



A Message from the President

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Dear Friends in the Royal Martyr –

We celebrate today 1661 Convocation's approval of the State Service for 30 January, to be inserted into the Book of Common Prayer then in preparation, which would become the 1662 BCP. The 30 January State Service provides materials for special Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Holy Communion services on that day — propers to replace and supplement the regular parts of those services, a special psalm to use instead of the Venite, special collects, and so on. It is "customized" to suit the remembrance of King Charles the Martyr, who is called 'saint' and 'martyr' throughout the services.

His commemoration occurred during the interregnum, secretly, since use of the Prayer Book was illegal, even without commemorating the Parliamentarians' nemesis, King Charles. He was usually remembered on Tuesdays, because 30 January had fallen on a Tuesday.

He was commemorated openly abroad, where there were Courts in Exile in The Hague and in Paris. At The Hague were Charles II, Brian Duppa, Bishop of Winchester, and Edward Hyde, Lord Clarendon, who would be Charles II's Chief Minister starting in 1658. In Paris was John Cosin, Chaplain to the English ladies of the Queen's Court, and a Roman Catholic Court as well as the C of E Court. The RC Court was centered about Queen Henrietta Maria, her chaplains, and her courtiers.

Less than a year after the Restoration (29 May 1660), the vote to adopt the State Services occurred, unanimously, in a joint session of Convocation (meaning that Canterbury's and York's Convocations met together), on 26 April 1661.

This is why we call that vote the Recognition of the *Cultus* of King Charles the Martyr – 2011 being the 350th Anniversary.

It's not the anniversary of the *Cultus*. That had its beginning once the King was dead. Those who venerated him then, through intercessory prayer, perhaps using his relics as adjuncts, were the first members of his *Cultus*. [Adapted from the April 2011 *Communique*.]



As I remarked in the 27 March *Communique*, we have a story to tell, and we are resolved to continue to tell it better to more people in more places. The anniversary of the canonization of the Royal Martyr,

coinciding as it does with the early part of the Great 50 Days of Easter, naturally evokes evangelization on the part of us all. Here are some thoughts for our personal action:

- ✘ Make certain that your church's tract rack has an ample supply of flyers promoting Society membership. They can be obtained by going to our website and ordering them (free) from the goods page, or by emailing the Secretary-Treasurer (membership@skcm-usa.org) to order a template for making your own copies.
- ✘ If you use social media sites, post on the Facebook SKCM group 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). That group is a good place to share comments about the Royal Martyr, pertinent history, local Society activities, and related matters; it includes non-members as well as members from both North America and the UK, so it is also a good place to attract new members.
- ✘ Link the SKCM American Region to your parish's website. Make certain that the linkage is to www.skcm-usa.org rather than to www.sckm.org; the latter is the Mother Society's address which predates ours, but there are still a few parishes out there that have not yet updated their link.
- ✘ Similarly, don't hesitate to mention the SKCM in your own biography when you list organizational affiliations. This small step helps remind the world that we exist and that you are a part of a significant Society.

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