

# DE TRINITATE

Newsletter of the Society of the Holy Trinity  
*Societas Trinitatis Sanctae*

## From The Senior

As called for in our Rule, we as the Society of the Holy Trinity gathered in General Chapter retreat at St. Mary of the Lake in September. But, as you know, our recent gathering was also an opportunity to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding and we did so with some wonderful teaching, powerful praying and singing, and an opportunity for ongoing mutual conversation and consolation.

It was a special joy to have 10 of the original signers of the Rule present at the retreat. We remembered those of that group whose age or infirmity prevented their attendance and we recalled with deep and abiding gratitude those of this same group who have entered into their eternal rest and who are now in the Church Triumphant.

Our three teaching theologians reflected on the theme of “Evangelical Catholicity in the Rule of the Society of the Holy Trinity. The Reverend John Baldovin SJ (Boston College) spoke strongly about the “Genius of Catholicity” while Dr. Melanie Ross (Yale University) responded with a beautiful exposition on the “Genius of Evangelicalism.” Finally, The Reverend Dr. Kent Bureson (St. Louis Seminary) addressed the matter of Lutheranism as an expression of Evangelical Catholicism. I am grateful to all three speakers for their thought provoking addresses which enriched us all.

We received nine new members into the Society and for that we are grateful to God. A list of these new members and the chapters with which they are affiliated, can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our anniversary celebration was topped off with a special dinner in the refectory which was beautifully planned by our Secretary, The Rev’d. Pari Bailey, STS. Our dinner was brought to completion by the Reverend Dr. Richard Johnson, STS who gave us a history of the Society over the past 25 years and laid before us some important challenges as we move into God’s future. I am grateful to Pastor Johnson for his hard work in encapsulating this history. Indeed, he is preparing a fuller version of that history which we hope may well be published at some point in the not-too-distant future, so watch for that. The Rev’d. Dr. Johnson’s remarks from the dinner have been posted on our STS Facebook page.

...thanks to all those who attended the retreat, participated in this important part of our life together, and prayed with us for this Church and the world which we are called to serve.

I am immensely grateful to our Director of Liturgy, our Chaplain, and our Cantor for their work at the retreat. We had some very fine worship services indeed. If one of our goals in the Society is to model sound and orthodox liturgical practices, then I think we achieved that this year. Special thanks therefore go to The Rev’d. Robert Endruschat, STS who served as Director of Liturgy and who put together our very special worship booklet, to The Rev’d. Ken Blyth, STS who served so ably as our chaplain, and to Mrs. Royce Hubert who served as our cantor. Special thanks also to The Rev’d. Cathy Ammlung, STS who, together with Mrs. Royce Hubert, wrote a hymn especially for our 25<sup>th</sup>

anniversary. And finally thanks to The Rev'd. Beth Schlegel, STS and The Rev'd. Carl Voges, STS who shared with us God's Holy Word in their preaching.

And a final word of thanks to all those who attended the retreat, participated in this important part of our life together, and prayed with us for this Church and the world which we are called to serve.

May God bless us for the next 25 years of service and ministry in the name of the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In our common life and service,

Paddy Rooney  
Senior

## Leadership Council

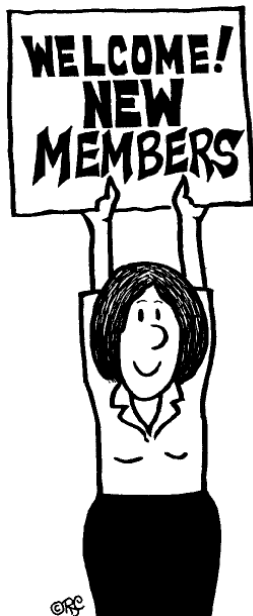
The Leadership Council of the Society of the Holy Trinity will gather for its annual meeting and retreat at Camp St. Christopher, Seabrook Island, SC from 14-16 February 2023. Apart from our normal business of passing a budget for 2023-24 and planning for the General Chapter in 2024, we will also be examining the role of Deans in our common life

together and the challenges posed by The Rev'd. Dr. Richard Johnson, STS in his dinner speech at the most recent General Chapter. Please pray for our Leadership as we gather over those days that we may address some of the systemic issues which I believe face us as we move forward.

## From The Secretary

There were 124 members and 25 guests present at the recent 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary General Chapter. Nine pastors subscribed to the Rule:

- Timothy Eichler (California)
- Matthew Kayhart (Susquehanna)
- Shruti Kulkarni (New England),
- Jon-Marc Maclean (Florida)
- Emily Stelling (Minnesota)
- Taylor Stempniak (California)
- Thomas Thorstad (Northern Illinois)
- Mark Wentz (Indiana)
- Frank Zeman (Passavant)



We welcome these new members, and commit to praying for them as they minister in Christ's holy church! The Society's membership stands now at 277 pastors in two countries, though I note that 100 subscribed members did not pay their dues in 2022, nor make any contact regarding them, which likely puts our active membership around 175 people.

