

DE TRINITATE

Newsletter of the Society of the Holy Trinity
Societas Trinitatis Sanctae

From The Senior

The Rule of our Society of the Holy Trinity calls for us to gather in General Chapter retreat each year and thus plans are underway for us to gather at St. Mary of the Lake University in Mundelein, Chicago from 20-22 September 2022. As most of us are aware, our gathering this year will also celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of our Society and we will mark this occasion with some special additions to our retreat.

First, we will have three speakers instead of our normal one or two. The theme for this anniversary year is “Evangelical Catholicism in the Rule of the Society of the Holy Trinity.” To address this theme, we have three speakers – Father John Baldovin SJ, Ph.D. who teaches theology and liturgics at Boston College who will speak to “The Genius of Catholicity;” Dr. Melanie Ross who teaches at Yale, who will speak on “The Genius of Evangelicalism”; and The Reverend Dr. Kent Burreson who teaches at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis who will speak on “Lutheranism as an expression of Evangelical Catholicity.” For each of these speakers there will be a brief response from members of our Society: The Reverend Dr. Amy Schiffrin, STS for Fr. Baldovin SJ; The Reverend Dr. Frank Senn, STS for Dr. Ross and the Reverend Dr. Nathan Yoder, STS for Dr. Burreson. With such a list of presenters and responders, I believe we can look forward to some first rate teaching and learning.

Our second major event will be our dinner on Wednesday evening. Contrary to our normal dinner practice, this year we are having a sit-down dinner in the refectory with wine served at table. Dinner will be a little later than normal to allow the catering staff to set up but that will be reflected in our schedule. Following dinner, the Reverend Dr. Richard

Johnson, STS will give us a keynote presentation on the history of the Society in order to mark our 25th anniversary. Because the dinner will run for a two hour period, there will be no communal social time scheduled on Wednesday evening but rather we will finish with Compline that evening. There will be social time on Tuesday evening, but according to the new guidelines from the Conference Center, groups over 50 must have such fellowship time in the refectory and not the gathering space on the first floor of the Conference Center.

Additionally, to mark our anniversary, there will be a group photograph taken on the steps of the chapel on Wednesday immediately prior to lunch. We have not had such a photo taken in the last few years, so please check the schedule and be prompt in making your way for this important event.

Finally, I must say a word about the ongoing COVID situation. I am writing this in mid-July and already the new subvariant is beginning to infect more folks and bringing a corresponding rise in hospitalizations. We do not know where we will stand in September nor what conditions the State or even the University might impose as we get closer to the time for our gathering. To be clear, unless we are forced to cancel by the State or the Center, we plan to go ahead with the retreat. That said, each member will have to decide for themselves their comfort level for such a large

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gathering and the confined space we will be in such as the chapel. Some may choose to wear a mask; others not, and there will continue to be differences among us. Please be patient with one another in this process and bear with one another in love.

Reflections on the Rule

The Rocky Mountain Chapter gathered in retreat this past March for the first time in two years. The various government restrictions and regulations related to Covid precluded our meeting earlier—at first due to the retreat houses being closed, then the requirements of masking, social distancing, no singing, eating separately etc. made a gathering seem more like toil than a retreat.

So when we finally met once again I admit I had some trepidation as Dean. It was a long two years for us in Canada. The restrictions everyone on both sides of the border had to deal with in terms of ministry went on months longer up here. I was well aware the Chapter was exhausted, frustrated and slightly unsure of what ministry was going to look like going forward. There was a very real danger our retreat could be little more than an extended time of ranting and railing, interspersed with praying the Daily Offices.

Our study time for the retreat was a review of The Rule. We do this every couple of years, taking the three hours set aside to read aloud each chapter and then discuss it. I admit, I did so mainly because it seemed simple and easy, having no clue what a blessing it would be.

We only made it through the Preamble, Chapter I – Formation in Daily Prayer and Chapter II – A Life of Obedience to Jesus, but that was sufficient. The Rule provided a lens through which we could constructively and

From The Secretary

Registration for the General Chapter Retreat is now open! Members should have received communication from their Deans the week of July 1st or earlier. If you have not heard from your Dean, please contact him or her now, because members must register through their Deans. The deadline for all registrations is **August 26**. Non-members affiliated with a chapter also register through that Dean.

Visitors and guests are warmly welcomed and encouraged. If you wish to attend, but are not associated with any chapter, you may register directly with me at revsbailey@redred.com. The cost for non-members is \$245

Registration information for the General Chapter for both members and visitors can be found in this newsletter from our Secretary Pr. Pari Bailey STS. I look forward to seeing many of you there and celebrating this milestone in the life of our Society.

