



A Message from the President

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Email Communiqué

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

20 February 2016

In the Midst of Lent: the Paradoxes of Our Faith

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Dear Friends in the Cause of King Charles the Martyr:

Ten days ago, with the winter gradually moving toward spring, we entered Lent. In the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, the Collect for the final Sunday after the Epiphany is

O God, who before the passion of thy only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord ...



This Collect also expresses the Gospel theme of the 2nd Sunday in Lent (21 February this year) in the Roman Catholic lectionary. It could have been written for St Charles's use as he prepared himself for facing his executioner. It reminds us that the Christian faith is penetrated by contradictions that can be either exploited negatively or appropriated positively. Lent is a time of preparation for the joy of Easter. Earthly death is an entrance into eternal life. Our devotion to Blessed Charles is enhanced as we experience the eternal truths that penetrate the historic record of sin and redemption, death and life, the cross and the crown.

I would encourage you to pray this collect daily through Lent, as I will also try to do, hoping thereby to be enriched by the paradoxes of our faith and strengthened by the examples of both Our Blessed Lord and Our Gracious Martyr.

Much has occurred in the life of the SKCM across the past few weeks, as we had our Annual Mass on 30 January and our annual Board organizational meeting on 15 February. Both are summarized below. I encourage you to read about them and appreciate the work of a number of very dedicated people who give generously of their time, talent and resources to make the SKCM an ever-more shining witness to the heights and depths of Christian commitment:

- ✓ **The 30 January Annual Mass & Luncheon** was held at the Church of the Holy Communion and was attended by 85 members, parishioners and friends. It was definitely a positive occasion, per attendee reports. We thank The Rev'd Dow Sanderson, SSC, who celebrated and preached, and The Rev'd Daniel Clarke, SSC, who coordinated arrangements; both are Society members.
- ✓ **The current fiscal year appears to be headed toward a small surplus.** Annual Mass contributions (the list is attached) are similar to last year, general fund donations are up significantly, and 7 new life memberships have come in. It's "steady as we go" for renewed memberships and prepaid dues, although new memberships (18 thus far during this FY) are lagging behind last year's record number. We're currently at a record 403 members.
- ✓ The Board reviewed plans for the **upcoming Annual Mass** at S. Clement's Philadelphia (2017), with further discussion pending on 2018 and beyond.

- ✓ **We re-elected 7 and elected 4 new Trustees** (see the list below), with the good news that the retiring trustees will continue with most of their duties while welcoming more people to the Society's leadership. We also grouped Society activities for the ensuing term around the ongoing Society objectives, with Trustees and other members working in the areas of Royal Martyr Day (30 January) designation on TEC and other kalendars, SKCM-AR Annual Mass and local commemorations, visibility and content, and membership and development.
- ✓ The Board conferred membership in the **Archbishop William Laud Society** upon John Covert of Massachusetts, Jonathan Jensen of Florida, Archdeacon James Monroe of Illinois, and Canon William Swatos of Illinois. Likewise, we are thankful to be able to recognize three new Society Benefactors: Howard Bevard of MD, Hugh Hart of DC, and Richard Tracz of CA. We'll say more about our new Benefactors and Life Members in the next *SKCM News*.

In addition to what the Board has been doing, there is much that each and all of us can do as Society members:

- 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 our website/PayPal connection!
- 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.
- 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.

I close with greetings and best wishes from our entire 2016-2017 Board of Trustees.

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American Region
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(Current through 19 January 2016)

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