Remember that dues are due on Holy Trinity Sunday: June 4, 2023. If you want to make arrangements to pay your dues early, or if you wish to send a portion of your dues now and a portion later, you may certainly do so. Just contact me to let me know what your plan is.

In our common work and service,

The Rev'd Pari Bailey, STS  
Secretary

## Calendar Campaign

STS Liturgical Calendars for 2023 are now available. Please consider purchasing one for yourself or a colleague.

On behalf of the Society's Leadership Council,

The Rev'd. Keith Forni, STS  
keithlforni@gmail.com  
(815) 600-3030

## Chapter Updates

The **Columbia River** Chapter gathered for a chapter retreat November 2-3 at the Guesthouse in St. Benedict Abbey, Mt. Angel Oregon. Three members of the society and nine other colleagues registered for the retreat. Teaching theologian was The Rev. Dr. Phil Brandt, former professor of theology at Concordia University in Portland. He shared two presentations on "Preaching the Gospel of Matthew in Year A."

The **Great Rivers** Chapter will hold a 48-hour Advent retreat Monday, November 28 - Wednesday, November 30. We will meet at Toddhall in Columbia, Illinois. The Rev'd. Eugen Lehrke, STS will be our teaching theologian. The Rev'd Ken Tegtmeier, STS will serve as Chaplain.

**Gudalupe River** Chapter will meet in retreat January 24-25 and again May 2-4, 2023. The winter topic is TBD; the Senior will be present at the spring 48-hr retreat, teaching on protestant religious orders. Both retreats will be at Cedarbrake Renewal Center in Belton, TX.

The **Minnesota** Chapter Advent retreat is December 12-13, noon to noon, at Christ the King Retreat House, Buffalo, MN, and will include our traditional Advent hymn-sing. Register through Dean Erma Wolf, STS, at [easwolf@me.com](mailto:easwolf@me.com).

The **New England** chapter met November 4 in New Haven, CT, for a tour of the Yale Art Gallery's Dura-Europos house church exhibit. The chapter's Advent and Christmas gathering will be December 11 in Granby, CT.

The **Northern Illinois** chapter enjoyed a joint All Saints retreat with **Indiana** Chapter members Nov 7-8 at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer, Frankfort IL, featuring The Rev'd. Dr. Matthew Becker, STS. Please contact The Rev'd. Keith Forni, STS, chapter dean, for information about future retreats. He can be reached at [keithlforni@gmail.com](mailto:keithlforni@gmail.com) or (815) 600-3030.

The **Susquehanna** Chapter will meet in retreat together with the Potomac/Chesapeake Chapter at the Clagget Center in Adamstown, MD, December 6 and 7. The Rev. Wally Jensen, STS, will present the topic "Moral Wounds" and the Rev. Wicky Barnes, STS, will serve as chaplain. The chapter will also gather for a Lenten Day at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Millersburg on Monday, March 6.

The **Wisconsin** Chapter of the Society of the Holy Trinity will be gathering for retreat November 14-15 at Holy Resurrection Monastery in St. Nazianz. Retreatants will gather for a time of reflection with the brothers of the monastery, and will be gathering around Rev. Dr. Paul Lehninger's article in the most recent edition of Logia entitled, "The Significance of a Theology of Personalism for Contemporary Confessional Lutheranism." Please email The Rev'd. Andrew D. Zoerb, STS, at [pastorandy@oursaviorsdenmark.org](mailto:pastorandy@oursaviorsdenmark.org) for further information.





