Today we mark the Birthday of our Royal Martyr. Our British compatriots will mark the day with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Church of St. Katharine Cree, followed by their Annual General Meeting. We keep them in our prayers.

This day is also a good opportunity to remind you to continue our own work in a number of ways, not least by making sure your 2013 dues are either paid or in the payment process. It is extremely helpful to the work of the Society that our cash flow coming into the new year be strong, as we look forward to our own celebration of the Royal Martyrdom at the end of January. See related articles below.

The winter edition of the SKCM News has been posted to the membership. As always, you will find it to be good reading. We invariably hear reports from members who take their time learning from and enjoying the articles over any number of reading sessions.

During the first week of December, we’ll be posting the 2013 dues billing and related opportunities to support the work of the Society. Note that this will be a mailing separate from the usual enclosure with the Winter SKCM News. We’re proceeding earlier than usual this year in response to members who want to make tax-deductible Annual Mass and/or general support donations before the end of the current tax year. Also, some members have expressed an interest in purchasing Society goods as Christmas gifts. We’re using larger paper with larger type, and the goods order sheet is now showing only the most popular items (mostly members-only and liturgical and devotional materials) — the complete list remains on the website. Even if you owe no dues at this time, you are encouraged to make tax-deductible donations to the Society as well as purchase Society goods!

This is another reminder to mark your calendars as well for the 11 a.m. 26 January 2013 Annual Mass at All Saints’ Parish (Ashmont), Boston, MA. A buffet luncheon will follow at $15 per person. Checks may be sent to All Saints’ Parish Office, 209 Ashmont Street, Dorchester Center, MA 02124 (note ‘S.K.C.M.’ on your check’s memo line).

You will also find some notes from Dr. Wuonola correcting some details in regard to what he wrote in a previous Communiqué.

Fr. Bill Swatos
President
Erratum & Addendum to 8 Sept. 2012 Email Communique

The statement “sans H.R.H.” in relation to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor was only partly correct, or rather, partly wrong, as a knowledgeable member pointed out. We thank him for the correction and take this opportunity to clarify the point. See especially paragraph four of the comments below, which reference and quote from ‘Edward VIII’ in Brewer’s British Royalty by David Williamson (London: Cassell, 1996), pp. 120-2. —MAW

King Edward VIII

The first son and eldest child of George, Duke of York (later King George V) and Victoria Mary of Teck (later Queen Mary) was born on 23 June 1894. He was baptized by the Archbishop of Canterbury, using water that his father himself had brought from the river Jordan, in the drawing room of White Lodge, Richmond Park, Surrey, his birthplace, on 16 July 1894, receiving the names Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David, the last four names being the patron saints of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

David, as he was always known in his family, had as godparents his grandfathers, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) and the Duke of Cambridge, the Emperor Nicholas II of Russia, the Kings of Denmark and Württemberg, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha, his great-grandmother Queen Victoria, his two grandmothers, the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Teck, and the Queens of Denmark and of the Hellenes.

David was created Prince of Wales on 2 June 1910 after his father’s accession in May, and a Knight of the Garter. He acceded to the throne upon his father’s death on 20 January 1936, as King Edward VIII, but abdicated on 10 December 1936 (in favor of his brother the Duke of York), the first English monarch to abdicate since Richard II in 1399.

He married Mrs. Wallis Simpson in France on 3 June 1937. On 8 March he had been created Duke of Windsor by his brother and successor King George VI, and on 27 May he had received ‘reconferment’ of the qualification of Royal Highness by Letters Patent, which expressly stated that this style was reserved to him alone and could not extend to any wife or children he might acquire. The legality/constitutionality of all this has been questioned, but the Duke of Windsor never made an open issue of it.

The Duke of Windsor served a wartime tour of duty as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahamas (1940-5) but lived in self-imposed exile in France until his death on 28 May 1972. A few days before his death, he was cheered by the visit of his beloved niece Queen Elizabeth II. He lay in state in Saint George’s Chapel, Windsor and was laid to rest in the royal burial ground at Frogmore, where his duchess was buried beside him upon her death in Paris on 24 April 1986.

S.K.C.M. (American Region) Membership [$15 per annum, current and future years] and Inquiries: David Lewis, FAAO, Treasurer & Membership Secretary, Ameraca453@aol.com. Membership includes SKCM News (semiannual) and Church & King (annual). This Communiqué (periodic) is provided as a PDF.