

# 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 in retreat 15-17 February 2022 at Camp St. Christopher, SC.

There were 15 Deans present plus three officers. The Council had not been able to meet in person last year due to the coronavirus so it was good for us to gather in person and address the issues facing our Society. Pr. Rod Ronneberg, STS served as our chaplain.

The retreat began, as it normally does, with a review of the chapters. Some chapters are healthy and flourishing; others are struggling. The use of retreat facilities due to Covid restrictions, continues to be a problem but other chapters are back up and running with a full schedule of retreats.

Since we were not able to hold retreats in a number of chapters last year, we did have a backlog of elections for Dean. Most of that backlog has now been cleared and there are only a small number of elections to be held in 2022. The recent elections meant that four of the Deans present were there for the first time. Also two chapters currently have appointed Deans – California and Metro New York — where elections will be held later this year. The Sangre de Cristo chapter has lost members due to pastoral moves and has opted to go into abeyance this year. That leaves us with 19 chapters plus our at-large members.

Following the chapter reports our Vicar reported that he had assisted with some elections and served as Visitor to some chapters. He also announced that he is retiring from parish ministry later this year.

Our Bursar presented a budget with a number of options for dues. After discussion it was agreed to set the dues for 2022-23 at \$330. A revised budget to reflect that amount was then

presented to the Council and approved.

Because so many chapters were not able to meet and many seminaries were shut down, we have faltered a little in distributing funds from our Seminarian fund. Only about \$6,000 was distributed. However, it is our hope to revitalize that process and get some more funds distributed this year.

Pr. Keith Forni, STS and Dean of the Northern Illinois chapter reported on the great success of calendar sales for 2022. The calendars were enthusiastically snapped up by parishes, chapters, pastors and others. Some were distributed to other interested parties. The result was a significant contribution to the general fund of the Society. Pr. Forni was thanked for all his hard work.

While not being able to personally attend, Pr. Pari Bailey STS serving as our Secretary, submitted a comprehensive written report. Some of the details can be found in the report she has presented elsewhere in this Newsletter.

There was a review of the last General Chapter (2021) and discussion about the upcoming General Chapter in 2022. Further information about that gathering can also be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

A proposal to have our 2023 General Chapter theme as “Doxology and Doctrine: How the Creeds form us Liturgically and Catechetically” was adopted. Dr. Paul Hinlicky will be approached for the catechetical section and Dr. Amy Schiffrin STS for the Doxological section. Further details will be

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available in the near future.

Finally, the topic of formation into the life of the Society was discussed based on a proposal presented by the Senior. This has been a topic which has seemed important to Leadership over the past few years given that we have a number of members who have joined the Society but then do not participate in it. The fundamental issue therefore was one of “how do we best shape and form prospective members into the ethos or culture of the Society.” After extensive discussion on this matter it was clear that we were not of one mind about how best to approach this issue except for the

## Reflections on the Rule

One Wednesday morning several years ago, I was praying silently before beginning the Daily Office of Matins. I was seated in the choir pews with one other person seated across from me. Usually there are 10-15 people who show up for Matins, but on this day it was one elderly woman and me. As 8:30 AM approached, she broke the silence and said, “Pastor, I don’t want you have to do this service just for me. I can leave and you can get on with your day.” As tempting as it was to do something else, like get a cup of coffee, this was my chance to witness. I simply told her that I was not doing Morning Prayer for her at all, but rather it was my duty to God and that I was going to pray the Office even if I was alone.

This woman was a very faithful and active church member, but she had a very American Protestant idea of worship. That idea being worship is dependent upon the congregation showing up. In Ash Wednesday’s Gospel reading from the 6th chapter of St. Matthew, we hear our Lord calling us to prayer. In particular Jesus calls us to pray in private to the heavenly Father who sees and hears everything. He tells us

## From The Secretary

Dear friends,

As the Society prepares to celebrate its 25th anniversary in this Year of Our Lord 2022, please be mindful of the dates and deadlines in the coming months. Dues are due on June 12th, Holy Trinity Sunday. As recently decided by the Leadership Council, dues will revert to the usual amount of \$330.00. The General Chapter Retreat will take place September 20-22 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake Conference Center in Mundelein, IL. Deans will contact their chapter members and friends with direction on how to register for the retreat. Those who are not members nor affiliated with any chapter will be able to register with me

understanding that a mentoring of new or prospective members had some real merit. Unable to achieve consensus the matter was set aside for now. Deans were asked to speak to their members about how best to implement a mentoring system.

The Leadership Council will meet 14-16 February 2023 again at Camp St. Christopher.

In Christ,

Senior Paddy Rooney

this not to discourage public prayer, but rather to encourage and deepen our faith—a faith that prays with the same assurance that God is present, even when no one else is there to see or hear it. Jesus’ point is that people who only pray when there is an audience are hypocrites. As Christians we have a duty to pray. As pastors, we have a duty to lead others in prayer. The good news is that even when the congregation fails to show up, God sees and hears. When we pray, we are joining the community of persons we call the Holy Trinity and where the Trinity is, there is the Church—Militant and Triumphant, even if invisible. In the popular evening hymn, *The Day You Gave Us, Lord Has Ended*, John Ellerton (1870) reminds us that Church is always praying:

“We thank you that your Church unsleeping  
while earth rolls onward into light,  
through all the world her watch is keeping  
and never rests by day or night.”

