



2021 HNS Events Save the Dates!

Like other organizations, we've set aside doing in-person, face-to-face events during the ongoing pandemic. However, we are happy to announce that we will be hosting four online events throughout 2021. Plan to join us on the following dates for these innovative and informative get-togethers.

**SAVE
THE
DATES**

■ JAN. 24 – *Happy Birthday, Henri!*

Personal friends of Henri share insights and anecdotes about their encounters with Henri. We'll share special footage of Henri's 60th birthday party when he was reborn as a clown!

■ FEB. 25 – *My Dinner with Henri.*

Be sure to join us at our virtual dinner table where you'll hear wonderful stories from colleagues and students who broke bread with Henri over the course of his career. It's an evening you won't forget!

■ JUNE 4 TO 5 – *The Art of Living*

Conference. Friday evening and all-day Saturday you will be in the company of top-tier speakers who will introduce you to a new series of publications called *Henri Nouwen and the Art of Living*. Details to be announced soon!

■ **SEPT. 21** – This date marks the 25th anniversary of Henri's death. We're planning a special gathering of guests, videos, and remembrances of this remarkable man.

Greetings from the Executive Director – Karen Pascal

Dear Friends,

One of the profound blessings to come out of this difficult year is the kindness and goodwill extended to the Henri Nouwen Society by so many of you. In the midst of all the challenges and hardships that defined 2020, your prayers and financial support continue to sustain our work and ministry.

I am deeply grateful. Thank you.

I am often asked how we measure the impact of the work of the Henri Nouwen Society. The most visible way is the sheer number of new subscribers to our Daily Meditations and the huge spike in "friends" and "followers" across all of our social media platforms. There is a growing hunger for Henri's words and insights. Now more than ever.

Another way is through the many comments we receive from people who have been blessed and encouraged by Henri Nouwen. One reader recently wrote:

"There cannot be a place as dark as the place you inhabit when your child dies. The primary thing that has kept me going... are Henri Nouwen's books and the Daily Meditations."

Often it is in the midst of our pain and loneliness that Henri's words offer the deepest comfort. Thank you for helping us make such a meaningful impact!

On behalf of all of us at the Henri Nouwen Society, I wish you and yours a blessed Christmas and a joyous 2021!

Karen Pascal

Karen Pascal
Executive Director



Merry Christmas

**FROM ALL OF US AT
THE HENRI NOUWEN SOCIETY**

– CONTINUED ON BACK

Caregiving in the Time of Covid

At the Henri Nouwen Society, we are always thinking of fresh and innovative ways to reach new audiences.



That said, our cornerstone project continues to be *Courage for Caregivers*, an initiative we first developed five years ago.

COVID-19 has created a huge strain on the caregiving community. Our series of four caregiving books couldn't be timelier, or more impactful. Plus, we will be unveiling a wealth of online resources for caregivers in 2021.

We are so grateful to all of you for supporting this essential project. Thank you!

A Gift to the Archives

Laurent Nouwen, Henri's only surviving sibling, recently gifted the Henri Nouwen Legacy Trust with three boxes of family letters and photos. It's a wonderfully rich collection that represents fifty years of images and letters shared between Henri and his family.

Henri was a prolific letter writer. Many of the letters he wrote and received are housed at the **Henri J. M. Nouwen Archives & Research Collection** at the University of St. Michael's College. The Henri Nouwen Legacy Trust will entrust this new addition to the archives. Thank you, Laurent!

Be sure to check out The Henri J. M. Nouwen Archives & Research Collection online.

Land Acknowledgement

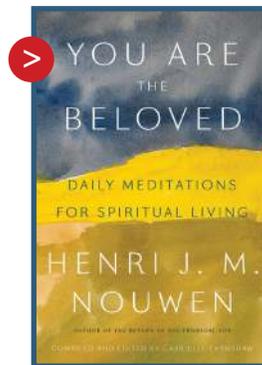
One of our recent podcasts featured Dr. Ray Aldred, a status Cree from the Swan River Band and Acting Dean of the Vancouver School of Theology. Dr. Aldred recounted how he had been in ministry for five years before he came to understand that he was a beloved child of the Creator. Ray credits the writings of Henri Nouwen for having influenced this revelation. It's a profound and poignant story and you can hear it on our podcast page at henrinouwen.org. Ray's story reminded us of the tremendous gratitude we owe the Indigenous Peoples of North America who have lived and worked here from time immemorial.

The Canadian offices of the Henri Nouwen Society are located in Toronto. We thought it appropriate to offer a land acknowledgement, which is a formal statement of gratitude and appreciation for the territory where we reside. It's our way of honoring the indigenous people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the Henri Nouwen Society operates, which for thousands of years has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, our city of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on this land.

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FOR NOUWEN
RESOURCES VISIT
OUR WEBSITE



Readers' Stories

We are always delighted to hear from those who has been encouraged and blessed by Henri Nouwen's books. Here are a few you might enjoy.

- I happened upon a talk by Henri Nouwen about 5 years ago and I was mesmerized by the message and his immense love and enthusiasm. Shortly after I read his book *You Are the Beloved* which I still cherish. I've since bought 4 other books. The way Henri writes is like hearing him and God whispering right into my ears and heart!
- I cannot recall how I first learned about Henri, though I believe it was through my dad recommending *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Many of his books now sit on my bedside table. There are many nights when reading from one of his books (and prayer) are the only thing that allow me to feel at peace and go to sleep.
- I lead a woman's group and we just finished Henri's *The Way of the Heart*. It was a transformative experience for each of us, and we are deeply grateful for the gifts Henri has given us in his writing.

Whatever Nouwen title you read (or re-read) next, may it encourage and bless you deeply.

A Christmas Meditation from Henri ...

"How can we fear a baby we rock in our arms, how can we look up to a baby that is so little and fragile, how can we be envious of a baby who only smiles at us in response to our tenderness? That's the mystery of the Incarnation. God became human, in no way different from other human beings, to break through the walls of power in total weakness." (FINDING MY WAY HOME)