

WORLD & NATION

Father Henri Nouwen dies at 64 in Netherlands

TORONTO (CNS) — Father Henri J.M. Nouwen, an internationally known theologian and author whose ministry included two stays at the Abbey of the Genesee at Piffard, died Sept. 21 in the Netherlands at age 64.



The cause of death was a heart attack the priest suffered in Hilversum, Netherlands, according to Carl MacMillan, director of development for L'Arche Daybreak Community in the Toronto suburb of Richmond Hill.

Father Nouwen had been pastor of the Toronto community since 1986. L'Arche is a nondenominational organization that operates residences worldwide for people with mental disabilities.

According to a statement from MacMillan, Father Nouwen suffered a heart attack a week earlier after arriving in the Netherlands from Canada. He was hospitalized in Hilversum and appeared to be making a good recovery but suffered a second attack Sept. 21 and died.

The Dutch-born priest had been on his way to St. Petersburg, Russia, where Dutch television was planning to film an adaptation of his book *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. A famous painting of the same name by Rembrandt is housed in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. MacMillan said two funeral services

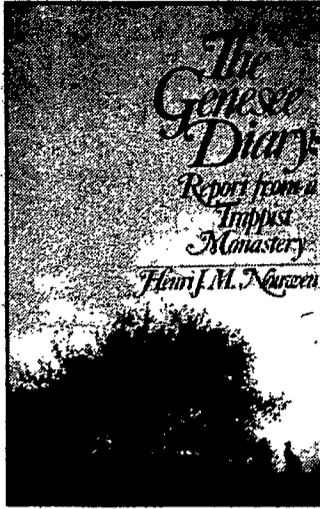
were planned. The first took place in Utrecht, Netherlands, Sept. 25, and will be followed by a funeral Mass Sept. 28 at the Cathedral of the Transfiguration in Toronto. He will be buried at a cemetery in Richmond Hill.

Born in the Dutch town of Nijkerk in 1932, Henri Nouwen was ordained a priest for the Utrecht Archdiocese in 1957. He received a graduate degree in psychology and a doctorate from the Catholic University of Nijmegen.

In the mid-1960s he moved to the United States. In 1964-66, he was a fellow in the program for religion and psychiatry at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan. He spent two years as visiting professor in the psychology department at the University of Notre Dame, and then taught in Amsterdam and Utrecht.

In 1971 Father Nouwen began a 10-year stay at Yale Divinity School, where he received tenure in 1974 and was appointed a full professor in 1977.

He also was a fellow at the Ecumenical Institute in Collegetown, Minn., in 1976 and scholar-in-residence at the North American College in Rome in 1978. In 1981 he resigned from Yale and moved to the Trappist Abbey of the Genesee in Piffard for a brief period. He had also stayed at the abbey for seven months in 1974. That stay served as the basis for his 1976 book, *The Genesee Diary*.



Ironically, Father Nouwen reflected on the subject of his death — and his appreciation of the Livingstone County abbey — in a diary entry dated July 11, 1974.

"I had many unexpected fantasies about my death today," Father Nouwen wrote. "I thought that this abbey would be the best place to be buried. But then I realized that a few months here hardly give one a title to be buried within the walls. John Eudes (Abbot John Eudes Bamberger, OSCO) said in his sermon that most of the monks of this community had lived the rule of St. Benedict for more than half their lives."

Abbot Bamberger, head of Abbey of the Genesee since 1972, was Father Nouwen's spiritual advisor during his 1974 stay. He noted that their conversations often touched upon Father Nouwen's discernment about serving either in a collegiate setting or among the poor.

"He was a very generous person — but he was also complex, like most gifted people," Abbot Bamberger in a telephone interview with the *Catholic Courier*. "He was

a great success, but that was only part of his life. What meant more to him was his priesthood."

In 1983 Father Nouwen went to Harvard Divinity School as a professor of divinity and a lecturer. He divide his time between the school and a theological center in Latin America.

