



A Message from the President

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

**American Region**

**9 July 2013**

***Anniversary of Death of Ermingarda (the Hon. Mrs. Patrick)  
Greville-Nugent, S.K.C.M. Foundress, 1949***

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Greetings in the name of the Royal Martyr —

Today is the Birthday into Eternity of Mrs. Ermingarda Greville-Nugent, the Foundress of S.K.C.M. Not only we, but also the wider Anglican world owe her and Fr. James Leonard Fish (and also here in North America, Frs. William Harman van Allen and Robert Thomas Nichol) a great deal. This occasion gives me opportunity to bring you up to date on two developments, and then to review what groups of the character that they founded and whose work we carry on today are all about, i.e.

- ✘ As previously announced in the *Communique* and *SKCM News*, we now welcome our new Editor, Benjamin Guyer, and Associate Editor, Richard J. Mammana, Jr., OL. They have put together an excellent set of guidelines of particular interest to those who want to contribute articles, book reviews and related items to the December and subsequent editions of the *News*. We will be publishing a separate edition of the *Communique* in the very near future, probably on 17 July, to share these guidelines as well as further introduce the new team.
- ✘ We are also “under construction” in other areas pertaining to communicating with and serving you, our members. Now going into effect are new email addresses, tied into our internet domain, to reach the *News* Editors, the Treasurer/Membership Secretary, and me. Our website continues to evolve; inter alia, it will provide hyperlinks for the above email addresses as well as ways to download more PDFs of useful documents. Also under active exploration is the use of PayPal for payment of dues, contributions and goods orders, dovetailed to the website. We will keep you informed once we complete preparatory work and Board of Trustees’ decision-making.

Since the time of the Oxford Movement in the Church of England, there have been organizations whose purpose is the propagation of the Catholic Faith within the Anglican Communion. Each of these societies champions one aspect of Anglican doctrine which otherwise has not been emphasized by the Anglican Churches as a whole. The most familiar are such groups as the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, the Society of Mary and the Guild of All Souls; the Society of King Charles the Martyr is also very much on this list. The common thread is devotion and prayer.

“Devotional societies are like salt, light and leaven, carrying on the quiet work of witness, prayer, devotion, and teaching, which we trust continues to enliven, enrich, and inspire the life and mission of the Church.” (From an article by The Rev'd. Dr. Richard Cornish Martin, SSC, OL, S.K.C.M, member and Superior Emeritus of the Society of Mary, American Region, in the *Annunciatio* 2013 issue of *AVE*.)

You may also want to read “What are Devotional Societies for? King Charles the Martyr and the Philosophy of History” by Benjamin Guyer, *SKCM News* June 2011, pp 44-46.

Not that many years ago, one would have found virtually all members of these devotional societies in North America to be members of the Episcopal Church or the Anglican Church of Canada. Today, with the theological and ecclesial landscape shifting around Anglicanism, one finds such shifts particularly affecting the historic Anglo-Catholic base of these societies. Although a definite majority of the membership remains within these two bodies, many within the devotional societies have moved to such bodies as the ACNA, other Anglican provinces and jurisdictions, Rome (including most recently the nascent Ordinariate), and Orthodoxy. One also finds that as our membership has grown grayer, we need to be working harder to attract younger members. These shifts, however, do not change the devotional, prayerful purposes of the devotional societies and their ongoing need.

Our purposes as the S.K.C.M. clearly stand out as a part of the Anglican Patrimony that has had such an influence in building Western culture. These remain important to all Christians and thus invite our common attention:

- To pray for the Anglican Communion.
- To promote a wide observance of 30 January, the day of the Martyrdom of King Charles I in 1649.
- To win general recognition of the great debt owed by Anglicans to Charles Stuart. His faithfulness unto death in defense of the Church, her Episcopal government, and apostolic ministry preserved it.
- To work for the reinstatement of the Feast of King Charles the Martyr in the Kalendar of the Book of Common Prayer throughout the Anglican world.
- To encourage efforts to build and equip churches and erect shrines dedicated to Saint Charles.

In this spirit the Society will continue to equip parishes, groups of members and individual members with the tools for devotion and prayer.

Your shared reports and ideas are always helpful to us in that regard.

As always, please contact me at [skcm@skcm-usa.org](mailto:skcm@skcm-usa.org) (note the new email address) should you have any questions.

Fr. Bill Swatos, President

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