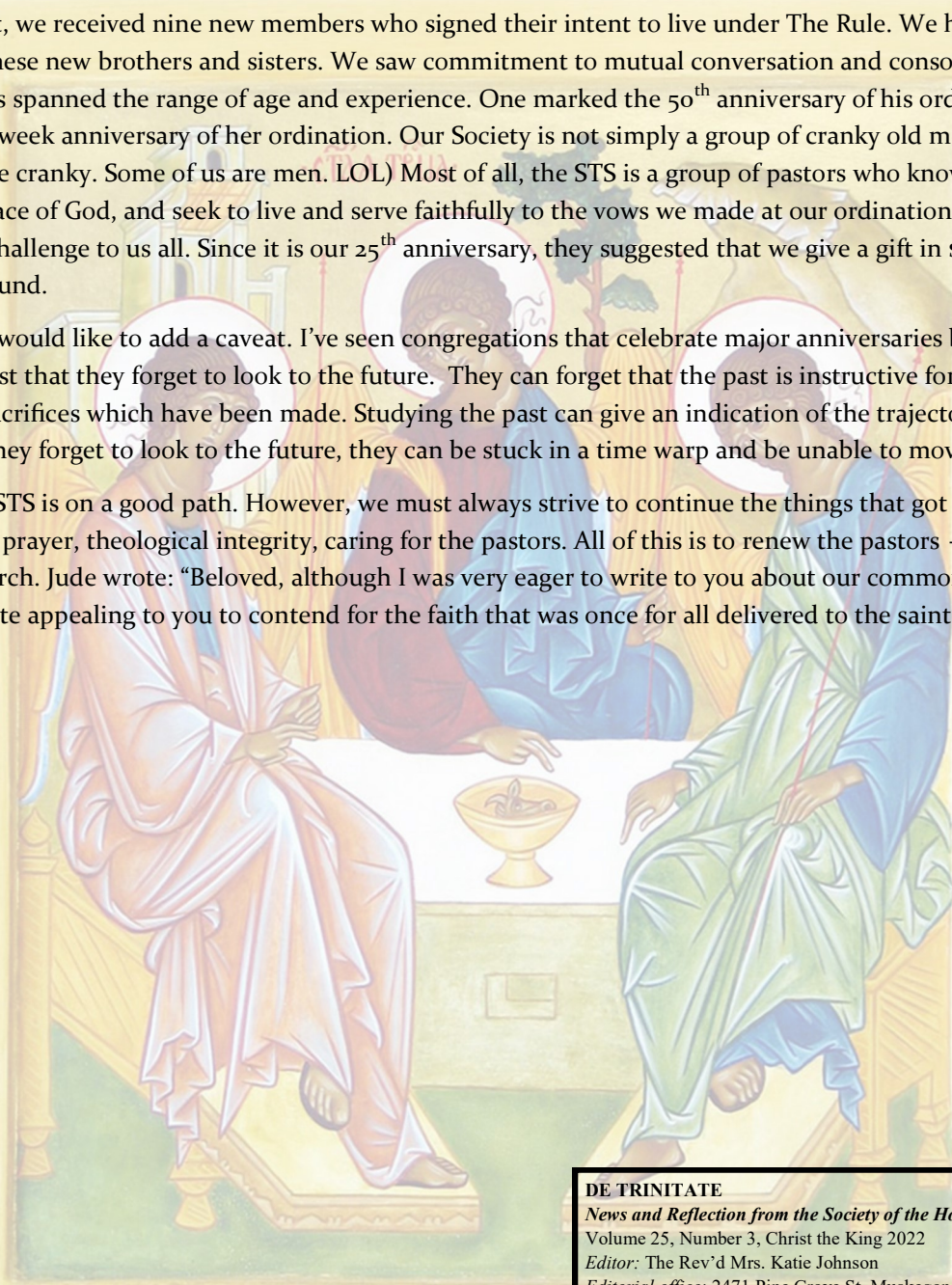
## From The Vicar

It was a joy celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Society of the Holy Trinity. I've known much of the history before, but to hear once again the foresight of the founders and the work to structure The Rule in a way that gives us a solid foundation was encouraging. Thanks be to God for the gift we have been given!

And at this retreat, we received nine new members who signed their intent to live under The Rule. We heard the members promise to help these new brothers and sisters. We saw commitment to mutual conversation and consolation of the saints. Our new members spanned the range of age and experience. One marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. One marked the three week anniversary of her ordination. Our Society is not simply a group of cranky old men. (Some of us are old. Some of us are cranky. Some of us are men. LOL) Most of all, the STS is a group of pastors who know their own weakness, know the grace of God, and seek to live and serve faithfully to the vows we made at our ordination. The founding members gave a challenge to us all. Since it is our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they suggested that we give a gift in \$25 increments to the Endowment Fund.

It was a joy! But I would like to add a caveat. I've seen congregations that celebrate major anniversaries become so enamored with their past that they forget to look to the future. They can forget that the past is instructive for the lessons they teach about the sacrifices which have been made. Studying the past can give an indication of the trajectory the congregation is on. But if they forget to look to the future, they can be stuck in a time warp and be unable to move ahead.

I believe that the STS is on a good path. However, we must always strive to continue the things that got us to where we are today: disciplined prayer, theological integrity, caring for the pastors. All of this is to renew the pastors – for the sake of renewing the Church. Jude wrote: “Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” May God continue to bless us.



## In Memoriam

*De Trinitate* prints notice of members who have recently entered the Church Triumphant. If you are aware of a Society member's death, please contact our Secretary, Pari Bailey, at [revsbailey@redred.com](mailto:revsbailey@redred.com) with name, date of death, and chapter affiliation.

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