



A Message from the President

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Email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr
American Region

28 February 2015

As We Enter Lent

ISSN 2153-6120

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

Dear Friends in the Cause of King Charles the Martyr:

As we enter Lent, many of our thoughts turn to Our Lord's Passion and Resurrection. I hope you believe that you have made a good start on this year's spiritual journey. For the SKCM organizationally, we have come through our annual "statutory" Board Meeting and see things moving in these directions:



- ✓ **The current fiscal year appears to be headed toward a small surplus.** Annual Mass contributions are up again this year, five new life memberships have come in, and current year dues payments are increasing. It's "steady as we go" for general contributions, prepaid dues, and new memberships. Annual Mass and *SKCM News* costs are higher, but this is as expected and budgeted.
- ✓ **Good membership growth continues** since the current fiscal year began on 1 October 2013 – over 30 new members, the same pattern as last year. Linking PayPal to an enhanced website still enables most of this growth. Unlike the other devotional societies, only 28% of our membership is in local churches that have two or more members and thus 72% of our members are at-large.
- ✓ **The 31 January Annual Mass & Luncheon** was held at the Church of the Resurrection in New York City and attended by over 200 members, parishioners and friends. Unlike many Annual Masses, it appears that most of the attendees were Society members from the East Coast rather than local parishioners. **The Mass was videotaped** – watch for further news soon on how you can purchase DVDs at a very reasonable price.
- ✓ The Board reviewed plans for **upcoming Annual Masses** at

Holy Communion Charleston SC (2016) and S. Clement's Philadelphia (2017), with further discussion pending on 2018 and beyond.

- ✓ We received **progress reports** from the Chapters Project Team (Baron Fain of SC, chairman) and Annual Mass & Luncheon policies (Paul McKee of DC, chairman).
- ✓ **We re-elected the 11 Trustees** (see the list in our 30 January Communiqué), designated the Society's executive officers as an **Executive Committee** empowered by the Bylaws to take certain actions between Board meetings, and appointed a **Historian** (see below).
- ✓ We amended the by-laws to permit committees (effectively the Executive Committee) to **act by email**.
- ✓ **The Board granted Honorary Member (dues-free) status to veteran members**, i.e., every member who is 90 or more and has been a member for 15 or more years, as well as every member who has been a member for 50 or more years, effective with the next fiscal year; this action will affect (and thank) 7-8 of our 369 members.

In addition to what the Board has been doing to manage and build the Society, there is much that each and all of us can do as Society members. Here are some immediate opportunities:

- Let's keep up our membership growth momentum. Recall that we have a **membership flyer**, designed particularly for church tract racks. If you would like copies, for which there is no charge, please email the Secretary-Treasurer at membership@skcm-usa.org; the flyer can be obtained either as printed copies or as a template for you to make copies locally. Don't forget that we receive new members from the personal touch as well as from PayPal connection!
- Although we continue properly to move forward, we also need to make note of where we have been – our context. Thus, we have appointed our American Representative Emeritus and Past President, Mark A. Wuonola, Ph.D., Ben., OL as the **Society's Historian**. He very much needs your informational contributions to the Society History now being recorded. Veteran members particularly should have something to add to this testimony to our Society's origins, activities, lessons learned and aspirations. Please contact Dr. Wuonola at 94 Adams Street, Apt. 223, Waltham, MA 02453, phone 781-308-0056, email wuonola@yahoo.com, to offer your assistance and/or ask any questions.
- Have you submitted a report of your **local parish's annual observance** of the Martyrdom of King Charles? A number of parishes have done so already – thank you. If you have anything to pass on, even if it is comparatively brief, please send it to editors@skcm-usa.org no later than 31 March so that it can be shared with the membership in the next *SKCM News* edition.
- Have you remembered the Society in your **planned giving**? Thanks to two bequests that have come through during the past few weeks, our endowment has increased from \$2,000 to nearly \$10,000. The endowment may be used to fund Caroline chapels and shrines and for purposes of similar intent. If you have any questions on how to remember the Society, whether in this life (such as whether you are close to qualifying as a Benefactor) or the next, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer at membership@skcm-usa.org.
- Articles, book reviews and other matters of interest are invited for submission for the **June SKCM News**. Deadline: 31 March. The editors would also like attendee reports from the recent Annual Mass and Luncheon, including photos. Please submit them to editors@skcm-usa.org.

Watch for a full report on the London observances, as well as our own SKCM American Region Annual Mass & Luncheon at Resurrection New York City and local observances reported, in the June *SKCM News*.

I close with greetings and best wishes from our entire 2015-2016 Board of Trustees.

Fr. Bill Swatos, President
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SOCIETY WEBSITE: WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG



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