



A Message from the President

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Email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr
American Region

10 August 2014

Death of
Queen Henrietta Maria
(1669)

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Greetings in the Name of our Royal Martyr --



You will see that today marks the death of King Charles I's consort, Queen Henrietta Maria, the daughter of France's King Henry IV. There are some who might see the Queen in some respects as the King's worst enemy—a harsh judgment, perhaps, but not without grounds. Of course, she never *intended* to be his enemy, but by various negotiations, including those with the pope, but also other foreign powers and English army officers as well, an environment for the Great Rebellion was “cultivated” in a way that brought tragic consequences. There is little question that her intentions were always for the welfare of her husband and children, but the outcomes were far different from those for which she hoped. Her Roman Catholicism particularly made her suspect in English eyes, though there is no doubt that she was devoted to her husband and family and certainly would not have wanted the outcome to be as it was. It is clear that her return to England after the Restoration shows her willingness to forgive and her devotion to her sons, yet again in the abdication of James II we also see the continuing presence of contrasting loyalties.

In Society news,

- ✓ It's not too early to mark your calendars for our next Annual Mass & Luncheon, to be held in the Church of the Resurrection in New York City on Saturday, 31 January 2015. The musical setting will be Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, with orchestra. More soon.
- ✓ New and reinstated former members continue to join, even in the quiet summer months. We're now up to 56 of them - by far the greatest gain on record at least since the late 1980s. Most continue to join through the website and PayPal.
- ✓ Of our 343 current members, it is an inspiration to us all that two of them have been members for more than 50 years. We plan to give them special recognition in the December *SKCM News*, in addition to the ongoing recognition of five-year anniversaries of all members. Their continuing support, as well as that of all of our growing number of members, is appreciated.

- ✓ A couple more statistics: whereas 23% of our members were born in the 1930s or earlier, another 30% were born in the 1960s or later.
- ✓ Watch for more news soon featuring Society goods. For example, we have replenished our stock of the two types of neckties. A Board-appointed project team will be taking a look at the overall goods program in terms of the feasibility of adding several suggested new items.
- ✓ Also watch for news from two other project teams, one on development (chaired by Jonathan Jensen) and the other on chapters (chaired by Baron Fain). The former, which has been received and is to be referred to the Board of Trustees, has findings and recommendations relating to both financial and membership development. The latter, which expects to meet soon, will submit ideas on how to be a successful chapter. It is likely that both reports will also yield ideas on how our many members-at-large can get more out of their devotional society experience.

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

Fr. Bill Swatos, President
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