

DE TRINITATE

Newsletter of the Society of the Holy Trinity
Societas Trinitatis Sanctae

From The Senior

The Leadership Council of the Society of the Holy Trinity met recently at Camp St. Christopher, Charleston, SC. Three of the Officers were in attendance along with 19 Deans. Dean Norman Dew served as chaplain, ably assisted by Dean Steven Tibbetts.

As always during our Society retreats, our work revolved around the recitation of the Daily Offices and the Holy Eucharist and private confession. This year at the Eucharist, we were blessed to be joined by The Rt. Reverend Mark Lawrence, Bishop of the South Carolina Diocese of the Anglican Church in North America. Bishop Lawrence preached a challenging sermon on the Letter of James in which, of course, he made reference to Luther's no love lost position on that letter. The camp at which our retreat is held is owned by the Diocese and so we were pleased that the Bishop was willing to join us for worship and share in the sacrament.

Each Dean shared what was happening in his or her chapter, and a number of them shared the names of speakers within the Society who are available for teaching at chapter retreats. Some issues raised in our discussion about the general health of the Society centered on making our retreats of the highest quality and being excited about them, rather than just another obligation. Concern was expressed that there is sometimes friction between members of different jurisdictions. Deans were urged to be aware of this friction and to help address it as part of our mutual conversation and consolation.

There was further discussion about the "charism" of the Society which, it was felt, needs to be made clearer. Since I had drafted the original statement on Charism, I will be re-drafting another one for consideration at the next Leadership Council.

Once again there was discussion about a "Third Order" for Deacons and laity in our parishes. I will be putting together a small work group to thoroughly examine this matter and come back to the next Leadership Council with either a solid proposal for moving forward with this concept or finally saying that it is not within our bounds at this time.

The report of the Secretary showed our numbers attending General Chapter and those who have paid dues. The Secretary emphasized once again the registration process for General Chapter and related activities.

The Bursar presented a balanced budget which was approved as presented.

The Leadership Council agreed to an Annual Giving program which will be overseen by Ruth Reitmeyer and a budget to prepare materials was also approved. Further details will be available in the near future.

Pr. Rod Ronneberg STS presented a proposal for a

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“Word and Witness II” conference to be held in 2022 in conjunction with our 25th anniversary of founding. A working group will be put together to explore the possibility of holding such a conference and will report back to Leadership.

The By-laws of the Society have not been updated since 2004 and the Officers will be reviewing them and will present any changes to the next Leadership Council.

Since the 25th anniversary of our founding will occur in 2022, planning must begin now. The consensus was that we seek out a really well known speaker in order to attract others to join us. Joint worship with the Seminary community was also mentioned as a possibility. Meanwhile, Richard Johnson, STS will be drafting a small history of our Society. He particularly asks that if anyone has materials from the first five years of our history to please be in contact with him.

We have had contact with Lutheran pastors in two countries who have expressed an interest in joining our Society. The Council approved the Senior to further explore such contacts and to make a visit to one country if he felt that there was possibilities. Clearly we cannot see how the Spirit is moving in this activity

From The Secretary

Dues in the amount of \$330 are due to me on or before Holy Trinity Sunday, which is June 7. Dues solicitation letters will come to you from your deans via email the week after Easter. If you use PayPal to pay dues online, you must pay \$342 to cover the fees PayPal imposes on us. Please remember to fill out the form and send it with your dues, especially if you have address, email or phone number changes.

The General Chapter Retreat will be held **October 20-22** at University of St. Mary of the Lake Conference Center, Mundelein, IL. The date is in

but the Leadership believed that we should at least seek to discern whether this will be compatible with our current mission and activity.

The Council reviewed last year’s General Chapter and discussed the upcoming retreat this year. We will continue our theme of “*Ecclesia Semper Reformanda*” for one more year, this time concentrating on Ecclesiology. Bishop Matthew Riegel, from the ELCA Western Maryland/West Virginia Synod will be our teaching theologian. Some know the Bishop from his presentations to a number of our chapters and I know him well as a classmate of mine and one who is soundly orthodox. I am looking forward to hearing from him.

Finally, we will look again to see if we can trim the costs of the Leadership Council by meeting in an area that is a major hub.

I am grateful to all the Deans and Officers for the work they do on behalf of the Society, and I believe that the bonds between us were strengthened by being able to spend time together, pray together and talk together.

