



REMEMBER!

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Communiqué  
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Society of  
King Charles  
the Martyr,  
American  
Region

USA & CANADA



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June, 2009

*Dear Fellow S.K.C.M. members:* In this issue of the *EMAIL COMMUNIQUÉ*, I decided to share some interesting details I've turned up in researching the History of the Society in the New World. We have almost no archives prior to 1988, and none before 1972. Thank goodness for the internet. We are missing many early issues of *Church and King* (1937-38, 1948-65. Can anyone help? –MAW

***The Society's Early Years in the Americas:*** Before Christmas Eve of 1902, when he took up residence in the rectory, beginning his long tenure as rector of the Church of the Advent, Boston, the Rev'd William Harman van Allen was rector of Trinity Church, Elmira NY. While researching turn-of-the-Century commemorations of the Royal Martyr and leaders of the Society in the New World, I came upon the bound monthly issues of his *Message*, 1897-1902, from Elmira, showing that he held an annual Royal Martyr Day commemoration, a practice he continued at the Advent.

Written by one of our first two officers in the New World, Fr. van Allen's words are of great interest. His 26 Jan. 1908 weekly asked Adventers some key rhetorical questions: Charles was an English king; why should U.S. churchmen venerate him? Was this not vaguely disloyal to our Republic? Dr. van Allen appealed to his people's intellect:

"I hope you will not forget the annual services in commemoration of the Martyrdom of Blessed King Charles, Wednesday at 5 p.m. and Thursday at 7:30 a.m. I shall preach at the first service; and I am sure that those of you who have got beyond narrow and illiberal political prejudices into the free and more tolerant spirit which recognizes worth even in kings, will rejoice to honor the memory of one who saved the Catholic constitution of the British Church by laying down his life in defence of the Faith."

The same matter vexed the public, and doubtless some churchmen, in 1896, only the second year of American Society-sponsored services, at Saint Mary the Virgin, New York City. At First Evensong on 29 Jan., the Rev'd Fr. R. T. Nichol (see below) preached, and at the 30 Jan. mass, meditations from *Eikon Basilike* were read. A sensational headline on 31 Jan. called the Royal Martyrdom's observance "An Insult to the Republic". The outrage would have been greater had reporters, editors, or readers appreciated that according the commemoration a First Evensong shows it was considered of a high rank.

Heretofore, the earliest documentary evidence of S.K.C.M.'s American presence was a notice in the first 1896 issue of *The Living Church Quarterly* (precursor to *The Living Church Annual*, and it, to *The Episcopal Church Annual*), published in Advent (Dec.), 1895. In the listing of "General Institutions" under the title "Society of King Charles the Martyr" appeared a notice of its Objects, officers, and their addresses. From it we knew that the Society's witness and work here were centered in New York and began as early as 1895, a year after our foundation on Easter Tuesday, 1894, in London. In the notice, the Rev'd R. T. Nichol, M.A., S. John Baptist's House, Stuyvesant Square, New York, and the Rev'd William Harman van Allen, Church of the Epiphany, Trumansburg NY, were listed as those from whom "information may be obtained". No titles were used.

Quite by coincidence, only a few weeks ago, I received a significant, closely-related item from our resourceful and devoted member, Richard Mammana. It is an article from the *New York Times* of 12 Feb. 1899 containing four important, new pieces of information—quite remarkable from one newspaper article. The second, third, and fourth points, while tangential to this article's subject, are very significant for our early history. The article is headlined, "The Rev. Mr. Nichol Professes the Roman Catholic Faith".

- Father Nichol, the other of our first two officers, "popped" in February, 1899, having resigned his office in the Society only a few days before. He had been associated with the Church of the Transfiguration, where he was a protégé of its rector, Dr. Houghton, and the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.
- There were Annual Masses in the American Region already in those early years, the one that year, 1899, having been at the Order of the Holy Cross's church on Avenue C & East 4<sup>th</sup> St., in Manhattan.
- In discussing his involvement with the Society, the *Times* article states that Fr. Nichols was its Chaplain "from the time of its establishment, in 1894," until he resigned his membership "a short time ago."

