



A Message from the President

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Email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr
American Region

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As Lent Approaches: the Paradoxes of Our Faith

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Dear Friends in the Royal Martyr –

We are now approaching Lent as the winter gradually moves toward spring. In the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, the Collect for this final Sunday after the Epiphany is

O God, who before the passion of thy only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord ...

This Collect could have been written for St Charles's use as he prepared himself for facing his executioner. It reminds us that the Christian faith is penetrated by contradictions that can be either exploited negatively or appropriated positively. Lent is a time of preparation for the joy of Easter. Earthly death is an entrance into eternal life. Our devotion to Blessed Charles is enhanced as we experience the eternal truths that penetrate the historic record of sin and redemption, death and life, the cross and the crown.

I would encourage you to pray this collect daily through Lent, as I will also try to do, hoping thereby to be enriched by the paradoxes of our faith and strengthened by the examples of both Our Blessed Lord and Our Gracious Martyr.



Much has occurred in the life of the SKCM across the past month or so, as we had our annual Board meeting in late January. The major actions we took are summarized below. I encourage you to read them and appreciate the work of a number of very dedicated people who give generously of their time, talent and resources to make the SKCM an ever-more shining witness to the heights and depths of Christian commitment:

- ✓ FY2012-2013 closed with a \$3,188 surplus, especially due to a 50% increase in Annual Mass contributions, the best year ever in new life memberships and another year of lower-than-anticipated Annual Mass costs. (The December 2013 *SKCM NEWS* includes a full FY2012-2013 financial report.)
- ✓ The current FY appears to be headed toward a small surplus, with the previous fiscal year's Annual Mass contribution level being repeated, general donations increasing, and payments for current dues and (especially) new members going up; new life membership and future dues payments are down, while Annual Mass costs are higher than for the two previous years.
- ✓ Adopted a draft budget for FY2013-2014, which projects net income of \$9,140, expenses of \$8,790 and a \$360 surplus.

- ✓ Noted exemplary membership growth since the current fiscal year began on 1 October 2013 – 34 new or reinstated members, contrasted with 22 for the entire previous fiscal year. Linking PayPal to an enhanced website has generated most of this growth.
- ✓ Received reports on the 25 January Annual Mass & Luncheon, which was held at St. Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford, TX and was attended by 82 members, parishioners and friends.
- ✓ Noted two more Society Benefactors, elected two new members to the Archbishop William Laud Society and ratified the election of two other Laud Society members by the Executive Committee (see below).
- ✓ Appointed project teams to review and make recommendations regarding the areas of membership and financial development (Jonathan Jensen of FL, chairman), chapters role and locations (Baron Fain of SC, chairman), Annual Mass & Luncheon policies (Paul McKee of DC, chairman) and goods program review (John Covert of MA, chairman) and to report back to the Board this summer.
- ✓ Re-elected eight of the nine Trustees, with Don Evans retiring and thanked for his nearly six years of services; increased the size of the Board to its maximum of 11 and elected three new Trustees (see complete list below).
- ✓ Designated the Society's executive officers as an Executive Committee empowered by the Bylaws to take certain actions between Board meetings as well as to generally assist the project teams.
- ✓ Continued the current Nominating Committee (Doug Ruff, chairman, David Lewis and Richard Mammana) for a second year.

In addition to the Board setting much in motion to build the Society, there is much that each and all of us can do as Society members. Here are four immediate opportunities:

