



REMEMBER!

email Communiqué

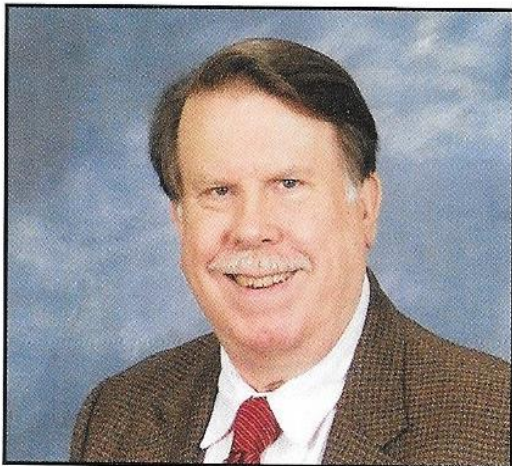
Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region

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Peace be with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ and the Royal Martyr.



Let me begin with the usual baseline obituary:

John Douglass Ruff (77) of Washington, DC passed to the next life during the night on July 2 in his residence at Grand Oaks Assisted Living. Doug was born on June 3, 1941 in Cincinnati, OH to Alma and John Douglass Ruff. He attended law school in Chicago and worked many years as Senior Counsel and Vice-President for GEICO, a major insurance company, before retiring in 1999. He was a life-long train buff who traveled by train across Siberia in an extraordinary trip. He loved to travel, managing to visit every continent (including Antarctica). Doug loved cruises and was a Grand

Master in Trivia. He was a benefactor, honoree and key leader in the Society of King Charles the Martyr. Visitation at Joseph Gawler's Sons [5130 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016] will be held Friday, July 13th from 5 to 8 pm. The Mass of Christian Burial (Requiem) will take place at 9:30 am on Saturday, July 14th at St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception [8th and N Streets NW, Washington DC 20001]; interment will follow at a later time at Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia South Carolina.

But there is more, much more ... Doug was a warm human being with a mensa intellect, a giver rather than a taker. He was the primary mover and craftsman in the incorporation of the Society in 2009. A steady and definitely not self-serving voice, he made a real difference to all of us on the Board of Trustees during one or two patches of rough water in our growth into a collective leadership. With several others, he retired as a voting Trustee a few years ago to make way for younger members to assume more responsibility; he was also aware then that he had cancer. However, with these others, he steadfastly continued to perform valuable service for the Society, in his case staying on as general counsel, assistant secretary (keeper of the Society seal – indeed the Lord Privy Seal, as he was wont to say!) and assistant treasurer (doing monthly review and comment on the treasurer's financials). One of our fellow officers, a friend of Doug's for 40 years, had the privilege but sad duty to bring him Communion two days before his passing; their parish priest brought him viaticum the following day. To know him was to love him and his quiet love for Our Lord and the Royal Martyr; this might help explain why he enjoyed many friends and they enjoyed him.

The words of the following hymn may well sum up how we should characterize and remember Doug's contribution to the Society:

*1 In our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer
for the saints who before us have found the reward;
when the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed,
but now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord.*

*2 In the morning of life, and at noon, and at evening,
they were gathered to heav'n from our worship below;
but not till God's love, at the font and on the altar,
had clothed them with grace for the way they should go.*

*3 These stones that have echoed their praises are holy,
and dear is the ground where their feet have once trod;
yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims,
and still they were seeking the city of God.*

*4 Sing praise, then, and thanks that God's love here has found them
whose journey is ended, whose perils are past;
they believed in the light; and its glory is round them,
where the clouds of earth's sorrows are lifted at last.*

As one of our members just posted in our Facebook group, "may he rest in the peace of Jesus Christ. And may he rejoice in being able to finally meet the worthy Saint whom he long supported."

With God's blessing,

The Rt Rev'd Keith L. Ackerman, SSC, DD, OL
Episcopal Patron and Chairman of the Board



S.K.C.M. (AMERICAN REGION)

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