



REMEMBER!

## *email Communiqué*

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

**13 October 2017 – St Edward the Confessor, Ancient Patron of England**

ISSN 2153-6120

BACK ISSUES OF *SKCM NEWS* AND THE *EMAIL COMMUNIQUÉ* ARE POSTED AT THE AMERICAN REGION'S WEBSITE,  
[WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG](http://WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG)

Perhaps one of the most famous tourist sites in London is Westminster Abbey. Its foundation actually goes back to the erection of a Norman church in A.D. 1065 built to replace the earlier Saxon church.



Previously, Edward, called the Confessor owing to his sanctity of life, had been driven from England to Normandy by the Danes. Vowing to make a pilgrimage to St Peter's tomb in Rome should be restored to his kingdom, he found it impossible to do so upon the death of the Danish king, Canute, in 1042, not wanting to once again leave his subjects.

Released from his vow by Pope Benedict IX, he promised to either found or restore a monastery to St Peter. This led to the building of the new church, consecrated on Holy Innocents' Day A.D. 1065. Unable to attend the service owing to poor health, he died sometime on the night of 5 January A.D. 1066.

Edward was buried on the Feast of the Epiphany at the High Altar of the monastery church. It was said that upon the opening of the tomb, a "wonderful fragrance filled the church." Over the course of time, miracles occurred at the place of his entombment and it became a place of pilgrimage during the 12th century.

Henry III (1207-1272) had a profound veneration of Edward and erected a new and costly shrine using Italian craftsmen. Finished in 1269, Henry, his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and his two sons bore the coffin on their shoulders in a solemn procession to its new resting place on 13 October, marking the translation of the man regarded as the patron saint of England.

An inscription around the ledge of the Shrine in Latin reads: *"In the thousandth year of the Lord, with the seventieth and twice hundredth with the tenth more or less complete this work was made which Peter the Roman citizen brought to completion. O man, if you wish to know the cause, the king was Henry, the friend of the present saint"*.

So, the next time you visit Westminster Abbey, take note that at the heart of the Abbey is the shrine of Edward the Confessor. As with any sacred space, one approaches in silence and kneels in thanksgiving for the witness of a Confessor who lived his life solely for the sake of the Gospel.

*Adding to the importance of Edward the Confessor, Westminster Abbey, and their Caroline connections ... watch for a future article that will talk about St Edward's Chair (pictured above). Also, the familiar St Edward's Crown (pictured on page 2) first belonged to Edward (who was canonized by Pope Alexander III in 1161) and was used thereafter at coronations in Westminster Abbey through that of the Royal Martyr. Cromwell and Parliament then had the Crown Jewels melted down. The current version of this crown, faithfully restored after the original, was created for the coronation of Charles II in 1661, and to this day has been used to crown many monarchs in the Abbey since that time including Elizabeth II.*

*In current Society news ...*

**F**irst, on 30 September we **closed the fiscal year** with a surplus slightly under \$1,000. Watch for a full report in the December edition of the SKCM NEWS. Also, our membership count on that date was a very healthy 396, reflecting a net growth of around 25% over the past five years. Since that date we already have added two new members and one continuing member has become a Life Member.

**S**econd, we are pleased to update our announcement of the Society's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Mass for Royal Martyr Day:

**SOCIETY OF KING CHARLES THE MARTYR  
XXXV ANNUAL SOLEMN MASS OF SAINT CHARLES, K.M.**

11 a.m., Saturday, 27 January 2018

St. Timothy's Anglican Church, Fort Worth, TX

Solemn Pontifical Mass in the Presence of a Greater Prelate

American Missal

*Celebrant & Preacher:* The Rt Rev'd Keith L. Ackerman, SSC, DD, Vicar;

The Rt Rev'd Jack Leo Iker, SSC, DD, Bishop of Fort Worth, *presiding*

Choir of the Diocese of Fort Worth with Orchestra

Music under Direction of Tomi Godbee

*Buffet Luncheon reservations: \$20 by 19 January;*

checks to "St. Timothy's" - memo "SKCM"

Send to church at 4201 Mitchell Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76119

Contact: 817-536-7856 or [info@sttimothysacc.com](mailto:info@sttimothysacc.com)

Church website: [www.sttimothysacc.com](http://www.sttimothysacc.com)

It is not too early for your own local parish or church to be planning its **local Mass of Remembrance for January**. The Society definitely encourages this devotional activity, as well as commemorations of other Caroline dates during the year. Any needed liturgical material is available from the Society.

**T**hird, as was announced last month, there is now in place a **new pricing system for all goods sold by the Society: free shipping within the United States** is included in the stated cost. The bottom line is that **for most items the total purchase cost has gone down**.

**All Society goods are available through our website, [www.skcm-usa.org](http://www.skcm-usa.org)**, using our PayPal account. Or if you prefer to wait for two or three weeks, use the order list and form that will accompany the annual dues billing/contributions invitation which will reach most members during the second part of this month.

Thank you.

**S.K.C.M. (AMERICAN REGION):** [WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG](http://WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG)

**OFFICERS:** [SKCM@SKCM-USA.ORG](mailto:SKCM@SKCM-USA.ORG); **INQUIRIES:** [MEMBERSHIP@SKCM-USA.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@SKCM-USA.ORG).

**MEMBERSHIP [\$15 PER ANNUM] INCLUDES SKCM NEWS (SEMIANNUAL), CHURCH & KING (WITH SKCM NEWS),**

**AND EMAIL COMMUNIQUE (APPROXIMATELY MONTHLY).**

**TO SUBMIT ARTICLES & INQUIRIES TO THE SKCM NEWS, PLEASE CONTACT** [EDITORS@SKCM-USA.ORG](mailto:EDITORS@SKCM-USA.ORG).