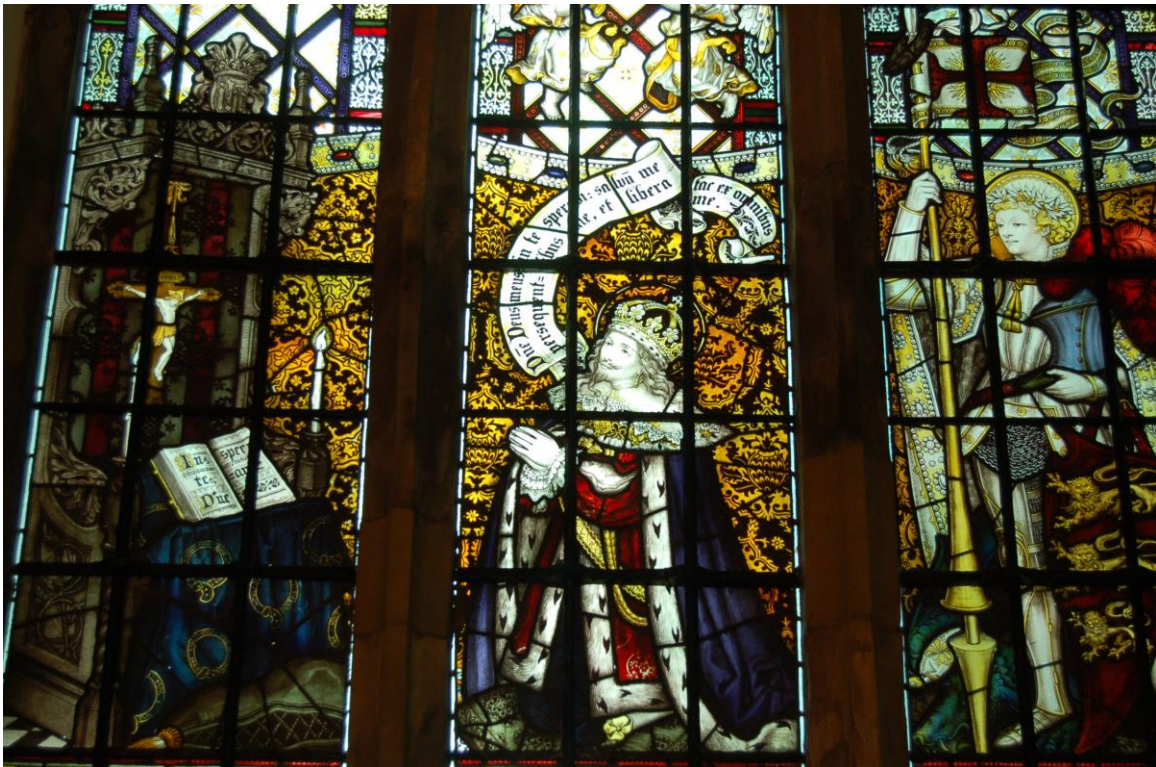
- Let's keep up our membership growth momentum. We are about to go to print with our updated membership flyer, designed particularly for church tract racks. If you would like copies, please email the Secretary-Treasurer at membership@skcm-usa.org; the flyer can be obtained either as printed copies or as a template for you to make copies locally. Don't forget that we receive new members from the personal touch as well as from PayPal connection!
- We need your informational contributions to the Society History. Veteran members particularly should have something to add to this testimony to our Society's origins, activities, lessons learned and aspirations. Please contact Mark A. Wuonola, Ph.D., our SKCM History Editor, American Representative Emeritus and Past President, at 13 Walnut Street, #2, Waltham, MA 02453, phone 781-308-0056, email wuonola@yahoo.com, to offer your assistance.
- Have you submitted a report of your local parish's annual observance of the Martyrdom of King Charles? A number of parishes have done so already – thank you. If you have anything to pass on, even if it is comparatively brief, please send it to skcm@skcm-usa.org without delay so that it can be shared with the membership in the next *SKCM News* edition.
- Articles, book reviews and other matters of interest are invited for submission for the June *SKCM News*. Deadline: 31 March. The editors would also like attendee reports from the recent Annual Mass and Luncheon, including photos. Please submit to editors@skcm-usa.org.
- Finally, of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the following Society members who have moved to the next life since the beginning of this fiscal year, i.e., Trevor Joy Johnson, of Boston, MA ... E. James Kobieski, of Scranton, PA ... Betty Hughes Morris, of Squantum, MA ... The Rev'd John Bernard Pahls, Jr., OL, of Colorado Springs, CO ... Dorothy W. Spaulding, of Arlington, VA ... Captain Edward J. Ward, of Las Vegas, NV ... Dr. Raleigh Lewis Wright, of Midlothian, VA. To the extent available, we will include suitable obituaries in the June *SKCM News*.

Watch for the next planned edition of the *Communique*, which will be 27 March, the Accession of King Charles I, 1625. Among other things, we plan to report on recent recognitions given to Society members plus more on the missions entrusted to our four new project teams.

I close with greetings and best wishes from our entire 2014-2015 Board of Trustees:

The Rev'd Canon William H. Swatos, Jr., Ph.D., of IL, *President*
J. Douglass Ruff, Esq., of MD, *Vice President/Asst. Secretary/Asst. Treasurer/General Counsel*
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Fr. Bill Swatos, President
skcm@skcm-usa.org



SOCIETY WEBSITE: WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG

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