DE TRINITATE

Newsletter of the Society of the Holy Trinity

Societas Trinitatis Sanctae

From The Senior

Chapter VIII of our Rule came very much alive for those of us who gathered in Mundelein recently for the 20th annual General Chapter of the Society of the Holy Trinity. Entitled "Ecumenical Commitments" Chapter VIII calls upon us a Society to reach out to any and all Lutheran bodies, especially those not represented in our Society; to seek out other groups who, like ourselves, seek the confessional and spiritual renewal of the Church; to pray for Christian unity and especially to maintain contact with the Orthodox Church of the East and the Catholic Church of the West.

In that spirit, and in light of the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we approached the Seminary community at St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, the site of our General Chapter retreat for these past few years, to determine whether we could come together and share a time of common prayer and reflection. This suggestion was accepted warmly and on Tuesday evening September 26th some 450 individuals, comprised of members of the Society and guests plus the Seminarians and faculty from St. Mary, gathered in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception for a Solemn Vesper Service. The service itself was made up of elements from the Vespers in the LBW and from the Mundelein Psalter used on the Seminary campus. In hymn, in psalmody, in prayer and with brief reflections shared by Fr. Thomas Baima, Vice Rector of the Seminary and Ecumenical Officer for the Archdiocese of Chicago and me as Senior, the One God and Father of us all was given the honor and praise which is so rightly His. And evening was capped by the presentation of a print showing Dr. Martin Marty, our noted Lutheran historian, preaching in the Catholic Cathedral of the diocese, the first non-Catholic ever to be invited to do so. Lifted high by this wonderful opportunity to sing and pray together, both communities in that moment were joined together to experience what our ecumenical journey might look like going into God's future.

Lifted high by this wonderful opportunity to sing and pray together, both communities in that moment were joined together to experience what our ecumenical journey might look like going into God's future.

But it was following the service that the next level of sharing took place as both communities, who generally eat at separate times, sat down together to share a common meal. It is safe to assume that questions were asked on both sides, stories were shared, and commonalities as well as differences were explored. And the amazing thing is that it did not end on Tuesday evening! Through Wednesday and into Thursday both communities continued to share, talk and even form relationships. Indeed I know of one of our pastors who plans to attend the ordination to the diaconate of one of the Catholic Seminarians!

So what did we learn from all of this? Well first that the Seminary community was most gracious and hospitable in being open to our suggestion. True the impending anniversary provided the impetus but we could not be sure that they would be open to such an event. For that graciousness and hospitality therefore we are most grateful.

The second point of reflection is to ask just what this event produced in the common matter of coming to understand each other. I think it is safe to say that over the years the Seminary community has been a little puzzled by the Society and its members as we gathered each year, many of us dressed in cassocks which are not a part of the dress for seminarians on that campus and with a goodly number of our women pastors in attendance. As a result of the sharing both in chapel and in the meal, we came to know each other a little better and hopefully broke down some stereotypes on both sides. But a number of Seminarians and faculty also extended their thanks to me on behalf of the Society for this opportunity and expressed hopes that this would not be the last time that we are able to share in something similar. That this event might provide an opportunity for future sharing in some way, shape or form is a blessed thing in and of itself.

Did we then achieve unity? Of course not! But what we did was open the door a little further so that, as many of our members returned to their parish ministries and the Catholic Seminarians prepare to enter into their own ministries that we might recall this time spent together and seek to extend those discussions in new and different ways through which both communities will be enriched.

And the reflections that were shared that night spoke to the unity for which we pray. Fr. Baima spoke of what an evangelical catholic position might look like in the One Church of Jesus Christ as we seek reconciliation with the Bishop and the Church of Rome and I spoke of the grief we share at the fracturing of our unity while living in the hope for the promised reconciliation in Christ. Unbeknownst to either of us, our reflections shared a common theme and a common hope and that was a blessing to experience in that sacred place that night.

So, indeed, Chapter VIII was lived out at this last General Chapter retreat and for that we can only offer thanks to God. Will we do it again? Fr. Baima jokingly said certainly…in another 500 years! But then seriously added that something might be possible and we should both be open to such a possibility. My response is that we are and will be. Until that time let us give thanks to God for what was provided and continue to pray unceasingly that the unity of that evening may become a reality in God's good time.

In Christ's Service,

Paddy Rooney, STS
Senior

From The Secretary

This is a condensed version of the report delivered to the Society at its general chapter meeting on September 28, 2017.

First, I thank you for the opportunity to serve you, my brothers and sisters, as Secretary of the Society. It is an honor and a privilege to assist our Senior, officers and Deans, and deal with the details of our common life together.