In 1985 he left the academic world to join L'Arche to devote his time to people with mental disabilities. Founded in France in 1964, L'Arche is an international federation of more than 100 communities in more than 30 countries.

"He often said he came to L'Arche to begin to live what he had been talking about for so long," MacMillan said. "He was deeply loved by those in our community with developmental disabilities — even if they had never read a word of his books."

Father Nouwen was one of the most prolific spiritual writers in the world.

He wrote more than 30 books, including *The Wounded Healer, Our Greatest Gift, and Can You Drink the Cup?* The priest's newest book, *The Inner Voice of Love*, was released by Doubleday the day he died.

Father Nouwen is survived by his father, Laurent Nouwen, two brothers and a sister, all of the Netherlands.

In lieu of flowers, L'Arche Daybreak in Toronto is accepting donations in Father Nouwen's name for the worldwide L'Arche community. The address is 11339 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4S 1L1.

CALENDAR

All Dioceses

Education

■ **WED, OCT. 2** — Presentation: "Soul Wound: Post Abortion Aftermath"; presented by St. Bernard's Institute and Project Rachel; St. Thomas More Church, 2617 East Ave., Rochester; 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Victoria M. Thorn and Rev. Blair Raum, presenters; free; for more information call SBI, 716/271-3657.

■ **THU, OCT. 3** — First session: of Faith Sharing & Scriptural Prayer Groups Facilitator Training; Borromeo Prayer Center, 3011 Dewey Ave., Rochester; 7-9:15 p.m.; co-sponsored by the diocesan Department of Professional Development; for more information, call 716/663-5856.

Religious Activities

■ **SAT, SEPT. 28** — Annual Mass: for deceased Catholic Daughters of the Americas; St. John the Evangelist Church, 114 Sodus St., Clyde; noon; celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark; for more information call Marian, 315/462-7851.

Chemung Schuyler

Education

■ **THU, OCT. 3** — Program: "The Earth Is The Lord's"; offered by Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier; 1700 College Ave., Elmira; 7-10 p.m.; by Brother David Andrews, CSC, Executive Director

of The National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Monroe County

Education

■ **THU, OCT. 3** — Open house: Siena Catholic Academy, 2617 East Ave., Rochester; 6:30-8 p.m.; for more details call 716/381-1220.

Fundraisers

■ **SEPT. 27, 29** — Musical: "Godspell"; 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27, 2:30 p.m. Sept. 29; St. Mark's Church, 54 Kuhn Rd., Rochester; for more information, call 716/586-4550.

■ **SAT, SEPT. 28** — Can & bottle drive: to benefit the Bishop Kearney Performance Ensemble; for more information call 716/342-4000.

Meetings

■ **SEPT. 27-28** — Conference: Catholics United for the Faith; Party House, 677 Beahan Rd., Rochester; 6 p.m. Fri., Sept. 27 and Holy Spirit Church, 1355 Hatch Rd., Webster; 9 a.m.; Fr. Joseph Fessio, SJ, and William A. Donahue, speakers; for more information and reservations, call, 716/425-4333 or 716/436-9006.

■ **SEPT. 30** — Talk: Women's Spirit — Shari Hall Smith, "Breast Cancer and Beyond"; St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Place, Rochester; 12:10-12:50 p.m.; for more information call 716/232-7140.

Religious Activities

■ **SAT, SEPT. 28** — Registration deadline: for "At-Home" Retreat; sponsored by

SSJ Spirituality Center, 402 Rogers Pky., Rochester; 9:30-11:30 a.m.; 13 biweekly sessions for married women; starts Oct. 2; \$10-20 per meeting; for more information call 716/336-4370.

■ **SAT, SEPT. 28** — Registration deadline: "Spirituality Serving Justice"; Oct. 5; sponsored by SSJ Spirituality Center, 402 Rogers Pky., Rochester; 10 a.m.-noon; Sr. Elizabeth Ann LeValley, SSJ, leader; \$10; for information call 716/336-4370.

