, Gabrielle delivered a presentation on the book at our *Way of the Heart Conference* in 2016. She invited Joe to read some of the letters as Henri Nouwen.

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Everybody Loves *Love, Henri!*

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The response was immediate. People loved it. Many felt they had just spent an hour not only with the book's editor, but with Henri Nouwen himself. In no time, Gabrielle and Joe were asked to do the presentation at another event. Then another. Then another... Well, you get the picture.

Check our website for information on future presentations of *Love, Henri*. If your church or organization would like to bring this event to your community, please contact Colette Halferty at chalferty@henrinouwen.org.

For fans of Henri Nouwen, it's an evening like no other.

Caregiving Liftoff!

Our *Courage for Caregivers* one-day retreats have proven to be a greatly appreciated resource for at-home and professional caregivers. To date we've had four wonderful retreats, with more on the horizon. If you are in proximity of any of the locations listed here, we'd love to have you join us for these very special events. Tickets are available through Eventbrite.com.

- July 28th at the Mercy Conference & Retreat Center in St. Louis, Missouri
- September 20th at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph, Ontario
- October 27th at Arlington Woods Free Methodist Church in Ottawa, Ontario (registration opens July 1st.)

There are now three companion caregiving books available for purchase on our

website, each imbued with the wisdom and compassion of Henri Nouwen. *Courage for Caregivers: Sustenance for the Journey* and *Courage for Caregivers: A Retreat Participants Workbook* are valuable resources used in our retreats. *Hope for Caregivers: A 42-Day Devotional* is an excellent and needed encouragement to anyone who serves in a caregiving capacity. For a detailed description of the books, click on the "Caregiving" tab under the "Resources" drop-down menu at henrinouwen.org.

Please contact Colette Halferty at chalferty@henrinouwen.org if your church or organization would like to partner with the Henri Nouwen Society to present a caregiving retreat in your area.

An Encouraging Word from Henri

"I have found it very important in my own life to try to let go of my wishes and instead to live in hope. I am finding that when I choose to let go of my sometimes petty and superficial wishes and trust that my life is precious and meaningful in the eyes of God something really new, something beyond my own expectations begins to happen for me."

– Finding My Way Home

Do You Know about our Oral History Project?



Over the past 15 years we have connected with many individuals who knew Henri Nouwen personally or who interacted with him through letters. As a result, we have managed to record and transcribe 105 interviews as part of our Oral History project. These recordings provide a valuable resource for scholarship and education, as well as contributing to the ongoing study of the Christian religious experience in the 20th century.

We are about to enter the final phase of this project with the goal of recording the remaining essential interviews. It is critical that we capture these personal stories before these important voices are no longer with us. Look for more information about the Oral History project during our fall fundraising appeal.

A New Feature on our Website

Was there a Henri Nouwen Society conference that you would have just loved to attend but couldn't? We are now offering audio recordings to some of our past events that you can enjoy directly from our website. Check them out at henrinouwen.org/archive-events-workshops/

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