



A Message from the President

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***Email Communiqué***  
**Society of King Charles the Martyr**

**American Region**

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***White Rose Day***

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Greetings in the name of the Royal Martyr—

**W**hat is White Rose Day? It is odd that a commemoration that is so well-known—in a vague sense, not in detail—and that commemorates or is associated with so many different people came also to be so obscure. Part of its significance is that it refers to *King Charles I, whose nickname, the **White King**, refers to his wearing a white garment, visible only at the anointing ceremony at his Coronation, 2 February 1626.* This later date, as Spring turns to Summer, comes at a time of year that may on occasion be a suitable opportunity for a non-Winter gathering, especially on the part of our chapters.

In the end, it is particularly well known in the United Kingdom, especially but not only in Roman Catholic circles, and commemorates four people familiar to most of us:

- ✘ **Saint Charles, King and Martyr,**
- ✘ **Saint Margaret of Scotland** (shared by Anglicans and Roman Catholics alike),
- ✘ **Mary Queen of Scots,** and
- ✘ **James** (son of James II of Great Britain and VII of Scotland, styled King James III & VIII by Stuart loyalists and 'The Old Pretender' by the Hanoverians)



Celebration of White Rose Day on 10 June is not unique to Roman Catholicism, although the majority of our tetrad were of the Roman communion. Our Society's own Patron, King Charles (I) the Martyr remained loyal to England's established Church and was committed to its teachings and

practice. As he replied to a suggestion that he become (Roman) Catholic from his mother-in-law, Marie de'Medici, "Madame, I *am* a Catholic." And on the scaffold, he proclaimed, "I remain a son of the Church of England, as it was left me by my father. Remember."

Some writers have dismissed any or all of the four remarkable individuals associated with White Rose Day as hopeless romantics, stubborn fools, even stupid, and venerated by deluded eccentrics. The lost cause has an appeal for romantics, as Tucci points out; the history of the Stuarts provides more than a few examples of lost causes, properly of interest because they were right, not because they were lost. As a Society, our interest in this history stems from an interest in the Stuart dynasty, as related to our Patron, not from any political position (of which there are many represented among our members).

Remember that for unbelievers, whose point of view is worldly only, our Lord's was a lost cause, in which his death and interment *were* the end. Our faith is based on the *rest* of the story. Our Lord told us that we would be 'marginalized', although He wouldn't have used such a vapid word: He said, bluntly and with candor, that He came not to bring peace, but a sword, and that as His disciples, we might find that our families turn against us, that our friends shun us, that society ridicules or persecutes us, and we suffer all manner of ill treatment, including death, but that whatever we suffer would be for His sake. Knowing the potential consequences, why would we believe in Him? Because He is "the way, and the truth, and the life". (S. John xiv: 6)

*[This White Rose Day article is extracted and adapted from the 10 June 2010 Communique. It was authored by Mark A. Wuonola, Ph.D., Ben., OL, our American Representative Emeritus and now-retiring SKCM News Editor, to whom we are grateful. The full article is archived and is available upon request.]*

**A**lso regarding White Rose Day and its reference to the Royal Martyr as the White King, we offer a number of goods that reflect that theme. They are available from the complete listing and order form on our website ([www.skcm-usa.org](http://www.skcm-usa.org)) and include E66 (lapel rosette, with the central white cup of the rose symbolizing the white rose), E68 (Society tie), E69 (Society bow tie) and G81-90 (The White King S.K.C.M history series.) The repeating motif in the two ties is *rose argent slipped or*, i.e., white (silver) rose with gold leaves.

**S***KCM News* update: The June edition cleared its final editorial, layout and pre-print hurdles four days ago. The printer's plan is to print and mail it this week, so watch for your copy to arrive by next week. This edition will be eight pages longer than that dated December 2012 and will be accompanied by the annual *Church & King* from S.K.C.M. in the Mother Country. We again commend Dr. Wuonola for his fine editorship over the past quarter century and also look forward to the first edition (December 2013) that will be prepared under the direction of our incoming editor, Ben Guyer, and associate editor, Richard Mammana. Watch for further news soon on how and where to submit articles and other contributions to the new editorship.

As always, please contact me at [skcm\\_usa@verizon.net](mailto:skcm_usa@verizon.net) should you have any questions.

Fr. Bill Swatos, President

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