



A Message from the President

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Email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr
American Region

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Easter, Accession, Foundation, and More

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Dear Friends in the Cause of King Charles the Martyr:

As we enter Eastertide, this year we find ourselves with three observances – Easter Day, Charles I's Accession to the Throne, and the founding of the SKCM – all occurring on the same day. We also find two other observances, the Annunciation (moved to 4 April this year because it occurs on Good Friday) and the Finding of the Incorrupt Body of S. Charles, KM (on April 1), coming around this same time. Let me seek to tie them together in a way that helps to further bring alive the mission of our Society in a resurrection theme.

A few days ago, the usual liturgical calendar included the **Annunciation** of the Archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary that God had chosen her to bear His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. As I read the lessons for the feast, I also remembered in the context of the lives of both King Charles, on the one hand, and Our Lord on the other, that there was in each case something to reflect upon in the prophecy of Simeon who, after he uttered the words that we now call the *Nunc dimittis*, also spoke to Mary the words “and a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also” (cf. Luke 2: 29-35). Those words are particularly prescient this year, with this feast and Good Friday occurring on the same day.

The dating of Easter this year throws into juxtaposition two important events in the life of our Blessed Martyr. King Charles I's **Accession to the Throne** took place on 27 March 1625. It was also on 27 March 1894, when 27 March was Easter Tuesday, that Mrs Greville-Nugent and the Rev'd L.L. Fish **founded the SKCM** in 1894, thus making this year the 122nd anniversary of the founding.

But there is another day, less than a week away from today, which we can also celebrate as a link between heaven and earth - the finding of King Charles's incorrupt body on 1 April 1813 at St George's Windsor. Finding the Royal Martyr's body is, of course, hardly the same thing as the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, but it is an evidence of the mysterious way the Lord can work His wonders to perform.



A final thought: perhaps a lesson for us as Christians is that virtue must be its own reward. I believe that King Charles understood that, and because of that, when it came to 1649, he could face the events of 30 January with the calmness he showed. He was a Christian man to whom the cross and resurrection mattered far more than an earthly crown. By dying as he did, he not only ultimately saved Catholic worship and orders in England, but he also gave inspiration to men and women in time since both to believe and to live as though there is more to real life than earthly rewards.

All of might want to consider adding the following Prayer for the Society of King Charles the Martyr composed by our late Society benefactor, the Rev'd John B. Pahls, Jr. O.L.:

Almighty and everliving God, who hast called us to steadfastness in the Faith once delivered unto the Saints, and courage to uphold the same in the World, after the example of the King and Martyr **Charles**: We humbly beseech Thee to bestow Thy blessing upon this Society, that all its members may ever promote the thankful remembrance of his faithfulness unto death, and strive without ceasing for the building up of the Faith, Order, and Godly life of the Church, and that, persevering unto the end as did our Royal Patron, we may with him inherit the incorruptible crown of eternal life, which Thou hast promised to those who follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth, even Thy Son JESUS CHRIST our LORD, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the HOLY GHOST, ever, one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

*This Prayer calls to mind some things that each and all of us can do
as Society members:*



➤ Let's keep growing. We're now at 405 members. 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.

➤ If each current member would recruit one more new Society member, our membership would double. It can be done.

➤ Don't be shy to **identify yourself as a SKCM member**.

One way is to list your membership in such materials as your bio or other written or social media opportunity. Another is to wear or use identifying Society goods, such as pins, medals and ties, available through our website.

- It is true that 2/3 of our members are in churches where they are the only SKCM member and that this is an anomaly for devotional societies. But this should not stop us from **inviting people to join**.
- Groups of members in local churches should consider **forming chapters**. There are many good things that chapters can do to bring SKCM alive, and two of our new trustees, Phoebe Pettingell and Greg Smith, are preparing updated written ideas on how to do just that.

We have just learned of the passing to the next life of two members, Ransom H. Widner of Providence, RI and the Rev'd Elijah Brockenbrough White III of Leesburg, VA, a Life Member and Benefactor. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

As we come to the Holy Altar during Eastertide and hear those words "do this in remembrance of me," may your Aspirit be lifted by the resurrection faith embodied in that one word that ties King Charles's life forever to the throne of Grace: REMEMBER!

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SOCIETY WEBSITE: WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG

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