1. Membership Report
- We have 283 subscribed members in 22 chapters in two countries.
- 173 members paid their dues in full this year.
- 7 people took advantage of online option to pay their dues, several more paid for their early arrival that way, too.

2. Credentials Report:
- For the 2017 General Retreat, there were 186 total attendees.
- 140 Members were in attendance.
- 46 Guests, including 10 Seminarians and four Vicars

(Continued on page 7)

Chapter Updates

California

The California Chapter will gather in retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center in Citrus Heights, CA, December 4-6. The topic for discussion will be the Roman Catholic "Confutation" of the Augsburg Confession, and the Lutheran response in the "Apology." For more information, contact Dean Richard Johnson at roj@ncc.net.

Carolinas

The Carolinas Chapter will meet for an Advent Retreat December 4-5, 2017, at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. Pr. Samuel Zumwalt, STS will serve as retreat Chaplain; Pr. David Drysdale, STS will serve as Confessor. The Chapter will study Dr. Michael Root's 2008 paper *"The Work of Christ and the Deconstruction of Twentieth-Century Lutheranism*". Senior Paddy Rooney will also serve as teaching theologian on the topic of *Semper Virgo,* and oversee the election for Chapter Dean.

Columbia River

The Columbia River Chapter, guests and inquirers will gather for the Fall 2017 Chapter Retreat at Mount Angel Abbey Guesthouse, Mt. Angel, Oregon on Monday and Tuesday, November 27-28. Teaching theologian and presenter will be Dr. Diane Zemke, author of *Being Smart about Congregational Change*. Those interested in participating should contact the dean at j_w_hughes@hotmail.com.

Florida

The Florida retreat schedule for the upcoming year is as follows:

- November 13-14, 2017 – The Reverend Dr. Mark A. Granquist "Reflections on the Reformation and The Role of Class in American Lutheranism"
- March 12-13, 2018 – "A Round Table of Bishops" Bishops of E.L.C.A., L.C.M.S., E.L.C.M., Episcopal, and perhaps Roman Catholic will share their experiences in the office and their understanding of the authority of their office.
- June 11-12, 2018 – The Reverend Dr. Basil Aden "Luther's Eastern Orthodox Eucharistic Language"
- November 5-6, 2018 – The Reverend Dr. Mark Mattes "Luther's Theology of Beauty"

Visitors are always welcome!

Great Rivers

The Great Rivers Chapter will be on a 48 hour Advent retreat, December 4-6, at Todd Hall Retreat Center in Columbia, Illinois. The Rev'd Preston Foster, STS will lead us in a study of the music of the Reformation.

Guadalupe River

The Guadalupe River chapter will meet on November 13-14 at the Cedarbrake Retreat Center near Belton, Texas. Our teaching theologian will be the Rev'd Evan McClanahan, STS. Pr McClanahan, as a follow-up to a previous teaching on Christian apologetics, will be presenting a look at a different apologetic method called "presuppositional apologetics." Developed by Reformed theologians and leaning heavily on Reformed theology – which Lutherans share in these respects – presuppositional apologetics questions the evidential approach to defending God to the nonbeliever. It seeks to get behind assumptions about the nature of fallen man and his ability to evaluate proof for God's existence. It is a compelling and powerful apologetic rooted firmly in Scripture and one that more Lutherans should be aware of. Our Chaplain for this retreat will be The Rev'd Ralph W. Reitmeyer, STS

Metro New York

We've had a slight change to our November retreat, and will now be meeting at our former retreat center, Mariandale in Ossining, New York. Our in-house teaching theologian will be the Rev Jack Whritenour, STS, leading us on a thoughtful discussion of Martin Luther and his musical influence on the Lutheran Church. All are invited to attend our February retreat, February 19-20, 2018, when our teaching theologian will present a topic on the Shroud of Turin.

Minnesota

The chapter will meet for our Advent retreat from noon to noon on December 4-5 at Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo, MN. Father Andrew Jaye (OCA) will join us again, offering reflections on his work in chaplaincy for the FBI. We will have our traditional Advent hymn sing on Monday evening. Watch for registration information on our Facebook page, "Society of the Holy Trinity – Minnesota Chapter." We welcome guests to join us in this day away for prayer, conversation, encouragement, and learning.

Northern Illinois

The Northern Illinois Chapter will gather in retreat at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer, Frankfort IL with the Indiana Chapter, November 6-7, 2017. The Chapter's Advent Retreat will again be held on St. Ambrose Day, Thursday, December 7th, 9:00am-3:00pm at St. Luke Church, 1500 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago.

Passavant

The Passavant Chapter will hold its Advent retreat at River's Edge in Cleveland, Ohio, on December 11 and 12, 2017.

