



A Message from the President

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Email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr
American Region

27 March 2014

Accession of King Charles I, 1625
& Founding of S.K.C.M., 1894

ISSN 2153-6120

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

Dear Friends in the Royal Martyr –

This letter comes to you first and foremost as a reminder that King Charles I's Accession to the Throne took place on 27 March 1625. It was also on 27 March 1894, when 27 March was Easter Tuesday – a very early Easter date in contrast to this year's rather late one – that Mrs Greville-Nugent and the Revd L.L. Fish founded the SKCM in 1894, thus making this year the 120th anniversary of the founding.



I note that in the current week we have just observed the Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary that God had chosen her to bear His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, but as I read the lessons for the feast, I also remembered in the context of the lives of both King Charles, on the one hand, and Our Lord on the other, that there was in cases something to reflect upon in the prophecy of Simeon who, after he uttered the words that we now call the *Nunc dimittis* also spoke to Mary the words “and a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also” (cf. Luke 2: 29-35).

Perhaps the lesson for us as Christians is that virtue must be its own reward. I believe that King Charles understood that, and because of that, when it came to 1649, he could face the events of 30 January with the calmness he showed. He was a Christian man to whom the cross and resurrection mattered far more than an earthly crown. By dying as he did, he not only ultimately saved Catholic worship and orders in England, but he also gave inspiration to men and women in time since both to believe and to live as though there is more to real life than earthly rewards. In the remaining days of Lent, you might want to consider adding the following Prayer for the Society of King Charles the Martyr composed by our recently deceased brother, the Rev'd John B. Pahls, Jr. O.L.:

O Almighty and everliving God, who hast called us to steadfastness in the Faith once delivered unto the Saints, and courage to uphold the same in the World, after the example of the King and Martyr **Charles**: We humbly beseech Thee to bestow Thy blessing upon this Society, that all its members may ever promote the thankful remembrance of his faithfulness unto death, and strive without ceasing for the building up of the Faith, Order, and Godly life of the Church, and that, persevering unto the end as did our Royal Patron, we may with him inherit the incorruptible crown of eternal life, which Thou hast promised to those who follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth, even Thy Son JESUS CHRIST our LORD, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the HOLY GHOST, ever, one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

At this 120th anniversary of our founding, we're not simply resting on our commemorative laurels; we are planning how we can get ahead of the curve on four major areas of Society activity. For that purpose, the Board has created four special project teams to report recommendations this summer:

Annual Mass & Luncheon, chaired by Paul McKee. The idea is to pull together everything related to this important devotional and missionary activity, noting what the Society itself is to do, what the host church or cathedral is to manage, and who funds each aspect. Since so many of our AM&L venues do not have a large membership presence, it will be helpful to those on the front line to have both consolidated guidelines as well as ongoing Society leadership.

Chapters, chaired by Baron Fain. Today, we have some chapters that are active, others that really are not, and still more that could be formed. This project team is composed of members who know what makes a viable chapter tick and will bring together "lessons learned" that can be transferred to other places. Unlike the other devotional societies, most of our membership is at-large rather than recruited and nurtured through chapters. We can expect a good look, then, at the potential of this sleeping giant – what, where and how chapters can enhance the quality and quantity of our mission.

Goods Program, chaired by John Covert. The Society has an exemplary goods program that has become even more available with recent website and PayPal enhancements. Several suggestions have been made to add new, significant goods. This project team will explore where we go from here.

Membership and Financial Development, chaired by Jonathan Jensen. On one hand, the average age of our membership is high – well into the 60s. On the other hand, during the past six months we have been blessed with 44 new or reclaimed members – twice as many as the last fiscal year's total. Add to this mix the facts that our membership is diverse (64% Episcopal and Canadian Anglicans, 25% ACNA and Continuum and other Anglicans, 9% Roman Catholic, and 2% Orthodox) and heavier in some parts than others in North America, this project team will be exploring how and where to further grow our membership as well as to open more visible opportunities for planned giving.



We have a story to tell, and we are resolved to continue to tell it better to more people in more places.

Finally, in news of Society members ...

- Last month the Board of Trustees conferred membership in the Archbishop William Laud Society upon Greg Smith of Tennessee and Phoebe Pettingell of Rhode Island. We honored them for their sustained leadership in the Society's chapters in Tennessee and at Saint Stephen's, Providence. Likewise, we are thankful to be able to recognize two new Society Benefactors, Dennis P. Casey, Esq., of New York and Col. Robert W. Scott, of New Jersey. We'll have more to say about all of them in the June *SKCM News*.
- Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Daryl Mason, Esq., of Acton, ON Canada, who passed from this life earlier this month and only recently had joined the Society. The June *SKCM News* will include his obituary.

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