~ The Rev'd Paddy Rooney, Senior

redemptively reflect on everything that had happened in the past two years.

As we read and talked, we were able to recognize how The Rule has shaped our ministries, noting that without it we probably wouldn't have responded in the ways we did e.g. Pr. Karl Johnsen leading Matins and Vespers over Facebook from the sunroom in his house for months. We had the opportunity to talk of our highs and lows, struggles, triumphs and mistakes in navigating the pandemic. It was especially freeing to discuss what we wished we'd have done differently. Within the framework of The Rule we could do this, because as is often said "we are growing into The Rule"—none of us keeps it perfectly and likewise none of us managed the pandemic perfectly. The Rule reminded us of our reliance on Christ and his gifts to carry out our vocations, as well as his grace which covers our faults and failings, weakness and weariness.

Another saying within the STS is "The Rule doesn't make me a better pastor than anyone else—but it does help me to be a better pastor than I'd be without it". The pandemic showed us the enormity of ministry's challenges in a new way, but The Rule consistently, directly and subtly, points us to the One who called and promised to equip and sustain us in that ministry.

Pr. Brad Everett, STS
Dean, Rocky Mountain Chapter

for a shared room, \$265 for a single room. If you wish to arrive early, the cost for an additional night is \$70. If you arrive early, you may choose to eat additional meals on campus (supper \$16, breakfast \$12). All payments must be sent to me prior the beginning of the retreat. You can send a check payable to the Society to PO Box 116, Belview, MN 56214 or fees may be paid with a credit card via PayPal to societyholyltrinity@gmail.com. Keep in mind, there are additional charges associated with PayPal, so it will cost you a bit extra. Please contact me for further information on electronic payments.

The Rev'd Pari Bailey, STS
Secretary

Chapter Updates

Carolinas Chapter has held a number of retreats this year, including most recently a joint retreat with the **Chesapeake-Potomac** and **Susquehanna** Chapters. The Rt Rev Matthew L Riegel, STM, Bishop of the Western Maryland-West Virginia Synod, ELCA, led theological reflection on the first of the Marks of the Church, "The Holy Word of God."

The **Central Plains** Chapter met in retreat June 13-14 at St. Benedict Christ the King Retreat Center in Schuyler, Nebraska. The Commemoration of St. Anthony of Padua (June 13) was observed, with preaching from Rev. David Klappenbach, STS.

The **Chesapeake-Potomac** Chapter, along with the **Carolinas** and **Susquehanna** Chapters, held a joint retreat May 1-2, at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD. The chapter plans an August 4 daylong retreat in Casanova, VA, with the Rev'd Dr. Carl Roemer serving as teaching theologian, highlighting his current work on the miracles of Jesus. A joint Advent Retreat with the Susquehanna Chapter is also planned for December 5-6.

The **Columbia River** Chapter gathered in retreat May 19-20 at Mt. Angel Abbey near Portland, Oregon. Teaching theologian was the Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker, STS, of Valparaiso University. He led the group in a presentation and discussion of the ecumenical theology of Lutheran theologian Edmund Schlink.

The **Florida** Chapter has a number of upcoming retreats planned. November 7-8, 2022, they will host Senior Paddy Rooney to discuss his work on Orders in the Church: Lutheran and Otherwise. In addition, a March 6-7, 2023 retreat will feature the ELCA's West Virginia/Western Maryland Bishop Matthew Riegel, presenting on Augsburg Confession Article XXVIII: Of Ecclesiastical Power. Please contact chapter dean Fr. Larry Recla for information about attending these retreats.

Guadalupe River chapter met in May for a 48-hour retreat with special guest Rev. Dr. Richard Johnson, STS teaching about the origins of STS. He led a guided reflection on local members' reason for joining STS, remaining in STS, and re-

lated future possibilities for STS. GRC's next retreat is January 24-25, 2023, at Cedarbrake Renewal Center in Temple, TX. If you have a presentation that you'd like to discuss sharing with the chapter in retreat, please email chapter dean Jared Stillions jstillions.ptfe03@galumni.org.

The **Metro-NY** Chapter of the Society of the Holy Trinity met in a one-day retreat May 23 at Christ Lutheran Church, Rosedale, NY. Plans were made to restore our regular retreat schedule, and the next one is planned for November, 2022. The Chapter gave thanks for the faithful service of former dean, The Rev.'d Terrance Weber, who is retiring. Senior Paddy Rooney conducted an election, and The Rev. Dr. John G. Fleischmann was elected. The Senior also presented his work on, "The Role and Place of Religious Orders Within Non-Catholic Faith Traditions."