■ **SUN, SEPT. 29** — Information night: regarding RE-NEW Holy Land Pilgrimage April 21-May 1, 1997; Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 138 Main St., Brockport; 7-8:30 p.m.; with Dan Casey Jr. of the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies.

■ **MON, SEPT. 30** — Registration deadline: for "Couples Retreat"; sponsored by SSJ Spirituality Center, 402 Rogers Pky., Rochester; 7-9 p.m.; 13 bi-weekly sessions; beginning Oct. 7; \$10-20 per meeting; for more information call 716/336-4370.

■ **TUE, OCT. 1** — Informational meeting: for ongoing group spiritual direction; 4095 East Ave., Rochester; 4-5:30 p.m.; for more information call 716/586-1000, ext. 177.

■ **TUE, OCT. 1** — Solemn Mass: beginning of the centenary of the death of St. Therese of Lisieux; Carmelite Monastery, 1931 Jefferson Rd., Pittsford; 8:30 a.m.; Bishop Matthew H. Clark presiding; all invited.

■ **TUE, OCT. 1** — Celebration: "An Evening About Angels"; Guardian Angels Parish, 2061 E. Henrietta Rd., Henrietta; 7:30 p.m.; presented by Dean Condon; free; for more information call 716/334-1412.

■ **THU, OCT. 3** — Bible

study, sponsored by Shalom Prayer Group; Manse Bldg., St. Louis Church, 60 S. Main St., Pittsford; 8:45 a.m.; David Higbee, instructor; for more information call 716/381-8577.

■ **FRI, OCT. 4** — First Friday: sponsored by Catholic Women's Club; Clubhouse, 492 East Ave., Rochester; Rosary, 11:45 a.m.; Mass, noon; Fr. Michael Hogan, speaker; for information call 716/461-9173, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays).

Social Activities

■ **FRI, SEPT. 27** — TGIF: St. Louis Single Adult Ministry; Hattie's, The Strathallan, 55 East Ave., Rochester; 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Seneca Cayuga

Religious Activities

■ **OCT. 2-6** — Parish mission: to honor St. Francis of Assisi; St. Francis of Assisi Church, 185 Clark St., Auburn; Oct. 2-4, Eucharist and homily, 7 p.m.; Oct. 5-6, Fr. Repole will preach at Sunday Masses; Oct. 4, blessing of pets, 5-5:30 p.m. in rectory parking lot.

Steuben County

Religious Activities

■ **SAT, SEPT. 28** — Blessing of pets; and small animals; St. Joseph Church, 206 Fremont St., Wayland; 1 p.m.

■ **SUN, SEPT. 29** — Workshop: All Saints Academy,

Denison Pky., Corning; 10:15-11:50 a.m. Anna Black will lead sessions following a lectionary-based catechesis; for more information call 607/936-4689 (days) or 607/936-3790 (evenings).

■ **MON, SEPT. 30** — Presentation: "The Church Since Vatican Council II"; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Roger's Hall, Painted Post; 7:30-9:30 p.m.; led by Sr. Joan Cawley, SSJ; for more information call 607/936-4689 (days) or 607/936-3790 (evenings).

Sports Benefits

■ **SAT, SEPT. 28** — Golf tournament: to benefit All Saints Academy; Indian Hills Golf Club, Lindley; 1 p.m. shotgun start; for information call 607/937-5251 or 607/936-9234.

Tompkin Tioga

Fundraisers

■ **SAT, SEPT. 28** — Garage sale: to benefit Birthright of Owego; Elks Emporium, Front and Church Sts., Owego; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; for information call 607/687-1133 or 607/687-2249.

Yates Ontario Wayne

Fundraisers

■ **SEPT. 26-OCT. 1** — Bottle and can drive: to benefit St. Michael School, 3320 S. Main St., Newark; for more information call 315/331-2297.