



A Message from the President

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Email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr
American Region

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*Coronation of Charles I
As King of Scotland
(1633)*

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Greetings in the Name of our Royal Martyr --

Some of you may be surprised to see the occasion that forms the historical basis for sending a Communiqué at this time -- namely the date of King Charles's *Scottish* consecration as King of Scotland. One of the hymns sung annually at the Banqueting House observance of Charles's martyrdom even has a line "England's Martyr, England's King," which only serves further to distance our folk from remembering Charles's service to Scotland as well as England.

The circumstances for this dual role date to the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603. Elizabeth, as we know, never married, hence left no direct heir. She was succeeded by the man whom we are most likely to call King James I (the "King James" of the King James Version of the Bible), who was her first cousin twice removed. When James became King of England, he styled himself "King of Great Britain and Ireland," but England and Scotland actually remained separate kingdoms. Charles was the second son of King James, but succeeded to the throne as a result of the death of James's eldest son, Prince Henry, in 1612.



The two kingdoms remained separate until 1707, during the reign of Queen Anne, when the kingdoms of England and Scotland entered upon mutual Acts of Union ratified by the respective parliaments in the 1706 Treaty of Union. They became "United into One Kingdom by the Name of Great Britain," although the new state is also referred to in the Act as the "United Kingdom of Great Britain" and the "United Kingdom." In fact, it was not until 1801, under King George III, that the Act of Union between Britain and Ireland created the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, making the popular phrase "UK" clearly official. This becomes all the more confusing today when it is only *Northern Ireland* that is part of the UK (as a result of the Irish Revolution).

It is the case, however, that until the present that the Church of Scotland and the Church of England remain separate bodies--the former being Presbyterian, the latter being Anglican. St. Charles's martyrdom is celebrated annually in major Scottish cities, but in the Scottish Episcopal Church, not the Church of Scotland. I have had the privilege on several occasions to attend the 30 January observance in the Scottish Episcopal Church cathedral in Edinburgh.

To bring you up to date on current Society events,

- ✘ I'm pleased to report that we have enrolled 52 new or reinstated members to date during the current fiscal year. This is well ahead of last year's number – 23 – and is by far the greatest gain on record since the late 1980s. Keep them coming! Most new members continue to join through the website and PayPal, with others using the application form available through the website; in other words, it has become simpler to join the Society.
- ✘ Last month, I said a few words on Life Members, of which we now have 37 including five who have become Life Members thus far during FY 2013-2014. We also have a distinction known as *Benefactor* – recognition of financial support of the work of the Society. We currently have 19 Benefactor members, plus another 12 who are in the next life. Using Quickbooks we keep track of all giving and thus automatically flag members as they become eligible. The threshold for benefactor status is \$700 in accumulated gifts to the Society, over and above the annual dues and any goods purchases. Benefactors are entitled to use “Ben.” after their names. We are pleased to have already welcomed two new Benefactors thus far this year.
- ✘ Our Development Project Team, chaired by Jonathan Jensen of FL, is continuing its preparation of findings and proposals to strengthen current Society membership retention and growth activities as well as to expand our financial development program. What with active chapters being a natural growth engine for any organization, the work of our Chapters Project Team, led by Baron Fain of SC, also will be important in the Society's future.
- ✘ Another recognition is the Order of Blessed William Laud, Abp.M., an honor conferred by the Board of Trustees. Today we have 33 in this life who are entitled to use the OL designation, with another 16 in the next life. Watch for ongoing new on how to nominate additional members.
- ✘ Our *SKCM News* Editor and printer have updated us on the status of the June edition. It was indeed sent to the printer a couple weeks ago, but there was a mechanical breakdown at the printing company. These things happen. The good news is that everything now has been restored and our semiannual news magazine is now ready to be printed. So, expect to receive your copy toward the end of June or possibly early July. Watch for reports on our 2014 Annual Mass & Luncheon and more, including material from *Church & King* from our Mother Society across the pond.



Please do not hesitate to contact me at skcm@skcm-usa.org should you have any questions, ideas or concerns.

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