DE TRINITATE

Newsletter of the Society of the Holy Trinity

Societas Trinitatis Sanctae

From The Senior

"The Senior of the Ministerium shall gather the whole Society in retreat for no less than 48 hours once each year in a place suitable for prayer, worship and study." Chapter III.12

This year, as we prepare once again to make the trek to Mundelein for the General Chapter of our Society, we are also marking two significant anniversaries. The first is the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the second is the 20th anniversary of the founding of our Society. Once again, we will gather at St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein from September 26-28 for prayer, reflection, fellowship along with plenty of mutual conversation and consolation.

But to mark these significant anniversaries we have this year planned things a little differently for our General Chapter. First, I have asked three speakers to address us instead of the two that we have more commonly had in the past. Using the broad theme of "Facets of Luther: Examining Luther on the Anniversary of the Reformation" I asked three scholars to address some facet of Luther that they felt might be helpful to us in our reflection during this time. Dr. Gordon Isaac, who teaches at Gordon Conwell Seminary, is an Adventist but one who is also a noted Lutheran scholar in his own right. He will speak about Luther's spiritual journey in a presentation entitled "Luther as Viator." Our second presenter will be Fr. Basil Ross Aden, an Orthodox priest who was previously a Lutheran pastor and academic. His presentation will concentrate on the debates that Luther had with Eck, believing that such debates honed Luther's skill as a debater and hence his presentation is entitled "Luther as Debater." Finally, our third presentation will be by Dr. Mark Mattes from Grandview University. With a newly published book on "Luther's Theology of Beauty" Dr. Mattes has changed his original presentation to one now entitled "Martin Luther on simul pulcher et turpis." I think it is safe to say that we should have three first rate presentations. With three speakers however, there will be no "practicum" on Wednesday evening as has been our practice in the past few years.

We cannot force unity in the Church or between our traditions, but we can facilitate some discussion toward that which Chapter VIII.3 states so clearly that "we long for that reunion of Christians in which the Gospel might have free course and for that unity for which Christ prayed."

The second significant event at the retreat will be the joint Vespers service to mark the anniversary of the Reformation. Following upon the journey of Pope Francis to Lund in Sweden last year and the numerous other joint services held to mark this anniversary, the Society will join with the Seminary community in a Vespers service on Tuesday evening. With some 200 of our folks plus about the same number from the Seminary (seminarians and faculty) the service will be held in the main chapel beginning at 4:45pm. This service will have elements of both rites and the music will reflect the heritage of both traditions. I will co-preside along with The Very Reverend Thomas Baima who is the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at the Seminary and also the Vicar for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Both of us will give a brief reflection on our Ecumenical situation at the end of the service. The Seminary is then making special arrangements for

both communities to eat together at one meal following the service and we hope and pray that this will prove to be a time for mutual conversation as well as an opportunity to get to know each other a little better. We cannot force unity in the Church or between our traditions, but we can facilitate some discussion toward that which Chapter VIII.3 states so clearly that "we long for that reunion of Christians in which the Gospel might have free course and for that unity for which Christ prayed."

It has become our practice over the 20 years in which our Society has existed, to mark each 5th year with a special musical program. Our last one, on our 15th anniversary, was a splendid hymn festival with commentary from Dr. Frank Senn, our previous Senior. Given the time constraints with three speakers and the complexity of pulling off the joint Vespers service and dinner, I made the decision that we ought not try to put one more thing in our schedule and hope, therefore, that these special speakers and services will suffice to mark both the anniversary of the Reformation and the 20th anniversary of our founding.

With worship and preaching, with the reception of new members, with the fellowship that comes only from being with each other on this special annual retreat, I hope that you will be able to join us in Mundelein in September for this our 20th General Chapter. I look forward to seeing you there.

