



A Message from the President

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Email Communiqué

**Society of King Charles the Martyr
American Region**

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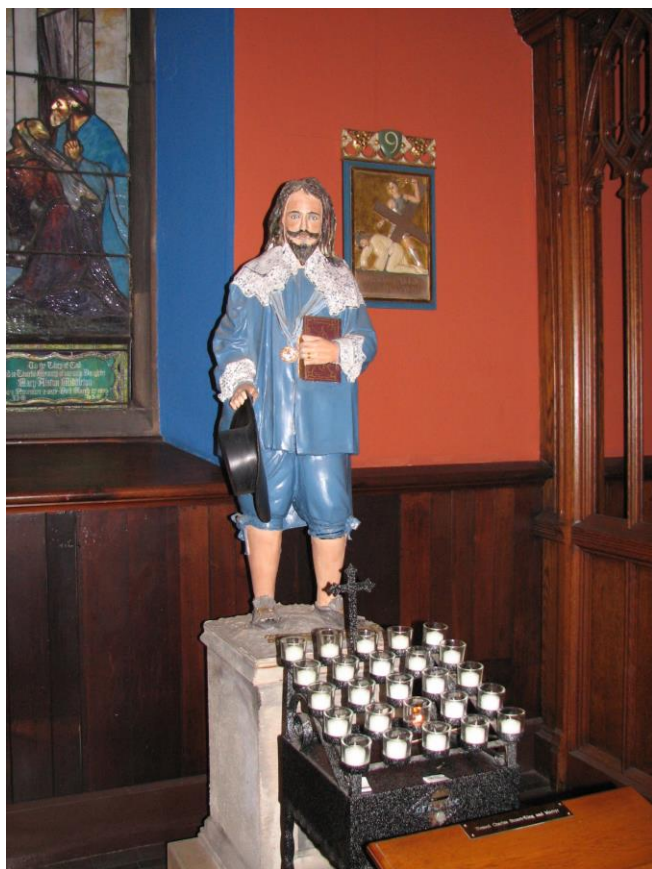
Recognition of the Cultus of S. Charles, K.M.

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Dear Friends in the Cause of King Charles the Martyr:

When Society colleagues mentioned to me that it was time to say something about “the *Cultus* of King Charles” in our *Communique*, it reminded me of many years spent as a sociologist of religion when “the cult controversies” that began as early as the mid-1960s and continued into the 1990s (but blessedly seemed to fall flat by the beginning of the 21st Century) were all the rage in any number of circles – and could as easily flow positively as negatively depending on who the participants happened to be.



The *Cultus* of King Charles, reflecting devotion to him as a genuine martyr, began as early as the seventeenth century, with six churches in England dedicated in his honor. A major impetus for this expression flows from the specific action we commemorate on this date: the approval by the Convocation of the Church of England of the State Service (the two Offices and Holy Communion) for 30 January 1661. This signal action is also called the Canonization. Although the eighteenth century seemed to go only one step further, with a devotional painting in the north aisle of the choir of Canterbury Cathedral, in the twentieth century, significant further dedications took place to include a total of eleven chapels, with a twelfth added in the present century. Churches or chapels dedicated to King Charles's martyrdom exist in Ireland, Australia, Scotland and South Africa – as well as a bastion in Tangiers from 1662 to 1682. In addition may be added 12 churches in the United States, including the chapel of our beloved Zion Church in the Diocese of Quincy. There are also two in Japan. (A full list of these sites, including many pictures, appears on the “*Cultus*” page of the SKCM Website. Take a look sometime, if you haven't. I think you'll be pleased.)

I suspect that there are other local devotional sites of which we are not aware, and there's nothing wrong with that either. Wherever the faithful gather to keep the faith, we want King Charles to be among the saints whom they greet as brothers and sisters in Christ. King Charles's martyrdom and the voices raised thereafter speak far more of his virtue than do those who continue to deride him, having sympathies that lack depth of faith and rely on secular accounts rather than the light of faith are far more worthy of pity than anger.

We are blessed to be part of a church that hears the prayers of the saints and that recognizes the abilities of all the faithful to affirm a witness to who Charles was and why he felt he had to take the course he did in accepting the fate he was dealt.

Sancto Carole, martyr Dei, ora pro nobis, nunc et semper.

The above having been said, I'm pleased to share with you two specific Caroline memorials, i.e., the Shrine of King Charles the Martyr in Grace & St Peter's Church, Baltimore, MD USA (on page one) and one of the oldest Caroline dedications in Great Britain – the Church of King Charles the Martyr in Falmouth, Cornwall (on this page).



As we continue in our work as a part of the *cultus* that we celebrate today, we are pleased to report the following positive developments:

- ✓ ***Continuing good news on the membership front.*** Our current count is 371, helped by 48 new or restored members (slightly ahead of last year's record pace); even after suspending 11 early this month who were two years behind, 6 more have joined. Today, we have 33 members who still owe 2015 dues, slightly ahead of last year at this point, but in perspective we have a couple dozen more members than then. If you have not yet paid, it is not too late to do so. And it is never too late to recruit more members, which two of my Board colleagues have been great in doing this year – our continued growth depends upon each of us spreading the good word!
- ✓ ***Confirmation of S. Clement's Philadelphia for our 2017 Annual Mass and Luncheon.*** Our 2016 Annual Mass will be at Holy Communion Charleston SC, as previously announced. See the upcoming *News* for more information.
- ✓ ***Thus far, we have sold 20 copies of the DVD from the 2015 Annual Mass at Resurrection New York City.*** This, too, is good news. If you have not yet ordered your copy, just go to the Society website, www.skcm-usa.org, select Item 66 (and any other goods desired), and pay directly using our PayPal account – or you print out the order form and send it along with your check. The *News* will include a laudatory review of the DVD.

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

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SOCIETY WEBSITE: WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG

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