



A Message from the President

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Email Communiqué
Society of King Charles the Martyr

American Region

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The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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Greetings in the name of the Royal Martyr—

Of Crosses and Crowns

Today we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, commonly known as "Holy Cross Day." Specifically, according to Christian tradition, St. Helena, mother of King Constantine, went to the Holy Land in search of sites connected to the life, death and resurrection of our Lord. She



believed and others concurred that she had found at least parts of the cross on which our Lord and Savior was crucified. Over time, that relic was, so to speak, pared down into many splinters, which were distributed to new Christian churches (or specific altars in churches) for veneration. Given the time in which she lived, there simply were no credible scientific tests to determine matters like age and provenance of an object such as this. As Christians today, we receive the Holy Cross as an act of faith and a witness to both St. Helena and many persons after her who labored to locate and venerate objects associated with Our Lord and his Apostles.

In one sense, the veneration of St. Charles, King and Martyr, is quite the opposite of this. We know exactly when and where he died in this life and where his remains now rest. We also believe that he reigns in glory with our Lord and many other holy Christians, known and unknown. Whereas the Precious Blood of Jesus remains a feast of Christian observance, we know that many persons at the time of King Charles's martyrdom were in a position to dip cloths or handkerchiefs into his blood poured before the Banqueting Hall entrance, though only a few of those may remain today, and just as with our Lord and Saviour's precious blood, we are at a handicap to assay whether or not any specific one of these cloths does or does not display the precious blood of King Charles the Martyr. We walk by faith, but our faith is not blindly invested. Accounts from his own days to the present testify to works of faith that are the product of devotion to him and his self-sacrifice. Embodying this in our own lives gives us the opportunity to continue his witness, which is in its essence Jesus's witness made ever new.




I hope that on this day each of you will take a few moments to give thanks to our triune God for the spirit of self-giving devotion that was in the heart of King Charles I and to pray that each of us in the S.K.C.M. will in his or her own way be as capable of responding fully to God's call to us as King Charles was to His call to him. REMEMBER!

As the world reawakens following vacationtide, please actively note that part of our work as Society members is evangelism – not the least recruiting more members to our cause and midst. We’ve brought in 20 new members during the past 11 months, but it would be wonderful if we could bring in twice that many. Here are some suggestions on membership growth:

- ✘ Every member recruit a new member during this fiscal year. We all know prospects!
- ✘ Order Society membership flyers for your tract rack – we’ll be glad to email the flyer set up for your local copying) (just send an email to the Treasurer/ Membership Secretary using membership@skcm-usa.org.
- ✘ Be a “mover and shaker” and form a S.K.C.M. chapter if you already have a core group.
- ✘ If you use social media sites, post on the Facebook SKCM page to help give greater visibility to the Society (contact either Doug Ruff at douglassruff@aol.com or John Covert at covert@covert.org for assistance, if needed).
- ✘ If you already have a S.K.C.M. presence in your parish, put a link on your parish website to the S.K.C.M. website, www.skcm-usa.org (but please make certain that you use *this* address rather than the one in the UK!)
- ✘ And generally make the work of the Society more visible. Check our website and/or contact the Membership Secretary for further assistance in making this happen.

SOCIETY OF KING CHARLES THE MARTYR



REMEMBER!

**ANNUAL SOLEMN MASS
OF SAINT CHARLES, K.M.**

11 a.m., Saturday, 25 January 2014
 Saint Vincent’s Cathedral, Bedford TX
 The Rt Rev’d Jack Leo Iker, DD, *SSC, Bishop*
 The Very Rev’d Ryan S. Reed, *SSC, Dean*
 The Rev’d Martin C. Yost, *SSC, Preacher*
 Cathedral Choir of Saint Vincent
 Dr. Barbara M. Burton, *Director & Organist*

Followed by BUFFET LUNCHEON
Reservations required. \$20 per person.
 Make check payable to “Saint Vincent’s Cathedral”
 - memo line “SKCM” – deadline: 14 January
Send to: Saint Vincent’s Cathedral Office
1300 Forest Ridge Dr., Bedford TX 76022
 Website: www.stvincentscathedral.org

S.K.C.M. General and Membership information:
www.skcm-usa.org or membership@skcm-usa.org

In April, we reported that six more members had been added to the rolls of the Order of Blessed William Laud, Abp. & Martyr. Per Board of Trustees policy adopted in 2009, the members of the Laud Society are elected “in recognition of contributions rising to a certain level, or higher, of significance as to impact and benefit to the Society by members and supporters who are not members ...”

Society members are invited to submit nominations for Board consideration as additional Laud Society designees. Such nominations, giving background on the candidate and stating why he or she should be honored, should be sent by 2 November 2013 to The Ven. James G. Monroe, Ph.D., SSC, Secretary of the Board, at jimmon39@gmail.com or 4310 Meadow Forest Lane, Kingwood TX 77345-3007USA, for consideration during the next awards cycle.



Where there's a will, there's a way... both the 1928 and 1979 Prayer Books remind us of the importance of leaving bequests for religious and charitable as well as family uses. In addition to remembering your families, friends and churches in your wills, would you also prayerfully consider including the Society in your planned giving? At this time we have an endowment of only \$2,000. Given our Society's age demographics – our average age is not exactly low – it would be great if each of us would make such a consideration. There is much that the Society could do, such as supporting churches and chapels dedicated to S. Charles and publishing relevant materials, given the resources.

Finally, a genealogical update ... in the 17 July *Communique*, we mentioned that Emperor Nicholas II and King George V were cousins as well as grandchildren of Queen Victoria. As it turns out, the first is correct but the latter technically is not (although in a broader sense the late Queen-Empress was the "grandmother" of much of European royalty!) Queen Victoria was the grandmother of King George V and *Kaiser Wilhelm*, but not of Nicholas II. She was the grandmother of his wife, the Empress Alexandra. George V and the Emperor Nicholas were cousins through their mothers, who were daughters of King Christian IX of Denmark.

As always, you are welcome to contact me at skcm@skcm-usa.org should you have any questions, ideas or concerns.

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, MEMBERSHIP@SKCM-USA.ORG.

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES SKCM NEWS (SEMIANNUAL) AND CHURCH & KING (ANNUAL).

TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THE SKCM NEWS, PLEASE CONTACT EDITORS@SKCM-USA.ORG.

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