In Christ's Service,

Paddy Rooney, STS.
Senior

Chapter Updates

Carolinas

The Carolinas Chapter gathered for our Pentecost retreat at St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center located on Seabrook Island, SC beginning with *Compline* on Sunday, June 11 and ending with *Matins* on Tuesday, June 13, 2017. Of the twenty-eight people in attendance, five were inquirers, nine guest-spouses, and fourteen were members of the Society. Dr. Peter Leithart served as Teaching Theologian presenting on *The End* (telos) *Of Protestantism*. Dr. Pierson Shaw, STS served as Celebrant for the Eucharist and Confessor, while Dean Steven Saxe, STS served as Retreat Chaplain. The 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 of the Society of the Holy Trinity gathered for the spring chapter retreat at Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary, St. Benedict, Oregon on May 23-25, 2017 (https://www.mountangelabbey.org/). The first evening of the retreat was attended by those members of the Chapter who have subscribed to the Rule. All four members were able to be in attendance and each member shared a brief paper on recent theological readings for discussion. Inquirers and other participants joined the retreat the following afternoon. The Chapter is grateful to Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna, Professor of Lutheran History and Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, for serving as our teaching theologian. She presented two lectures on topics of women and gender in the Reformation: *"Luther and Women"* and *"The Faith-Mothers We Never Knew, Discovering Women as Leaders in the Reformation."* Participants shared the prayer offices and celebrated the Holy Eucharist on the Feast of the Ascension. There were fifteen total participants at the retreat. The next chapter retreat will be Monday and Tuesday, November 27-28, also at Mt. Angel Abbey.

Florida

We will gather at San Pedro Center, Winter Park, FL on 13-14 November. The Reverend Dr. Mark A. Granquist, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity at Luther Seminary since 2007 will be presenting *Reflections on the Reformation: Looking Back and Looking Forward.* We welcome Fr. Martin H. M. Nguyen, Parochial Vicar at St. James Cathedral, Orlando, who is the Ecumenical Officer of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orlando, to be with us and preach at our Tuesday Mass.

Iowa-Nebraska

The Iowa-Nebraska Chapter will have its next Chapter retreat November 13-14, 2017 at the American Martyrs Retreat House, Cedar Falls, IA. We rejoice that the Rev. Al Hock, the Society's oldest member at age 98, has recovered from injuries due to his recent fall and is back serving the Lord at the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home in Strawberry Point, IA. He is truly grateful for all the prayers on his behalf. On June 25, 2017, several of the Chapters members participated in the Dedication of Mission at Christ Lutheran Church, Strawber-

ry Point, IA. Pr. Gary Burkhalter, STS, serves as pastor of this mission congregation of the NALC.

Metro New York
Beginning in November, the Metropolitan New York chapter will change our retreat location from the Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center in Ossining, NY, to the Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, Long Island. Our fall retreat in November will feature an "in house" teaching theologian, the Rev Jack Whritenour, STS, who will discuss Martin Luther's theology through hymnody and chant. As a preview to our February retreat, an "outside teaching theologian" will present various findings on the Shroud of Turin. Our chapter retreats are always open to guests and visitors who register. We have time for prayer, study, discussion and reflection.

Minnesota
We gathered for our summer retreat on July 17-18 at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN. Of the 17 people in attendance, four were guests. These included our presenter, Fr. Andrew Jaye (OCA) as well as several other pastors who came to pray with us. We welcomed the Rev. Jim Wagner, STS, who is a new member of the Minnesota Chapter, having just returned from serving the English-speaking congregation in Vilnius, Lithuania. We were also delighted to meet Victor Talley, infant son of the Rev. Amanda Talley, STS. Fr. Andrew, a former Lutheran pastor who joined the Orthodox church 22 years ago, offered a presentation and practicum on the liturgy and ethos of Eastern Orthodoxy. Our Advent retreat is set for December 4-5, at Christ the King Retreat Center. We're always glad to have guests join us for prayer, fellowship, and learning. Please see our Facebook page, "Society of the Holy Trinity – Minnesota Chapter," for registration information in advance of each retreat.

