

"I admire and trust Wil Hernandez's framing of Henri Nouwen's thought in terms of his natural ability to hold would-be tensions in a very creative balance. Nouwen lived and loved paradox, and knew there was a new wisdom to be had if we held both sides of difficult questions face to face. He invariably made both faces shine with a new brilliance."

Richard Rohr, OFM, Center for Action and Contemplation

"Henri Nouwen is our generation's Kierkegaard. Like Kierkegaard, he helps introduce us to ourselves. Wil Hernandez aids us in the next step; he wonderfully introduces us to Henri Nouwen. You won't be disappointed in this book."

Ron Rolheiser, president, Oblate School of Theology and author of *The Holy Longing*

"Henri Nouwen has never been more wisely and warmly presented than he is here. Wil Hernandez has done a superb job of giving us the great man at his best and most accessible."

Phyllis Tickle, compiler of *The Divine Hours*

"Henri Nouwen's writings—and the witness of his life—have been a marvelous gift to the community. Wil Hernandez's assessment of his legacy—set forth here with sensitivity and wisdom—is also a gift!"

Dr. Richard Mouw, president, Fuller Theological Seminary

"Wil Hernandez's work provides an insightful and integrative overview of his spiritual life. As one who has been privileged to be in Henri Nouwen's presence—I found myself saying 'Yes! Yes!' as I read. This book truly brings him to life!"

Margaret Guenther, Episcopal priest and author of *Holy Listening*

"The author has gloriously brought the tensions of Nouwen's theology and life into a dance of tension and goodness. Wil invites us not merely to reflect on Nouwen's life but far more to re-imagine what could be the paradox of our own broken, beautiful dance. A stunning book!"

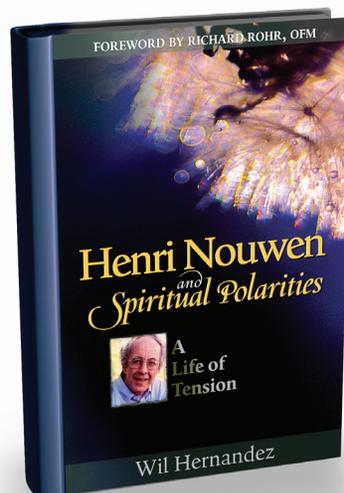
Dan B. Allender, PhD, founding president, The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology (formerly Mars Hill Graduate School)

"Wil Hernandez writes about tensions within the self, in the community and in one's relationship with God and how Nouwen saw what might be perceived to be oppositional as all part of the call to integration. This work is both informational and inspirational and well worth reading on many levels."

Jeannette Bakke, author of *Holy Invitations: Exploring Spiritual Direction*

"In this last volume of his trilogy on Henri Nouwen, Wil Hernandez not only offers us an important discussion of the tensions of Nouwen's life, but more importantly, provides a very helpful discussion of the role of these tensions in the spiritual life in general. It is this broader contribution that this book makes that will ultimately be seen to be its most important. It is an excellent book and I heartily recommend it."

David G. Benner, PhD, author of *Soulful Spirituality: Becoming Fully Alive and Fully Human*



"Wil Hernandez has crafted an excellent presentation of Nouwen that sets forth the essence of the Christian life. Those who are resistant to the contemporary aberrations of the Christian life may well find this book providing a whole new understanding of what such life is about—one that challenges their assumptions. This book will be a delight to those who are walking the journey with Nouwen; a challenge to those who question the validity of such a journey; and a danger to those who have domesticated the journey to their own liking."

M. Robert Mulholland, Jr., author of *The Deeper Journey: The Spirituality of Discovering Your True Self*

"Wil Hernandez's book is an important addition to the growing corpus of Nouwen studies. Using the concept of tension as an interpretive key, Hernandez takes us into the heart of Nouwen's spirituality. While it makes for an excellent introduction to Nouwen's thought, it will also not disappoint the Nouwen aficionados."

Simon Chan, Trinity Theological College, Singapore

"Wil Hernandez offers a considerable gift to those of us on the journey toward Christian spiritual maturity. His interpretation of Nouwen's life and writings does not dodge the ambiguity and tension that constitute contemporary life. But his understanding of Nouwen does reveal creative ways to move in and through brokenness, weakness and suffering into the unfailing embrace of the Beloved. A compelling read."

Norvene Vest, spiritual director and author of *Re-Visioning Theology*

"This book is a masterful guide through the vast landscape of Henri Nouwen's thought. After I read Wil's book, I knew I needed to explore Nouwen more carefully, and I knew that in doing so I would keep *Henri Nouwen and Spiritual Polarities: A Life of Tension* nearby throughout the exploration."

Evan B. Howard, director of Spirituality Shoppe: An Evangelical Center for the Study of Christian Spirituality

"Wil Hernandez has created as good a road map for navigating the challenges and healing potential of the human journey as I have read. Using his deep understanding of Henri Nouwen's words, he shows us the truth of Nouwen's claim that 'suffering is not an obstacle to joy and peace, but the means to it.' An important book!"

Paula D'Arcy, author and speaker

"Following the structure of his previous books that describes the *inward*, *outward*, and *upward* journeys of Henri Nouwen, Wil Hernandez now explores his tension-filled life. Applying Richard Rohr's insight of 'non-dualistic consciousness,' Wil offers a compelling portrait, not only of Henri's tension-filled life, but the inner terrain of nearly everyone who attempts to resolve the complexities, contradictions, and polarities of their spiritual experience. Henri's gift is authentic articulation of the struggle in the journey toward wholeness; Hernandez's contribution is in helping us name the polarity, and consciously and creatively deal with tensions within the paradoxes in the human psyche."

Michael J. Christensen, PhD, associate professor of spirituality, Drew University, and co-editor of *Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit* by Henri Nouwen