Rev. A.J. Domines, STS

after July 1. The deadline for registration this year is September 3.

Information on the General Chapter—speakers and topics, as well as registration information—will be sent in June via email through the chapter deans, and also placed on the website. Now is a good time for members to be certain their chapter dean has their updated email and other contact information.

A blessed and holy Lent to you,

Pari R. Bailey, STS  
Secretary

## Calendar Campaign

Thank you to everyone who purchased STS Liturgical Calendars, commemorating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Special thanks to those who generously donated to provide gift copies, as well. One thousand calendars were ordered from the Ashby Co, and all have been distributed – for personal/parish use, as gifts for friends and colleagues, or as complimentary copies to institutions or fellow travelers to the Society. Total proceeds benefiting the Society this year were over \$1600.

Gratitude for the STS Calendar has been expressed by many

members and friends of the Society, noting their appreciation for this daily reminder of our common life of prayer, ministry and mutual encouragement -- and for the opportunity to introduce others to the Society through the calendar.

Look for information on 2023 calendars at this year's General Chapter.

In Jesus Christ, "the same yesterday and today and forever,"

The Rev'd Keith Forni, STS

## General Chapter 2022

The General Chapter retreat of the Society of the Holy Trinity will be held September 20-22, 2022 at St. Mary of the Lake, Chicago. This will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Society and we have special activities and presentations to help us celebrate.

The theme for the retreat will be "Evangelical Catholicism in the Rule of the Society of the Holy Trinity" and we will have three speakers address our theme. The first will be the Reverend Dr. John Baldovin, SJ from Boston College who will speak to the "Genius of Catholicism." Dr. Melanie Ross from Yale will speak on the "Genius of Evangelicalism" and the Reverend Dr. Kent Bureson from Concordia Seminary St. Louis will speak on "Lutheranism as an expression of Evan-

gelical Catholicism." The Rev'd Dr. Amy Schiffrin, STS, the Rev'd Dr. Frank Senn, STS, and the Rev'd Dr. Nathan Yoder, STS will respond to the various presenters.

In addition, we will have a special anniversary sit down dinner on Wednesday evening with our featured speaker being the Reverend Dr. Richard Johnson, STS who will address the 25 years of the Society.

We are waiting to receive confirmation from a couple other invited guests and will share that news as we know details.

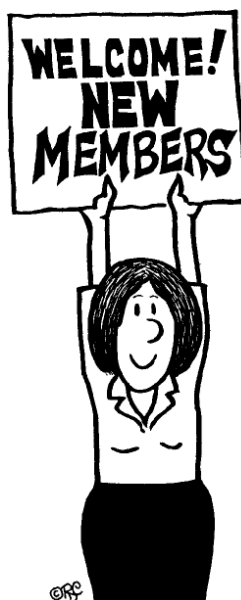
Please plan to join us this coming September for what promises to be a memorable General Chapter. Specific details and registration will be available later this summer.

## New Signatories

We welcome the following new members to the Society of the Holy Trinity! These individuals signed the Rule at our most recent General Chapter:

- James Bartlett, Susquehanna Chapter
- Matthew Becker, Northern Illinois Chapter
- Tyler Graham, Susquehanna Chapter
- Ryan Henkel, Iowa Chapter
- Anthony Scalisi, Iowa Chapter

**Welcome to our common life and service!**





## From The Vicar

Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love are the disciplines of Lent. Chapter V of The Rule is Confession and Absolution. If the Society places such an emphasis as to devote one entire Chapter, and if repentance is part of the spiritual discipline of Lent, why has it fallen into such disuse? Why is it so difficult to restore the practice?

I love listening to old time radio programs from the 1940s and 1950s. I recently heard an episode of Night Beat titled "Fear." It concluded with two great quotes: 1) "We are all in the same jungle. And fear keeps us there. The only way we will get through this is hand in hand." 2) "As soon as you stop hiding it the sting is gone. . . Fear is a deadly weapon that makes the atom bomb look like a squirt gun." That got my attention! Perhaps this gives us some clues to the question.

Many of our sins we can readily share. "I'm a little envious of her." Sometimes we try to make sin seem virtuous. "I covet your prayers." Two commandments focus on coveting, and they aren't about prayer! But those other sins – the ones we try to cover and keep secret – those aren't so easily spoken. Is it fear that keeps us quiet, perhaps even to ourselves? Afraid that someone will discover us, we try to put on a good front of security. What a burden that is!

We can share our burdens and struggles with another person or group of friends. They can give us encouragement. They can walk with us and give us suggestions on how to deal with them. They can express their love and remind us that we are not alone. Those are precious gems that can help us through life. But those things are limited. But we CAN confess our sins! We confess them before God who already knows them, before our Savior who has paid the price for them, before our Lord who forgives them. It is the safest place for confession. We need not fear because of God's limitless love. And we confess them before a pastor in Christ's Church who is duty-bound to maintain the confidential nature of the confession. Verbalizing them takes the sting away. Hearing the words of forgiveness spoken directly to us gives peace. Sharing them is walking hand in hand out of the jungle of fear.

May this be the time when we unload the burdens we bear and receive the forgiveness which gives us life!

In Christ,

The Rev'd Jim Lehmann, STS  
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](mailto:revsbailey@redred.com) with name, date of death, and chapter affiliation.

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