



REMEMBER!

A Message from the President

The Rev'd William H. Swatos, Jr., Ph.D.

Canon Theologian of the Diocese of Quincy

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

Greetings in the name of the Royal Martyr—

In the era of Christmastide, of course all Christians focus first and foremost on the Birth of Our Lord and Savior and devotion to His Blessed Mother. But, in fact, there is much more to this season than many of us may realize – a period that has come to be marked by what are called “The Witness Days” for the number of martyrs whose anniversaries fall at this time. In the Book of Common Prayer, the first holy day to be observed is that of the Martyrdom of St. Andrew on November 30, but that is only the beginning. On December 21, we observe the Martyrdom of St. Thomas. To these we can add the First Martyr, St. Stephen, on December 26, the Holy Innocents on December 28, and St. Thomas Becket on December 29.

So what is my point? Simply this: That the Church has been sustained by the witness of those who preferred death to compromise, who believed that the Sacred Deposit of the True Faith bequeathed to Christian men and women across the centuries was something for which it was worth dying, if that should be one's circumstance. The men I mentioned above, of course, are only the first among a glorious “cloud of witnesses” whose inspiration has sustained the Church in the past and to this day.



It is into this glorious family of the “saints in light” that King Charles I entered by the hands of small and scheming men for whom temporary political glory was worth far more than the things of God. We do not celebrate King Charles because he was perfect. I hope we all know that he was not. I also hope that we all know that none of us is. And that's just the point: We are bound together in the holy compact of the redeemed. None of us deserves the gifts that Christ has given. We are all able to receive them by His grace.

As we come to the end of this Year of Our Lord 2014, I would like to ask you, first, to pay your 2015 dues now, if you have not done so already (55% have done so to date – thank you – and 20% of others who do not owe dues have made contributions or prepaid dues for additional years). Money spent on multiple mailings to seek late dues is money wasted against our higher calling. Second, if it is possible

for you in your circumstances to do so, consider becoming a benefactor (cumulative non-dues donations of \$700+) and/or consider a direct additional donation toward the costs of our annual meeting this December in Manhattan (support for the 2015 Annual Mass is now at 83% of our 2014 record amount). Our secretary-treasurer will be happy to hear from you. His email appears below. And if any of you wonders why I am not at the Annual Mass from one year to another, it is because I am at the Annual Mass in London. I am grateful to Doug, David and our other eight Trustees for carrying on in my absence.

Remember that the “due date for dues” is January 30 – or earlier, i.e., 31 December if you desire to have any donations counted as 2014 charitable contributions, or 15 January if you are making an Annual Mass donation and want to be listed in the printed program.

Hopefully, your local parish or church is planning a local Mass of Remembrance for next month, on or near the 30 January martyrdom anniversary date. Liturgical materials are available from the Website, the Liturgical Manual and Devotional Manual (available through our Website and our goods list) and the Secretary-Treasurer. Please send reports to the *SKCM News* Editors (editors@skcm-usa.org) on your observations by early March.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at skcm@skcm-usa.org should you have any questions, ideas or concerns. I also want to say that I love all of you very much and am overwhelming grateful for whatever you do for us at this time or throughout the year. We are moving forward in ways that abound more than whatever we have could have desired or prayed for. Thank you so very much.

Fr. Bill Swatos, President

*S.K.C.M. (AMERICAN REGION) MEMBERSHIP [\$15 PER ANNUM, CURRENT AND FUTURE YEARS] AND INQUIRIES:
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SOCIETY OF KING CHARLES THE MARTYR



XXXII ANNUAL SOLEMN MASS OF SAINT CHARLES, K.M.

11 a.m., Saturday, 31 January 2015

Church of the Resurrection, Manhattan - The Rev'd Cn Barry Swain, *SSC, Rector*

Preacher, The Rev'd Frederick Thomas, *SSC, Rector*, Grace & St Peter's, Baltimore MD

Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, with orchestra

Followed by BUFFET LUNCHEON

Reservations required. \$20 per person. Make check to “Church of the Resurrection” - memo line “SKCM”
Send to the church at 119 E. 74th St., New York NY 10021 by 20 January

Church contact: www.resurrectionnyc.org; 212-879-4320; rector@resurrectionnyc.org