

Leadership of the Society

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To the Inquirer

A copy of the Rule of the Society of the Holy Trinity may be obtained by contacting our Secretary or at our Web Site.

A careful reading of the Rule will introduce you to our common work and prayer. The Society came into existence on September 23, 1997, when, with prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, 27 Lutheran pastors (ELCA, ELCIC, and LCMS) subscribed to the Rule. This took place in two days of prayer and conversation at Loyola House in Morristown, New Jersey.

The STS is open to all Lutheran pastors of any denomination from any country. Most of our 215 members (as of this printing) are affiliated with one of 20 regional chapters that have been, or are being, formed in the U.S. and Canada. We have several members at large. A list of chapter locations with deans is available at our Web Site.

Subscribing to the Rule – Concrete Commitments

After prayerful deliberation and conversation with other members of the Society, a pastor becomes a member of the STS by publicly subscribing to the Rule at the annual General Retreat, usually after declaring his or her intention at a local Chapter Retreat. Those who have no opportunity to gather in Chapter Retreats should communicate with the Senior. They may then indicate their intention to subscribe to the Rule in writing to the Secretary of the Society, and add their names to the book of signatures at the next General Retreat. Dues, also to be sent to the Secretary, are presently \$250 yearly and are due upon subscription, and then on the Festival of the Holy Trinity each year. Annual dues include the registration cost of the General Retreat.

In this common work and prayer, we remind one another that subscription to the Rule is not simply a matter of adherence to principles in the abstract; it represents a concrete commitment to our shared disciplines and mutual accountability, which we embrace freely for the sake of our ordination vows and the good of the churches.

SOCIETY OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Societas Trinitatis Sanctae



***An Invitation
to Lutheran Clergy***

From the Preface to the Rule

Ordained to the Ministry of the Word and the sacraments in Christ's Church and called to such an office in Lutheran churches, and so committed to work toward the confessional and spiritual renewal of the Lutheran churches, we form together a ministerium to be known as the Society of the Holy Trinity. As members of this Society, we will:

Promote an ecclesial and pastoral piety shaped by the daily discipline of prayer and meditation on the Holy Scriptures.

Challenge and encourage one another to live in obedience to Jesus - helping one another to be faithful to the promises spoken when we were ordained and seeking to live as examples to the faithful - and to adorn with holy living the Ministry entrusted to us.



Gather regularly in retreat for hearing God's Word, celebrating the Lord's Supper, prayer, and theological reflection.

Engage in mutual pastoral visitation, in order to fulfill the commitments of the Society.

Provide one another with the opportunity for individual and personal Confession and Absolution, so that we may enjoy the true "mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren" and, in turn, become faithful confessors for others.

From the Preface to the Rule

Engage one another in disciplined reflection on the mysteries of the Faith, sharing our learning in the Scriptures, the Creeds and the Confessions, as well as Christian theology and literature - desiring to glorify God with our minds and to be more faithful and learned teachers of the Faith.

Work together to shape a parish pastoral practice centered in the Word and the sacraments that is consistent with the catholic Faith as formulated in the canonical Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical Creeds and the Lutheran Confessions.

Serve the cause of Christian unity as confessing members of the western catholic Church, stopping at nothing, in so far as God and conscience allow.