



A Message from the President

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Canon Theologian of the Diocese of Quincy

Email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr
American Region

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Royal Martyr Day

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On this day (30 January) our Society observes Royal Martyr Day, the Decollation of S. Charles, King & Martyr, at Whitehall in 1649. Greetings with the best wishes of your Board of Trustees on this Feast Day of Our Blessed Martyr and Patron:

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As I recently mentioned in the *Communique*, if any of you wonders why I am not at the Annual Mass from one year to another, it is because Mrs. Swatos and I are at the Annual Mass of the Mother Society in London. Actually, we expect to be attending several commemorative liturgies, including:

- ✘ **The observances at the Banqueting Hall:** The Celebrant of the Mass will be The Rev'd James Hill, who is the President of the Society (UK); the Preacher will be Fr. Phillip Warner, Rector of St Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge. The event will start at the entrance to the Banqueting Hall, i.e., outdoors, with Fr. Charles Card-Reynolds (Society Chaplain) taking those devotions as well as probably being the Deacon or Subdeacon for the Mass. A choir comes from Kings College London, which is very close to the BH.

Normally the event begins with devotions outside the BH, as noted, then going inside for the Mass, followed by the veneration of the relics. There are also normally devotions at the Statue of King Charles at the head of Whitehall immediately before all of these events. These are conducted by the Royal Stuart Society.

- ✘ **The Royal Martyr Church Union Mass:** This is always on the Saturday closest to the 30th, this year the 31st, held at the Church of St. Mary-le-Strand. The church itself is part of a multi-church cure, so the celebrant varies and in fact I did preach at least once. Our friend E. David Roberts, Esq., their Secretary and Treasurer, makes this commemoration happen.
- ✘ **Evensong at St. George's Windsor:** Held on the 30th at the well-known chapel at Windsor Palace, this observance opens with the Royal Stuart Society placing a wreath on King Charles's Tomb (which is a flat tomb in the floor) and a brief devotional service. We have missed this the past two years, but I'm really going to try not to let that happen again.

Watch for a full report on the London observances, as well as our own SKCM American Region Annual Mass & Luncheon tomorrow at Resurrection New York City and local observances reported, in the June *SKCM News*. We will also keep you updated in the next email Communique following our 6 February annual organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Fr. Bill Swatos, President
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O SOVEREIGN GOD, who didst grace Thy servant **Charles** Stuart with nobility and fortitude, so that he was content to forfeit his throne, and life itself, for the cause of apostolic order in the Church: bestow on us, we beseech Thee, the like grace, that we, being steadfast in all adversity, may persevere unto the end, and attain with him the crown of everlasting life; through JESUS CHRIST the faithful witness, who with Thee and the HOLY SPIRIT liveth and reigneth, One GOD, for ever and ever. Amen.

[From Propers for Royal Martyr Day, 30 January, prepared for the Standing Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Church by Society member The Rev'd Donald L. Garfield to support an unsuccessful motion at General Convention in 1991.]



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