Sangre De Cristo

The Sangre de Cristo Chapter (Kansas/Oklahoma) will gather for a 36-hour pre-Advent Retreat, Nov. 27-Nov. 29, 2017, at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, KS. For more information: pjacobson@cox.net.



BRIEF LESSONS (Year B)

For Prayers at Mid-Morning, Noon and Mid-Afternoon

Advent 2017 through the Easter Season 2018

Divisions of Psalm 119 for prayers

SUN	MON	Tue	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1-8	25-32	49-56	81-88	105-112	129-136	153-160
9-16	33-40	57-64	89-96	113-120	137-144	161-168
17-24	41-48	65-72	97-104	121-128	145-152	169-176

December 3—Advent I—Mark 13:31

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

December 10—Advent II—Mark 1:7f

The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

December 17—Advent III—John 1:7

John came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

December 24—Advent IV—Luke 1:32f

Jesus will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and his Kingdom will have no end.

December 25—Christmas Day—John 1:14

The Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

December 31—Christmas I—Luke 2:22-40

This was to fulfill what had been spoke by the Lord through the prophets, "Out of Egypt I have called my son" and "he will be called a Nazarene."

January 1— Name of Jesus—Luke 2:21

The child was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

January 6—Epiphany of Our Lord—Matthew 2:11

The wise men saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

January 7—Epiphany I/ Baptism of our Lord—Mark 1:10f

Just as Jesus was coming out of the water, he saw the Spirit descending like a dove on him; and a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased."

January 14—Epiphany II—John 1:51

John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him…I myself seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

January 21—Epiphany III—Mark 1: 15

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.

January 28—Epiphany IV—Mark 1:22

They were astounded at Jesus' teaching, for he taught them as one having authority.

February 2—Presentation of Our Lord—Luke 2:34b, 35b

The child is destined…to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed.

February 4—Epiphany V—Mark 1:39

You are the light of the world…Let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

February 11—Epiphany VI/Trans. of Our Lord—Mark 9: 2, 4

Jesus was transfigured before them, and there appeared to them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

February 14—Ash Wednesday—Matthew 6:1

Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

February 18—Lent I—Mark 1:12f

The Spirit immediately drove Jesus into the wilderness; he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and the angels waited on him.

February 25—Lent II—Mark 8:31

The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

March 4—Lent III—John 2:22

After Jesus was raised from the dead, his disciples believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

March 11—Lent IV—John 3:14f

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

March 18—Lent V—John 12:32

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw people to myself.

March 25—Sunday of the Passion—Mark 15:39

When the centurion saw that Jesus cried out and breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

March 29—Maundy Thursday—John 13:31

Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.

March 30—Good Friday—John 19: 34, 36

The soldier pierced Jesus side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

March 31—Easter Vigil—Mark 16:6

Do not be alarmed…Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified, has been raised.

April 1—Easter Day—John 20:8f

The other disciple went to the tomb, and he saw and believed; for yet they did not understand the scripture, that Jesus must rise from the dead.

April 2—Annunciation of Our Lord (Transferred)—Luke 1:28, 42

Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

April 8—Easter II—John 20:31

These signs are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

April 15—Easter III—Luke 24:44ff

Everything written in the law, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled: that Christ is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name.

April 22—Easter IV—John 10:14ff

I am the good shepherd and I lay down my life for the sheep. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life to take it up again.

April 29—Easter V—John 15:8

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become disciples.

May 6—Easter VI—John 15:9

As the Father has loved me, so I have love you; abide in my love.

May 10—Ascension of Our Lord—Luke 24:46b

The Lord was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

May 13—Easter VII—John 17:17, 19

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

May 20—Day of Pentecost—John 15:26

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.

(Continued from page 2)

from three seminaries.
- Of the guests, five pastors subscribed to the Rule this General Retreat.
- 76 people arrived early on Monday.

3. Projects this year: Working to modernize communication
- Online dues and donation portal was set up. PayPal charges us a fee, so that gets passed on to you. If you pay for something like dues or early arrivals through the portal, please add 3.2% to the cost to cover the fee.
- Transition to email for newsletters and other communication is complete, which saves us a lot of money in postage and printing costs.
- New newsletter editor appointed: The Rev'd Katie Johnson, STS. All items for *De Trinitate* go to her.
- Database will be converted and modernized in 2018.

4. Reminders
- Please fill out dues form entirely: up-to-date database is crucial. The form was simplified this year and is found on the website and can be printed out. It was also emailed out.
- If you are not getting Society emails, please check your spam filters, your Gmail folders labeled "updates" or "promotions," or other places where mass mailings may go.
- If you still aren't getting communication, contact the Editor or me.
- Please send all donations or payments to me.
- Please send all General Retreat registrations and changes to me.

