



## A Message from the President

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

Canon Theologian of the Diocese of Quincy

*Email Communiqué*

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

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*Restoration Day (1660)/Oak Apple Day*

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Dear Friends in the Cause of King Charles the Martyr:

Two years ago I commented that from time to time the calendar provides us with interesting coincidences. In 2014 the date of the feast of Our Lord's Ascension into heaven and that of the Restoration of the British monarchy (also termed Oak Apple Day or Royal Oak Day) were the same. This year, Oak Apple Day coincides not only with a three-day weekend that includes Memorial Day but also with the first Sunday following Trinity Sunday, to which in some places the feast of Corpus Christi – Our Lord's Body and Blood – is transferred from its traditional day, the preceding Thursday.



Restoration Day is called 'Oak Apple Day' in memory of the time when the king hid in an oak tree in Staffordshire following the Battle of Worcester. Thanks to the protection of this tree, Charles II was crowned king of Great Britain and Ireland on 29 May 1660; his supporters celebrated in a manner that would surely have been condemned by Oliver Cromwell's Puritans – as also surely would have been their reaction to a Corpus Christi procession. As Christians we are called both to believe and to live out with conviction that, as the hymn would have it, "God is working His purpose out as year proceeds to year." And we are called to remember in our prayers all who have died for us.

As we've done the last few years at this time, I'd like to update the membership on our numbers and who we are ...

- We have added 25 members this year – approximately half the number of each of the last two years at this point. It appears that our 'PayPal bump' may be subsiding and thus we are returning to our previous pace. We have lost a similar number of members, from death, resignation, and nonpayment of dues after two years. Today we have 383 members, a slight net increase over last year at this date. Let's remember that it is always membership recruitment time.
- Nearly three-quarters of our number are laity, with 27% clergy including 10 bishops from various jurisdictions.
- Our median age is 65 for clergy and 60 for laity; the median age of those joining thus far this year is definitely younger, i.e., 60 for clergy and 45 for lay. The age of our members continues to range from well into the 90s to around 20.

- With information on hand from 97% of our ranks, we have an increasingly diverse membership united in devotion to the Royal Martyr as well as to the Christian faith:

JURISDICTION	ALL MEMBERS	JOINED 2009-TD	JOINED 2015-16 TD
TEC, Anglican Church of Canada, C of E, et al	61%	57%	50%
ACNA and other Anglican bodies	22%	21%	21%
Roman Catholic (including Ordinariate)	11%	15%	21%
Eastern Orthodox	4%	2%	4%
Others	2%	5%	4%

- Today we have 47 Life Members, an increase of 10 from a year ago, constituting 12% of our membership; in 2012 we had only 10. This is a sign of good membership confidence in the Society. One can become a Life Member by making a one-time payment of \$360; for persons 65 or older, the amount is instead \$250. No further dues are required. If this category interests you, please go to our website and then to PayPal or send an inquiry or check to the Secretary-Treasurer. FYI, one may join the Society as a Life Member. We also have 20 Honorary Members, up a half dozen from a year ago, most but not all of whom are members who joined 50 or more years ago or are age 90 or above and joined 15 or more years ago, in either case having no further dues obligation.
- For this fiscal year to date we are pleased to welcome Suzanne G. Bowles, PhD, OL, The Rev'd James W. Browder III, the Rev'd Deacon Leroy B. Close, Jr., The Rev'd Philip C. Jacobs III, The Rt Rev'd Rodney R. Michel, DD, The Rev'd Dr J. Peter Pham, The Rev'd Michael J. Sheehan, and Stephen Page Smith, Esq., Ben. to **Life Membership**.
- We also welcome The Rt Rev'd Daniel H. Martins, DD, Episcopal Bishop of Springfield, as an **Honorary Member** (and a new Trustee) per Board action, as well as the following additional **Honorary Members** who qualified at the beginning of FY 1015-16: The Rev'd Thomas W. Bauer, Ed.D., J. Thomas Brown, Jr., Esq., Captain Howard S. Browne, F. Powell Johann, Jr., The Rev'd Donald H. Langlois, and Beverly A. Tschida.
- We have just learned of the passing to the next life of an Honorary Member known to many, The Rev'd Frederick S. Thomas, Jr., SSC, longtime Rector of Grace & St. Peter's in Baltimore. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Watch our next edition for more news on what is going on, even during this comparatively quiet time for the Society. Board members are involved in a number of initiatives for which we expect to have news.



Please do not hesitate to contact me at [skcm@skcm-usa.org](mailto:skcm@skcm-usa.org) should you have any questions, ideas or concerns.

Fr. Bill Swatos, President  
[skcm@skcm-usa.org](mailto:skcm@skcm-usa.org)

SOCIETY WEBSITE: [WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG](http://WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG)

S.K.C.M. (AMERICAN REGION) MEMBERSHIP [\$15 PER ANNUM] AND INQUIRIES:  
 DAVID LEWIS, FAAO, OL, SECRETARY-TREASURER, [MEMBERSHIP@SKCM-USA.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@SKCM-USA.ORG).

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