

A Personal Note

To my Brothers and Sisters in the Society of the Holy Trinity,

Grace and Peace to you, from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

I wanted to share with all of you, a personal word regarding my health. For the past year I have had a very slight tremor in my left hand. I did not think much about it, counting it as part of the aging process. But at our General Chapter gathering last September, I started having stronger tremors in my left leg. In consultation with my Primary Care Physician and the Neurologist to whom he referred me, I received, at the end of November, a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease.

None of us likes to get a diagnosis for any disease but, in many ways, I feel blessed because Parkinson's is not a disease that will end my life prematurely but rather require me to make adjustments as I go. In our common ministries, I am sure we have all met folks with this disease. Some do very well for years while others have progress more rapidly in their symptoms. I obviously do not know what the future holds for me, but I trust in the Lord and will walk in His paths for whatever days He has laid before me.

At this point in time the medications I am on have controlled the tremors considerably and my voice box, which was having some difficulties, has also come back stronger. I am exercising daily and doing whatever I can to remain as healthy as possible. But the reality is that none of these things will prevent the disease from progressing and I obviously do not know what the future holds.

I felt that the members of the Society have the right to know about this issue, especially given that attendant uncertainty. It is my fervent hope that I will be able to complete this term of office as Senior until our General Chapter gathering in 2024. If things deteriorate quicker, then our Rule makes provision for the Senior's incapacity. Again, I will not presume on God's plans but seek to live each day in His grace and mercy. There was an old hymn we sang as children which provides comfort to me now and its opening words go like this "Lord for tomorrow and its needs, I do not pray. But keep me, guide me, love me Lord, just for today." And the hymn ends thus, "And if today my tide of life, should ebb away, just keep me, guide me, love me Lord, just for today."

I covet your prayers.

In our common life and service,

Paddy Rooney, Senior

Chapter Updates

The **California Chapter** will hold an Easter Retreat at St. Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo, CA, May 2 -4. Our Senior, Paddy Rooney, will attend to oversee the election for dean, and to serve as teaching theologian. Please contact dean Bruce Lundberg, STS, at robbiandbruce@gmail.com for more information.

The **Central Plains Chapter** held a pre-Lenten retreat Feb 28-March 1 at Christ the King Retreat Center in Schuyler, NE. Theological reflection focused on the Seven Marks of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

The **Columbia River Chapter** will gather May 19-20, 2022 at Mt. Angel Abbey Guesthouse, Mt. Angel, Oregon for a 24-hour retreat with the Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker, STS teaching theologian. Dr. Becker will address the work of Edmund Schlink, who served as a pastor in the Confessing Church during the Nazi period, professor at Heidelberg University, and a participant in many official ecumenical dialogues. For details and registration information contact chapter dean Joseph Hughes, STS, at j_w_hughes@hotmail.com.

The **Guadalupe River Chapter** met in retreat February 7-8 in Belton, TX. Dr. Maurice Lee presented "The Theology of 'The Theology of'" on how to prepare a theological presentation on a given (non-theological) topic. This was inspired by a tongue-in-cheek conversation he had with chapter dean Jared Stillions regarding an imagined theology of spicy food. Our next retreat is scheduled May 3-5, also in Belton. For information or to attend, please contact dean Jared Stillions, STS at jstillions17@yahoo.com.

The **Iowa-Nebraska Chapter** met in retreat November 8-9, 2021, at the Stone Center in Strawberry Point, IA. The Rev'd Jay Denne served as chaplain, the Rev'd Wade Reddy as confessor, and the Rev'd Gary Hatcher led a conversation on the challenges presented by the pandemic. Our next retreat will be held at the Shalom Retreat Center, Dubuque, IA, March 21-22, 2022. Please contact chapter dean, Gary Hatcher, STS, at ggh5297@icloud.com for more information.

The **Minnesota Chapter** met March 7-8 at Christ the King

Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN. Senior Paddy Rooney provided theological reflection and oversaw the election for dean. The Rev'd Erma Wolf, STS, was elected.

The **New England Chapter** will meet March 28 at Trinity Lutheran, New Haven, CT, for a one-day Lenten retreat with The Rev'd Drs. Edward Duffy and Kathleen Mills serving as teaching theologians. Please contact chapter dean Ryan Mills at tlhnpastor@yahoo.com for more information.

The **Sangre de Cristo Chapter** presently has two active members. Therefore, at the recent Leadership Retreat, the decision was made to set the Sangre de Cristo chapter in abeyance. The remaining chapter members will determine whether to affiliate with a neighboring chapter or to become at-large members. Please hold them in prayer as they navigate this situation.

The **Susquehanna Chapter** met for a one-day retreat at Shells Lutheran Church in Grantville, PA on Monday, November 8. Pastor Paddy Rooney, STS, presented on religious orders and conducted the election of a dean. The Rev'd AJ Domines, STS, was elected. A Lenten day retreat took place Monday, March 7, at Christ Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown, PA. The Rev'd Ken Elkin, STS and Elsa Quanbeck presented on the Catechumenate. The Susquehanna chapter is looking forward to joining the Chesapeake/Potomac and Carolinas Chapters for a joint retreat in early May. Please email chapter dean AJ Domines at pastordomines@christlutheran-etown.com for more information.

The **Wisconsin Chapter** recently gathered at St. Norbert Abbey in DePere, WI, with a presentation offered by the Rev. Mark Knappe on Wilhelm Loehe's, *The Pastor*. The Rev. Wolf Knappe, STS, recently helped translate this work into English. The book's pragmatic advice is highly commended to all pastors. There is a retreat planned for May 2022 at St. Norbert Abbey. Please contact chapter dean, Andy Zoerb, STS, at pastorandy@oursaviorsdenmark.org with any questions or for more information on the upcoming retreat.