Passavant
The Passavant Chapter participated in two retreats in the spring. A day retreat was held on Annunciation Day with Sister Cynthia Pock, n/OLF, (musician for General Retreat in 2016 and 2017), who offered a church music practicum at First Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, where she serves as Cantor and where our dean is Senior Pastor. We also participated in the STS Mid-Atlantic Retreat with the Rev. Dr. Paul Hinlicky as teaching theologian, May 1-2, at Antiochian Village in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands. The next chapter retreat will be December 11-12, 2017, at the River's Edge Retreat Center in Cleveland, Ohio. The chapter is named for the Rev. Dr. William A. Passavant, a beloved son of western Pennsylvania, but due to the recent discontinuation of the Ohio chapters, our membership now includes a number of pastors in eastern Ohio, as well as one member from West Virginia.

Susquehanna
The Susquehanna Chapter met jointly with the Passavant and Maryland chapters on May 1-2 at Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA. The presenter was Dr. Paul Hinlicky, who spoke on topics related to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The next chapter retreat will be December 4-5 at SS Cyril & Methodius Retreat Center in Danville, PA, where the subject will be pilgrimage. Presenters will be Pr. Kenneth Elkin and Pr. Nathan Minnich, with reference to Egeria, Gregory of Nyssa, the Camino Santiago, and Israel. We look forward to plenty of stories, photos, personal experiences, and reflections.

Upstate New York
The fall retreat of the Upstate New York Chapter will be November 2-3 at Christ the King Retreat Center in Syracuse, NY. Visitors are welcome and should contact the dean, Pr. John Priest, STS, at jpriest2@stny.rr.com.

Wisconsin
The Wisconsin Chapter is privileged to regularly retreat with the Norbertines at the St. Nobert's Abbey in De Pere, Wisconsin. At our May 1st and 2nd Retreat Pastor Ken Lahners served as Chaplain, and Pastor Kelly Leary preached at the Eucharist Service. We will next be retreating November 6th and 7th at St. Norbert's Abbey. The Senior of the Society, Pastor Patrick Rooney will be our special guest. He will lead us in the teaching time and will oversee the election of the Dean of the Chapter.

Free Training Opportunity

Archdeacon Kristi Alday, Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida, attends Florida STS Chapter Retreats. She also serves as Dean of The Institute of Christian Studies (ICS) Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida. In response to the Pulse nightclub shootings last year and other subsequent events, ICS has developed a two-hour online training on Worshiping in Safety, considering safety plans etc. Bishop Brewer and ICS is delighted to offer this training free of charge to any church or group who would like to use it. The training module can be found at this address: http://institute-of-christian-studies.thinkific.com/?page=5. If you have questions, please contact Archdeacon Alday directly at (407) 206-4423 or kalday@cfdiocese.org. We greatly appreciate the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida's gracious generosity in allowing and inviting us to share in this resource.

From The Secretary

Brothers and Sisters,
The General Chapter is fast approaching (September 26-28 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL). If you have not registered, or need details on hiring a car to get you to the University, or information on speakers and other programming, you can find full details on our website (www.societyholytrinity.org), but here are some particulars.

As of August 17, 164 members out of 283 have paid their dues. There are currently 178 members and guests registered for the 2017 General Chapter, but I anticipate that number will rise.

It is vital that you pay the Society for your Monday night lodging **before** you arrive in Mundelein. I do not handle any money at the retreat because I, also, need to rest and pray. As of right now, 60 people have indicated they are arriving early on Monday night, but only 21 people have actually paid. The cost for Monday lodging is $65. Monday supper is $15 and Tuesday breakfast is $9. Checks must be sent to me, not to the retreat center or University.

A couple of new things for 2017: the University is in the process of implementing a Point of Purchase system in the refectory. This may affect us in September, though the details have not yet been released. If it does affect us, it's likely that we all would have some type of card that we would need to carry to the refectory and have scanned. This is standard practice at most colleges and universities. I'll keep you updated on this, but please be prepared.

In addition, you may remember the construction that was happening in the refectory area the last two years. It is completed, and the facility is beautiful. The bookstore is now located at the refectory and is quite impressive. You may want to bring extra money for all the tempting delights on sale!

Finally, thank you all very much for your prayers for me in my recent illness. My recovery is slowly progressing, and though I won't be back to full strength in September, I am eager to see you all.

Pari Bailey, STS.
Secretary

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