



**A Message from the Episcopal Patron
and Chairman of the Board of Trustees**

The Rt. Rev'd Keith L. Ackerman, DD, SSC,
Ben., OL

Email Communiqué

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

22 March 2017

*Accession of King Charles I,
27 March 1625*

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Greetings in the name of the Royal Martyr—

Joy Swatos, the wife of our President, Fr Bill Swatos, departed from this life on 9 March. In consultation with the Executive Committee, acting in behalf of the full Board of Trustees, I sent this message to the priest at the parish at which her funeral rites were held on 16 March, where it was read. We want all members to be aware of Joy's death and the Society's heartfelt response. You are encouraged to remember both Father Bill and Joy in your prayers. If you further desire, you are invited to send sympathy cards to:

The Rev'd Canon William H. Swatos, Jr., Ph.D., OL
618 SW 2nd Avenue
Galva IL 61434-1912 USA

Dear Canon Swatos,

On behalf of the Board, and indeed, the entire membership of SKCM, we offer to you, our President, our promise of prayers for the repose of the Soul of Joy. We recognize that this is a very sad and difficult time for you, and we promise, as we offer Mass for Joy's repose, that our prayers for you abound.

If you can imagine all of us at the Mass for Joy, standing with you: priests and bishops concelebrating, laity piously attending, and the departed members interceding, then you will see the cloud of witnesses, never measured by visible means.

To that end, the Board has authorized me to convey to you that the Altar Flowers at our next Annual Mass will be given in memory of Joy, and that all in our Society, both here and abroad, will be given the opportunity for pray for both you and Joy.

May she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Sincerely yours in Christ and in the Royal Martyr,
The Right Reverend Keith L. Ackerman, OL

March 27 marks the anniversary of the Accession of Prince Charles Stuart, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester. His father, James I, having suffered a stroke earlier that month, succumbed to the ill health he had been experiencing for the past twelve months. His elder brother, Henry, having died at the age of 18, most likely of typhoid fever, meant that Charles had been heir apparent for 15 years.

For the last year of his father's life, he and the Duke of Buckingham had effectively assumed the running the kingdom. James' war with Spain had gone badly, and Parliament was in an ill humor when Charles opened his first Parliament in June of 1625. They resented being pressed to provide additional funds to continue a war in which was lagging interest, as well as being suspicious of concessions that may have been made to recusants as a condition of Charles' marriage to Henrietta Maria. Additionally, the London plague of 1625 forced many Members to flee London for Oxford making Buckingham's appeal for funding appear as exploitative.

Upon the death of James I, the following Accession Proclamation was given from Whitehall:

Whereas it hath pleased Almighty God to call to His mercy our late Sovereigne Lord King James, of blessed memory, by whose decease the imperiall crownes of Great Brittain, France and Ireland are solely and rightfully come to the high and mighty Prince Charles, we therefore, the Lords spirituall and temporall of the realme, being heere assisted with those of His late Majestic's Privy Councell, with number of other principal gentlemen of qualitye, with the Lord Maior, Aldermen and citizens of London doe now heereby with one full voyce and consent of tongue and hearte publish and proclayme that the high and mightie Prince Charles is now by the death of our late Sovereigne, of happy memory, become our only, lawfull, lineall and rightfull liege Lord Charles, by the Grace of God, King of Great Brittain, France and Ireland, Defend of the Faith etc., to whome wee doe acknowledge all faith and constant obedience with all hartly and humble affection, beseeching God by whome Kinges doe raigne to blesse the royall King Charles with long and happy yeares to raigne over us.

God save King Charles.

As promised, this edition of the *Communique* includes an update on the **annual organizational meeting of the Board** in addition to the election information reported last month. The Board took the following actions on February 15:

- Received the report of the Treasurer, which **anticipates a fiscal year surplus** of around \$2,000.
- Received **membership reports** which showed that during the last half dozen years we have grown from around 300 to now 410 (today, 414) members ... a record 11 new Life Members have joined during this fiscal year, bringing the total in that category to 58 ... 43 members (today, down to 30) are still delinquent for this year, a decrease from 79 at the same time last year; however, 37 members are 2 years behind and will be suspended at the end of March if they do not pay, an increase from 14 the previous year ... 26 members reside outside the USA, 77 live to the west of the Mississippi River, and the remaining three-quarters reside east of same... Board mentoring of new members is behind and will be addressed ... two-thirds of our members are the only members in their local churches, although there are a number of prospects for forming or reviving





chapters which hopefully will expand membership in those places ... trustees are helping revive two chapters.

➤ Trustees in attendance at the **28 January Annual Mass & Luncheon** at S Clement's Philadelphia reported an attendance of 97, a fine sermon preached by Bp Rodney Michel that will be submitted for inclusion in the SKCM News, and a very good liturgy and luncheon. **Annual Mass & Luncheon venues for 2018 and beyond** are in various stages of planning.

➤ Received written reports from over two dozen parishes on their **Royal Martyr Day observances**, which will be included in the next SKCM News.

➤ The Project Team on **Additional Caroline Devotions Opportunities** was given a green light to proceed with drafts of a

holy card of King Charles and a devotional manual geared to Catholic members (parallel to SKCM's Akathist oriented to Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholics as well as to the existing Devotional Manual).

- Planning continued for a joint devotional societies' exhibit at the **2018 Episcopal Church General Convention**, and began for our exhibiting at the **October 2017 Anglican Joints Synods in Atlanta**.
- John Covert plans to give up his current **goods fulfillment** responsibilities, which he picked up five years ago, by July 1. A successor is being sought.
- Began discussion of starting a **Twitter** group for the Society.
- Initiated a Board discussion of where we are and where we ought to proceed in overall (including Annual Mass promotion) **Society visibility strategy**.

I thank Canon Ostman (Secretary) and Mr Lewis (Treasurer/Administrator), who normally work with Canon Swatos in preparing the email Communique editions, for assisting me with this edition.

Finally, a reminder: Articles, book reviews and other matters of interest are invited and encouraged for submission for the **June SKCM News**. Deadline: 31 March. Please submit them for consideration to editors@skcm-usa.org.

Yours in Christ and the Royal Martyr,
Bishop Ackerman
skcm@skcm-usa.org

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