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SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

www.henrinouwen.org / WINTER 2019

This winter newsletter is our opportunity to share what's new and exciting at the Henri Nouwen Society. It also gives us the chance to extend to you our best wishes for a blessed and meaningful Christmas and New Year!

Christmas Gift Ideas

Ever wonder if the Christmas presents you buy for others actually have any lasting impact? Chocolates, neckties, and toaster ovens are all lovely, but really, in the long run do they significantly enrich a life? (A toaster oven tuna melt can feel life-altering, but it's a temporal buzz at best!)

A book by Henri Nouwen for the people on your gift list is a wonderful way to feed their spirits and enhance their lives. More often than not, Henri's words are the exact things people need to hear at this particular time. Talk about life-changing! (Sorry, tuna melt. You've got nothing on Henri!)

HERE ARE A FEW TITLES THAT WILL MAKE EXCELLENT GIFTS:

- *Finding Jesus* (our newest release. It's also the selection for our Advent online book discussion!);
- *You Are the Beloved* (a profound and spiritually-rich daily devotional);
- *Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life* (named as one of the top five religion books in 2016); and
- *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (the perennial favorite).

These and more Nouwen titles are available at many bookstores and through our website:

www.henrinouwen.org.

You may want to treat yourself to a Henri Nouwenbook as well!

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**



Henri Nouwen's "Adam: God's Beloved" as a Graphic Novel

Introducing young audiences to Henri Nouwen's books has been one of our key objectives in recent years. One way of doing this is by *reimagining* Henri's titles as graphic novels. To the uninitiated, a graphic novel is more or less an expanded comic book. And like a comic book, the story is told visually with vibrant and dramatic illustrations. Graphic novels are extremely popular with high school and university students.

We are currently exploring opportunities with seasoned and talented writers and illustrators to consider rendering Henri's *Adam: God's Beloved* as a graphic novel. The powerful and poignant story of Adam Arnett, a severely disabled young man who could not speak or move without assistance, offers teens and young adults a glimpse into the life of a marginalized, yet extraordinary, individual. It was Adam who led Nouwen to a new understanding of his faith and what it means to be *beloved of God*.

We will be sure to keep you updated on this innovative project!

"IT WAS ADAM WHO LED NOUWEN TO A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF HIS FAITH AND **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BELOVED OF GOD**"

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 apprecia-

tive 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!



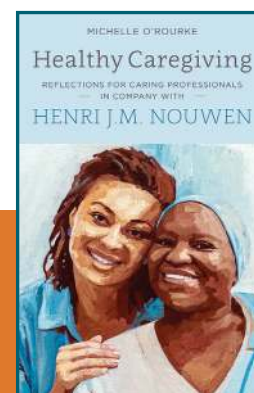
PHOTO: The Cast

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.

COMING
SOON!
MARCH
2020