The **New England** Chapter will hold its annual summer gathering in Granby, Connecticut, on Saturday, August 27. For more information, please contact Chapter Dean Ryan Mills at tlnhpastor@yahoo.com.

The **Northern Illinois** Chapter will next retreat November 7-8 at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer in Frankfort, IL. The Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker, STS, will present on the Ecumenical Theology of Edmund Schlink.

The **Passavant** chapter recently met in retreat July 25 at New Hope Lutheran Church, Boardman, OH, and discussed the Society's suggested reading, *The Imitation of Christ*. The chapter plans to meet again December 5-6 at Villa Maria, with a focus on discipleship. Please contact chapter dean Rev'd Joyce Dix-Weiers at jadwltsg@aol.com for more information.

Members of the **Susquehanna** Chapter are organizing an event for pastors and lay leaders entitled: "Come and See": A seminar on the First Stage of the Catechumenate. This will take place Monday, October 24, 2022, 8:15 AM-5:15 PM, at Christ Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown, PA. Cost is \$10/person, \$25/max per congregation. For more details or to register contact Pastor A.J. Domines, STS at 717-367-2786 or pastordomines@christlutheran-etown.com.

Calendar Campaign

The 2023 STS Liturgical Calendars will be available at the General Retreat in September, enabling wide and timely distribution to colleagues, prospective members and parish leaders. Advance orders are requested. Donation remains

the same: six calendars for \$25, payable in Mundelein by check to the "Society of the Holy Trinity." To place your order, please contact Keith Forni at keithforni@gmail.com.

From The Vicar

I am in a place that is a first for me. In the past, I have made the transition from one congregation to another when I received a new call. This time, I am planning to retire from full-time parish ministry. Because of the shortage of pastors seeking a call to a new congregation and of pastors who are willing to serve as interims, I have decided to continue serving Immanuel until a new pastor is called, or June 1, 2023, whichever comes first. So, as I continue serving, the congregation is working the process to develop a profile and, hopefully, receive candidates for call. I am staying out of those discussions. Each week, I am also including a petition in the Prayers of the Faithful for someone to take my place. It just feels a little strange.

Nearly every denomination is facing the same issue regarding pastors to serve congregations. We have ignored it for too long. Now we are seeing the results. What does the future hold for the church? Will there continue to be well-educated and well-trained pastors to shepherd the congregations under their charge? Who will be given the mantle of Christ? Pastors and congregations are asking these questions and more.

As we consider these concerns, what do our confessional documents say? “Our churches teach that one holy Church is to remain forever. The Church is the congregation of saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered.” (Augustana Art. VII). “So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted.” (Augustana Art. V). The Church will remain, and God instituted the Holy Office of Ministry. In the middle of all the questions and concerns, we believe this to be true. Our confidence is in the Triune God. So our future, though murky, is certain.

This is also a great opportunity for the Society of the Holy Trinity. We can have an important role in developing a well-trained pastor. Our commitment to the Daily Offices, our learning and practicing solid liturgy, our development of pastors who hold each other accountable, all these help mold and shape future pastors. Do you know pastors or seminarians who could use this kind of formation? Get to know them. Invite them to a chapter retreat.

Let us see this time as an opportunity to be embraced, and not a chasm to be feared.

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 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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Editor: The Rev'd Mrs. Katie Johnson

Editorial office: 2471 Pine Grove St, Muskegon, MI 49441/ 515-360-2381 / iowakatie1981@gmail.com

To be placed on the De Trinitate mailing list or to report a change of address, please contact the Secretary, below.

Senior: The Rev'd Patrick Rooney, 11300 Saddlevue Court, Raleigh, NC 27613 / 717-870-1154 / pastorrooney@gmail.com

Vicar: The Rev'd Jim Lehmann, 5823 E. 1800 North Road, Fithian, IL, 61844 / 217-417-4156 / jtl611@hotmail.com

Secretary: The Rev'd Pari Bailey, P.O. Box 116, Belview, MN 56214 / 507-938-3285 / revsbailey@redred.com

Bursar: The Rev'd Jay Denne, 4612 Grant St., Sioux City, IA 51108 / 712-898-1678 / revjaydenne@gmail.com

Society Website: www.societyholyltrinity.org