



A Message from the President

The Rev'd William H. Swatos, Jr., Ph.D.

Canon Theologian of the Diocese of Quincy

BACK ISSUES OF *SKCM NEWS* AND THE *EMAIL COMMUNIQUÉ* ARE POSTED AT THE AMERICAN REGION'S WEBSITE, WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG

Greetings in the name of the Royal Martyr—

"Manifested by the star to the sages from afar ... manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest and King supreme ... and at Cana, wedding guest, in thy Godhead manifest: manifest in power divine, changing water into wine. Anthems be to thee address, God in man made manifest."

Today's Epiphany feast in the West, observed in some places on 5 January, dates back to as early as the second century. It thus predates the separate commemoration of Christmas, which began in Rome in the fourth century and subsequently was imported to the East. Historically it commends not only the familiar visit of the Magi but also the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River and His first recorded miracle at the wedding feast of Cana - manifestations of the incarnate Lord to humankind. In Eastern Churches, the Epiphany (Theophany) emphasizes Jesus' Baptism. And the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo *Timket* celebration, on January 19 or 20 per the local calendar, observes Our Lord's Baptism with great festivity.



The season following the Epiphany logically highlights the mission of the Church in making the incarnate Christ more visible, in name and deed, to our troubled world. For us in the Society of King Charles the Martyr, it is the most active time of the year, centered on our 30 January commemoration of his martyrdom, in manifesting our special focus of devotion and in bringing in new members.

This is an excellent time to follow the example of the Magi and offer our own gifts, e.g.:

- Make the Society more visible to new members by restocking our tract racks with the SKCM American Region flyer – effectively our *myrrh* - they are free and may be ordered through our website, but if you contact the Membership Secretary (membership@skcm-usa.org) he will send you the document used by the printer so that you can prepare your own supply. Since 1 October we have brought in one new member per week, which is great, but we need to keep up this momentum.
- Those of us who have not already shared our *gold* with the Society should pay current dues by 30 January (62% now are current, paid ahead or life members, 34% still owe 2014 dues and another 4% are one year behind) and are encouraged to contribute to the Annual Mass. One dollar out of six has come through our new PayPal account. To be included in the printed service sheet, contributions must be received by mail or PayPal by 15 January.

- Plan your local annual commemoration of the Royal Martyrdom on or around 30 January. If you do not already have the liturgical propers and/or need suggestions for hymns, check our website and/or contact the Membership Secretary (membership@skcm-usa.org) for help in obtaining appropriate resources. And since we want to recognize your local commemoration in the June SKCM News, please send a report on same to me after it occurs at skcm@skcm-usa.org.
- In the *frankincense* department, those of us who can do so are encouraged to attend this year's Annual Mass and Luncheon at Saint Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford, Texas at 11 am on Saturday, 25 January. Note the 14 January luncheon reservations deadline.

The Mass setting will be Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Missa Brevis* in C, the *Spatzenmesse* (Sparrow Mass). The Cathedral Choir will be accompanied by string quartet and organ. The quartet is the Dallas Symphony players, including the cellist Theodore Harvey, a SKCM member.


Please remember in your prayers the following members whose deaths were reported during October-December: Trevor Joy Johnson, of MA ... Betty Hughes Morris, of MA ... Capt. Edward J. Ward, of NV ... Dr. R. Lewis Wright, of VA.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that the December (winter) edition of the *SKCM News* is indeed at the printer, meaning that we will receive it before 30 January; also, that work has already begun on the *June News*.

With best wishes for a happy New Year and a spiritually active and prosperous season after the Epiphany,

Fr. Bill Swatos, President
skcm@skcm-usa.org

SOCIETY OF KING CHARLES THE MARTYR



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

REMEMBER!

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

*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).
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