



A Message from the President

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

Canon Theologian of the Diocese of Quincy

Email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr
American Region

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*Christmas, the Witness Days
and the Royal Martyr*

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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—

Let me begin by repeating a message that I sent at this time last year, still cogent today:

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: 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.

I hope your local parish or church is already planning a local **Mass of Remembrance** for next month, on or near the 30 January martyrdom anniversary date. We strongly encourage widespread



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

11 a.m., Saturday, 30 January 2016

Church of the Holy Communion,
Charleston, SC

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev'd M. Dow Sanderson, SSC

Music: *Spatzenmesse*, W. A. Mozart, with orchestra;

Mass with full propers & other traditional music

Walsingham Angelus following Mass;

Benediction following Luncheon

Traditional BBQ Luncheon reservations: \$20 by 20 January

Checks to “Holy Communion” - memo “SKCM”

Send to the church at 218 Ashley Ave.,

Charleston, SC 29403

Church website: www.holycomm.org

Contact: 843-722-2024 or

fatherdaniel@holycmm.org

observance of King Charles' Martyrdom. The first step taken by The Episcopal Church to place this date on the liturgical calendar is great and welcome, as is the recent report that the date now appears on the TEC website.

The type and style of observances necessarily will vary per local resources. A grand Solemn Procession and Mass of Remembrance might be possible, or some non-Eucharistic liturgy, or something in between. In some cases, personal devotions may be the only option. Whatever may be the art of the possible, **here are some resources that the Society can provide**; they may be ordered online (www.skcm-usa.org), using our website's connection to our PayPal account, or ordered by mail to the Secretary-Treasurer using the goods list available online:

L27, **Hymn Booklet** (six best known hymns for St Charles's Day)

L28, **Missal Sheet** for Feast of St Charles (major propers)

L29, **Sequence Hymn** for St Charles's Day (English & Latin)

L63, **St Charles Litany** by Ernest H. Latham, Ph.D.

L61, **Devotional Manual** (includes full traditional propers as well as Collects of St Charles)

L62, **Liturgical Manual** (includes Anglican Missal propers, the original State Service [Morning & Evening Prayer from 1728], and texts to be used with the Monastic Diurnal [I Vespers through II Vespers], Anglican Breviary, and 1979 Prayer Book)

L64, **Akathist to St Charles** (a genre of liturgical prayer that provides a Byzantine Rite cast to devotion to our Royal Martyr)

L66, **DVD of 2015 SKCM-AR Annual Mass** at Resurrection New York City

Also available, as PDFs to be emailed to you without charge from the Secretary-Treasurer (membership@skcm-usa.org), are:

ST1, **Full propers** for the Feast of St Charles, including the Old Testament Lesson

ST2, **Two additional hymns** written by our member, John Burrows

And courtesy of our Board of Trustees colleague, Richard Mammana, Ben., OL, you may be interested in reading *A Sermon Preached on the feast of S. Charles, K.M. 1912*, at S. Cuthbert's Church, Philbeach Gardens, S.W. By Ronald Arbuthnott Hilary Knox. Sussex: Society of King Charles the Martyr, 1912. <http://anglicanhistory.org/charles/knox1912.html>

Please send reports to the *SKCM News* Editors (editors@skcm-usa.org) on your observations by early March. Thank you.

As we come to the end of this Year of Our Lord 2015, of our 397 members 49% have paid for 2016 or beyond, 12% are Life, 5% are Honorary, 28% still owe for 2016, and 6% owe for 2015 and 2016. Thank you. 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 2015 charitable contributions, or 15 January if you are making an Annual Mass donation and want to be listed in the printed program.

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. 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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