



A Message from the President

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Email Communiqué
Society of King Charles the Martyr

American Region

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Baptism of S. Charles, K.M.

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This Communiqué comes to you with the best wishes of the leadership of the Society of King Charles the Martyr for a happy and holy Christmas. As we take note of this anniversary of King Charles's baptism, we do well to remind ourselves that our own baptisms, just as his was, are baptisms into the death of Christ, through which we rise to new life. Some of us may find that we are more fully to embrace the death of Christ than we may have imagined at our baptisms, not least if we were baptised as infants, but we all share with King Charles his resurrection faith in an "incorruptible crown."

We're pleased to report that many members have already paid their dues. We're particularly thankful for the great early support for the 2013 Annual Mass (already ahead of 2012), two new Life Memberships and much prepayment of dues. Remember that the "due date for dues" is January 30 - or earlier, i.e., 31 December if you desire to have any donations counted as 2012 charitable contributions, or 15 January if you are making an Annual Mass donation and want to be listed in the printed program.

Members have inquired about Life Membership and recognition of members who have joined in past years. On the former, see your dues statement for details; on the latter, recognition is made in the *SKCM News* of the year of joining using five-year anniversaries.

Our XXX Annual Mass is now less than five months away: 11 a.m. on 26 January 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). If you need local information, please contact the parish office at <http://allsaints.net/> or by phone at 617-436-6370. And don't forget to schedule local Masses on or near the 30 January martyrdom anniversary date.

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of our member Charles F. Barenthaler, Ben., of Arlington, VA, who died on 14 December. *Requiescat in pace.* Amen.

To raise your spirits a bit more in this Season of Great Gladness, we thought we would share with you a poem written by SKCM-AR's principal founder.

Christmas Blessings.

Fr. Bill Swatos
President

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.

A Vision of a Puritan Christmas: Boston, 1635

by The Rev'd William Harman van Allen, S.T.D., D.C.L.*

Who dares to speak of Christmas here,
Or sing a carol gay?
Alas, there is no Christian year
On Massachusetts Bay!

The wind blows chill o'er Beacon Hill,
The snow full knee-deep lies;
But ne'er a bell doth peal Nowell
Nor anthem cheerful rise.

The fir and pine their branches twine
Under the blue sky's dome,
And nameless scarlet berries shine
As holly doth at home.

But O my soul doth long and faint
For God's House decked with green!
An exile here, I make complaint
And mourn for things unseen.

In England, how the waits do sing,
With lanterns all alight!
They find good cheer when they appear
To greet the Holy Night.

But stern Selectmen, sour and grim,
Forbid us Christmas mirth:
No voice dares raise a hymn of praise
That tells of Jesus' birth.

There every altar glitters fair
With vessels for the Feast;
The candles gleam as doth beseem
The Holy Eucharist;

And Christian folk approach to take
The Body of their Lord:
Christ's Mass they keep in reverence deep
Kneeling with one accord.

Then *Gloria in Excelsis* sounds
To laud the King new-born;
And grace is shed on every head
That bows on Christmas morn.

Dear Lord, my weary eyes o'erflow,
Straining across the foam
To catch some show of the Yuletide glow
That gladdens folk at home.

Vain, vain the search! Thy Holy Church
The Puritans have banned;
Our mother's gentle voice is hushed,—
No Prayer-Book in the land!

But faith unrolls the future's scrolls.
Sweet Christmas shall not die,
Nor men of English blood and speech
Forget their ancestry.

In years to come, on Beacon Hill
Shall Christmas Eve be bright,
And Christian folk their windows fill
With candles all alight.

The waits shall sing the Baby-King,
Jesus, whom we adore;
Praise to the Virgin-Born shall ring
Through Boston evermore.

His Advent shall the chimes peal out
With clamorous acclaim;
And all the trees shall clap their hands
Hearing the Infant's Name.

True priests of apostolic line
Shall chant the Liturgy,
And incense-clouds shall veil the shrine
Where He vouchsafes to be.

I shall not see that happy day
For which mine eyes have wept;
But Lord, by Massachusetts Bay
Thy Birthday shall be kept.

Thy Church and Faith shall stand secure
Long as the heavens abide;
For Thou, the Child of Mary pure,
Wast born at Christmas-tide.

I send these verses as a Christmas greeting to my friends, rejoicing that the prophecy of the poem has been fulfilled.

—WILLIAM HARMAN VAN ALLEN, *Rectory of the Advent, Boston, Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Anno Domini MDCCCCXII*

*Dr. van Allen and others established the Society of King Charles the Martyr in America (New York) in 1894.

Note: Vss. 5 & 14; a **wait** is one of a group of street or rustic singers or players looking to collect gratuities, especially at Christmas.