- The Order of the White Rose is also mentioned. Fr. Nichol was a member and prior of the Order, “established here three years ago.” Dr. van Allen and architect Ralph Adams Cram were also members.

It is thereby evident that our Society was planted in the New World in 1894, eight months or less after it was founded by Mrs. Greville-Nugent and Fr. Fish earlier that year, on Easter Tuesday. One further point: A lengthy article on such an ecclesiastical matter would hardly appear in today’s *New York Times*.

The Rev’d R. Trent Fraser, SSC has taken up residence in Newport RI, as the newly-elected rector of S. John the Evangelist. A member of our Society and a friend with whom as deacon of the mass at S. Clement’s, Philadelphia, I often served as sub-deacon, Fr Fraser is ‘warmly’ welcomed to ‘Summer’ in New England.

The Rev’d David Gruelle P. Kenworthy, Requiescat in pace. Father Kenworthy died on 26 February 2009.

Prof. William K. Tinkham, Requiescat in pace. On 28 May 2009, at age 93, Bill Tinkham entered the larger life. An articulate spokesman for S. Charles, decorated veteran of WW II, and English Reformation historian, Bill was an active Anglican traditionalist and a parishioner of the Church of the Advent, Boston, a block from his home. He had worshipped there for more than 70 years and served on the Corporation.

Bequests. In our March issue were reported the deaths on 28 Jan. and 20 Feb. of the Rev’d Canon James P. DeWolfe, Jr., SSC, D.Min., and the Rev’d Dr. Charles E. Whipple, with the following banner:

**THEY BOTH WITNESSED TO S. CHARLES’S FAITHFULNESS UNTO DEATH, WHICH SAVED ECCLESIA ANGLICANA.**

Remarkably, we have since been informed that each of these faithful priests provided for the Society in his will, in further witness to his belief. They both *Remembered! Laus Deo!*

To do so yourself, simply decide on the provision you wish to make, to benefit the “Society of King Charles the Martyr, Inc.”, include our website address and the postal addresses of two officers of the Society, and consult with your attorney. Such a provision may usually be added to an existing will by means of a simple codicil. You may contact our General Counsel, J. Douglass Ruff, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Trustees, at [douglassruff@aol.com](mailto:douglassruff@aol.com) for information from the Society’s point of view. Naturally your attorney must advise you regarding your own affairs, including your will.

The 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Recognition of the Cultus of Saint Charles, K.M., will be celebrated on 7 May 2011 at the **Church of the Resurrection, New York City**, at the kind invitation of the Rev’d Canon Barry E. B. Swain, SSC, rector. The discrepancy between the actual anniversary and our commemoration? A late Easter in 2011. Sometimes called the Canonization of King Charles the Martyr, the commemoration marks the day, 26 April 1661, when the Convocations of Canterbury and York, meeting in joint session, unanimously adopted the State Services for 30 January, in which Charles was called ‘saint’ and ‘martyr’. The services were included in the Sealed Book and hence the 1662 BCP, remaining there until removed in 1859. Since the C of E has no formal canonization process, 26 April is often called the Canonization. Canonization by acclamation is a process: Charles’s began when he was beheaded on 30 January 1649.

And, well in advance, the XXXIII Annual Mass, at 11 a.m. on Saturday 30 January 2016, has been scheduled at the **Church of the Holy Communion, Charleston SC**. We thank **the Rev’d M. Dow Sanderson, SSC**, for his invitation; he and members of our largest chapter will be our hosts.

The June, 2009, SKCM News should have reached you at the beginning of June

The next Email Communiqué will (also) appear in July . . . so said because this, our June issue, is reaching you after the end of June, just before Independence Day. I’ve had some computer problems and apologize for their dilatory effect. The Communiqué is not being published in May or November, when you receive *SKCM News*, or August, to avoid contending with Summer’s canicular days. I encourage you to submit short articles for this publication. I’ll be happy to chat with you if I may help develop or focus your ideas.



SEND EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE & SUGGESTIONS BY EMAIL TO DR. WUONOLA.

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