REMEMBER!

A Message from the President

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Canon Theologian of the Diocese of Quincy

Dear Friends in the Cause of King Charles the Martyr:

The night of 16/17 July marks the tragic death in 1918 of Nicholas II, the last Emperor of Russia. He, his family and their personal staff were shot in Ekaterinburg by the Bolsheviks. The Russian Orthodox Church has designated him as St. Nicholas the Passion-Bearer or St. Nicholas the Martyr. This anniversary reminds us that the usurpation of power against legitimate rulers did not end in the 17th century. There is another connection between us and the Romanovs: Nicholas II and George V (a successor to the Royal Martyr) were cousins.

The Lord is glorious in all His Saints; O come, let us adore Him.

But let's refer back to the 17th century for a report on an important development pertaining to the Royal Martyr …

As we know, one of the objectives of our Society is "To work for the reinstatement of the Feast of King Charles the Martyr in the Kalendar of the Book of Common Prayer throughout the Anglican world." I am pleased to report that we have taken a major step in that direction.

We rejoice at the endorsement of the inclusion of "January 30 - Charles Stuart, King and Martyr - 1649" in the calendar of the Episcopal Church by its recent General Convention. However, there is more to be done. The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music has been directed to create collects and biographies for the Royal Martyr and a couple dozen other people and to present these materials to the 2018 General Convention for addition to 'A Great Cloud of Witnesses.'

Two of the criteria to be used by the SCLM call for both "significant remembrance" at "local and regional levels" and for a "reasonable period of time" between their deaths and their inclusion in the calendar. Another criterion provides that "it is important also to include those 'whose memory may have faded in the shifting fashions of public concern, but whose witness is deemed important to the life and mission of the Church.'" In addition to having a collect - not to mention complete Eucharistic as well as Daily Office propers - and biographical materials for the Royal Martyr, we should do quite well when measured against the three criteria noted. Thus, we celebrate this action, thank those who have helped get us here, and pray ardently for final approval in 2018.

In the meantime, though, to witness further to the "significant remembrance" of King Charles the Martyr at "local and regional levels," I'm calling upon more parishes (particularly Episcopal) that have Society members to implement visibly another of the Society's objectives: "To promote a wide observance of 30 January, the day of the Martyrdom of King Charles I in 1649." We're planning another fine Annual Mass & Luncheon for 30 January 2016, at Holy Communion Parish in Charleston, SC. If you need liturgical materials, such as propers and suitable hymns, for local observances, please let me know.

> *Ere his death one word was spoken:*
> *That "Remember" was the token*
> *Of his coming victory.*
> *So his blood brought life and healing,*
> *And the Church's triumph sealing,*
> *Never shall forgotten be. Amen. Alleluia.*
> (from Sequence from Mass of St Charles, K.M.)

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

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