In Christ,

Paddy Rooney, Senior

October this year because the Archdiocese of Chicago cancelled our September reservations for an event of theirs, and so that third week in October was the soonest that would work for both USML and Joseph and Mary House. For members, registration will be through your dean. Information will be sent to you from your dean at the beginning of June, and registration for the General Chapter opens on July 1.

In Christ,

Pari Bailey, Secretary

Chapter Updates

The **California** Chapter's Advent retreat was held at Mercy Center in Auburn, Calif. Dean Richard Johnson led in a discussion of Article II of the Rule, "A Life of Obedience to Jesus." He was assisted by Pr. William Cwirla, who helped us work through the "Table of Duties" in the *Small Catechism*. The chapter's spring retreat will be May 18-20 at St. Andrew's Abbey, Valyermo, CA, with topic and teaching theologian to be announced. For more information, please contact Dean Richard Johnson at roj@nccn.net.

The **Chesapeake-Potomac** Chapter will be meeting in retreat March 23- 24 at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, Maryland. They plan a joint retreat with the Carolinas chapter for May 18-19, 2020. For more information, please contact Dean Carl Roemer at ceroemer@gmail.com.

The **Minnesota** Chapter Lenten retreat is March 9-10 at Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo, MN. The Rev'd Keith Homstad will lead us in writing an icon of the Virgin Mary and Child. Participation in icon writing is limited to 15, by advance registration. Others are welcome to attend the retreat, join in prayer and

fellowship, and observe the icon writing. See "Society of the Holy Trinity – Minnesota Chapter" on Facebook or email Dean Trevor Bailey at tbail65@gmail.com for more info.

The **New England** Chapter meets March 10-11 at St Joseph's Retreat House, Milton, Mass., with Dr. Philip Pfatteicher as teaching theologian. Please contact Dean Ryan Mills at tlhpastor@yahoo.com for more info.

The **Susquehanna** Chapter held a Lenten retreat March 2, at St. Timothy Church in Camp Hill PA. They discussed "The Hymn of the Day for the Seven Sundays of the Easter Season," led by various chapter members.

The **Wisconsin** Chapter will next gather in retreat on March 16-17 at St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere, Wisconsin. The remaining dates for 2020 are: May 4-5, and November 9-10, both again at St. Norbert Abbey. There will be an election for the Dean at the November retreat. For more information contact the Rev'd Tim Duesenberg, STS at stmaximos@aol.com.

Return to the Lord

your God,

for He is

gracious and merciful...



From The Vicar

“Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” 1 Peter 3:15

Athletes prepare for competition. Factories prepare for production. Businesses prepare for sales. Educators prepare to teach their class. Seminaries prepare Christians for the Office of Holy Ministry. Pastors prepare congregations for a life of faith and service and help them look forward to eternal life. It all works out according to plan. What could go wrong?

Life can and does go wrong. The devil, the world, and our sinful self all guarantee that it will go wrong. Families are pulled in a myriad of directions. Congregations have their own minds. Councils have their solutions. Pastors have high expectations of themselves and can make demands on congregations. How did we ever get in this mess? We know the answer. We know the solution.

Always be prepared to give a defense of the hope that is in you. The Society of the Holy Trinity exists because we live in a broken world and pastors live broken lives. The Liturgy exists because it enables us to speak the faith and worship the Holy Trinity in an orthodox manner. The STS has many very talented, highly educated, polished communicators. I am thankful. I am indebted to them. We learn and mature through the teaching of others. We could stay in community, pray the Hours, receive the Sacrament, and glorify God day and night. It would be glorious.

Peter, James, and John thought it would be great to remain on the mountain and to build three booths – one for Jesus, one for Moses, one for Elijah. How selfless of them! They could have suggested six so that they would be out of the elements as well. But Jesus brings them back down and immediately they are confronted with a boy possessed by a demon. The father pleads with Jesus that his son could be restored. And Jesus does! He is prepared to heal and is constantly preparing his disciples to care for the people entrusted to them.

As pastors of Christ’s Church, people look to us for guidance. Some want help understanding the political climate. We may have opinions and may have political science degrees, but that is not our job. Some want help with economics. We may have ideas and may have an MBA, but that is not our role. Some may need long term counseling with emotional issues. We may have a PhD in psychology, but that is not our primary calling.

We are pastors. St. Paul writes: “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. We have been trained for a specific task. Always be prepared to give a defense of the hope that is in you.

In Christ,

Jim Lehmann, Vicar

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 with name, date of death, and chapter affiliation.

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News and Reflection from the Society of the Holy Trinity

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