5. Important Dates
- 2018 Dues due Holy Trinity Sunday, May 27, 2018. The amount has increased to $330.00.
- General Retreat in 2018: September 25-27 at USML in Mundelein, IL. We will be electing a Senior.

I thank Judson Merrell for his work as Webmaster of the Society; Katie Johnson for taking on the editorship of *De Trinitate*; Leslie Thayer, our former editor; Beth Schlegel for wrangling the nametags; David Hanssen for serving as archivist and historian. And thanks to all of you for your many prayers this year as I've been dealing with a major health crisis. Please continue to hold me in prayer as I pray for you, and for the whole Society.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pari Bailey, STS.
Secretary

New Signatories

At the General Retreat this year, the following persons subscribed to the Rule—we welcome them into our common life in the Society!

Pr. David Schafer - Iowa Chapter
Pr. Philip Roushey - Upstate NY Chapter
Pr. Leslie Haines - Indiana Chapter
Pr. Emil Witschy - New England Chapter
Pr. Neil Ray - Susquehanna Chapter

From The Vicar

Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Matthew 24:35

A family friend and choir director at a local high school recently shared an observation concerning her calling:

I spend the majority of my time trying (often in vain) to teach others how to truly listen. The ability to listen requires humility. You can't listen if you're busy thinking about what you want to say next, you can't listen if the sound of your own voice is too enticing, and you definitely can't listen if you think you have nothing to learn. I read the news and I see catastrophic failure rooted in the inability to really listen. I scroll social media and I'm bombarded with isolated thoughts that have little, if any, connection. I ask my students to listen to a choir and it's no

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

wonder they give running commentary that drowns out subtly beautiful moments. All day every day I harp, "listen louder than you sing!" If you are a human in my life who listens louder than you sing, thank you and I love you, truly.

––––––––––––––––––––––––

O Worship the King, all glorious above. O gratefully sing, his power and his love.

To worship together with "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with all your heart" (Ephesians 5:19), the Church needs first and evermore to *listen*. We need to *hear* of the power and love of our King: the Word through whom all worlds were created, the Word by whom the baptized have become a new creation.

The import of the coming feast of Christ the King lies in the hearing. Jesus is King regardless of our ears, true enough; "the only God, our Savior, [to whom] be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time now and forever" (Jude 1:25). But the reality of his eternal reign commands the fundamental catechetical question: *what does this mean for us?*

The Father answers on the mountain, out of the cloud. The transfigured Christ shines like the sun in the presence of Moses and Elijah, respectively representing the LORD's speech to his people of old through the Law and Prophets, and the voice that spoke the worlds into being falls on mortal, sinful ears. *This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him* (Matthew 17:5).

"Our catastrophic failure is rooted in the inability to really listen." Yes – from the very beginning. *Did God actually say…*We still revel in the ring of our old-Adam voices and their infernal contribution to the raucous rumpus all around: the fears and the ideological/material recipes for false peace and gratification. Into that bedlam, the law of God rings out like a gunshot to the ceiling. *Be still!* Our mouths are stopped. The whispering, whimpering, clanging, banging chorus of the demons all around is silenced, and we realize its futility. Then, into that blessed, expectant vacuum, comes the second half of the divine command. *Be still! And know that I am God. I am the resurrection and the life, the beginning and the end. This is my body, given for you; my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. My salvation will be forever; my righteousness will never be dismayed.*

To know the Risen Christ as King is to *listen* to Him. To receive the humble, holy vigilance of faith by hearing the proclamation of the one thing necessary and abiding in the promise made at the font. Hearing with outstretched hands as we receive the bread and cup. Listening attentively in mutual conversation and consolation as we build each other up in our most holy faith. And in worship, listening louder than we sing, even as we offer our praise to the King whose eternal gospel will "keep [us] from stumbling and present [us] blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy" (Jude 1:24).

Nathan Yoder, STS
Vicar

DE TRINITATE
News and reflection from the Society of the Holy Trinity
Volume 20, Number 2, Pentecost 2017
Editor: Reverend 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: Reverend Patrick J. Rooney, 450 Ridge Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019 / 717-870-1154 / pastorrooney@gmail.com
Vicar: Reverend Nathan H. Yoder, 415 W. Main Street, Maiden, NC 28650 / 828-428-8527/ Yoder234@hotmail.com
Secretary: Reverend Pari Bailey, P.O. Box 116, Belview, MN 56214 / 507-938-3285 / revsbailey@redred.com
Bursar: Reverend David A. Aanonson, 2131 Rosemont Dr. Coralville, IA 52241 / 319-339-1961 / daanonson@mchsi.com
Society Website: www.societyholytrinity.org