



REMEMBER!

email Communiqué

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region
15 March 2019 – Ember Friday in Lent**

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The Society Has Much to Say to Church & State

This year's Feast of the Annunciation also marks 160 years since Queen Victoria gave her assent to the *Anniversary Days Observance Bill*, which removed certain state services, including the martyrdom of King Charles, from the Book of Common Prayer. The year before, Earl Stanhope argued in the House of Lords that the state services "were designed to make the church political rather than make political society religious."^[1] Even though, as Andrew Lacey observes, those with a high ecclesiology would have argued these are two sides of the same coin. Lord Stanhope's position, however, prevailed and the feast of King Charles was removed from the Prayer Book. 35 years later in 1894, the Society of King Charles the Martyr was born. 125 years later, we are still facing the same argument, which makes the work and fellowship of the Society so very important.

To be a member of the Society isn't just to share a devotion of King Charles, it is also to argue that the Church founded



by Jesus Christ transforms lives, which is also to say she transforms society. The Church is political in that she casts the light of Jesus Christ on the structures of human society. Our Society was founded not to look romantically in the past to a time that will never be re-lived. We exist to face the present with courage and the future with hope. We have much to say both to the Church and State. Our small, but sure witness in this Society is part of that voice. Thank you for your membership and let us continue to grow the Society of King Charles the Martyr.

[\[1\]](#) Lacey, Andrew. [The Cult of King Charles the Martyr](#). Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2003. Page 244.

- *The Rev'd Steven C. Rice, Obl.S.B., D.Min., President*

Growing Our Society Together

Many of us are familiar with the Ember Days, which have origins dating back to Apostolic times and occur four times a year (Advent, Lent, Whitsun, and Autumn). They focus on prayer and fasting, thanking God for the gifts of nature and using them in moderation, and assisting the needy. These days also have become associated with the conferring of holy orders as well as reports by those preparing for ordination. By extension, do they not also effectively remind us in the Society that we are all evangelists – in our case, charged with spreading the message, cause, and sanctity of King Charles the Martyr? If so, how might we do that? What can we say in our own personal reports as stewards of the Society?

Let's share our message by inviting and recruiting more members! Today, we have 448



members, a record number. We've grown by 20% over the past four years. But we can do more. Unlike the other devotional societies, which are primarily local units-based, we are mostly individual-based: 2/3 of our members are the only Society member in their local churches. This means that the Society itself serves as the "local chapter" for most of our membership - it's our job to encourage and enable.

Here are some ways in which **each of us can bring in more new members:**

- ✓ **Recruit** at least one new member this year; our membership flyer is attached.
- ✓ **Make copies of our flyer** locally and arrange for them to be placed in your church's tract rack.

- ✓ Arrange for **local liturgical observances of special Caroline observances** (e.g., Royal Martyr Day on 30 January, Restoration Day (Oak Apple Day) on 29 May, Nativity of S. Charles, K.M. on 19 November) to be held in your local church. We'll do our best to keep you supplied with at least liturgical materials to assist with these observances.
- ✓ **Form a local chapter**, which can be either in your own church or in your geographic area. Five or more members are required. There are plenty of activities that a local chapter can carry out, depending upon its own situation but always including an ongoing desire to make the Society known and bring in more new members; the Society can provide guidelines.
- ✓ **Become a SKCM volunteer**. Your participation in shaping and implementing content can make a difference in attracting others to our cause. Right now we especially need members who have background and interest in such fields as membership retention and growth and financial development (i.e., attracting regular and special gifts as well as planned giving.)
- ✓ **Contact** membership@skcm-usa.org for further information on any of the above. We'll put you in touch with the right persons who will help you make things happen, and we're here to help you do just that.

Benefactors Make a Difference

You may not realize that the Society's work is not fully funded by our annual dues. Actually, dues support the semiannual SKCM NEWS; **special contributions**, often in memory or thanksgiving and in amounts large and small, support our flagship Annual Mass and general administration.

Thus, the Society is very much dependent upon and grateful for the generosity of our membership. We thank those who make non-dues contributions by recognizing them as **benefactors** in the SKCM NEWS. The threshold for benefactor status currently is \$700 in accumulated non-dues gifts and goods purchases. Benefactors are entitled to use "Ben." after their names.

Today, the Society's rolls include **28 benefactors**, with another 18 who have moved to the next life also recognized for their generosity. We're pleased to give special recognition to three members who have become benefactors during the past six months: The Rt. Rev'd Keith Lynn Ackerman, SSC, D.D., OL of Texas, The Rev'd Deacon Leroy (Buck) Close, Jr., of Rhode Island, and John R. Harrington, Esq., of Massachusetts. If you are not already a benefactor, you are cordially invited and encouraged to become one and expand this very important list – you will make a difference!



Recognizing Our Life & Honorary Members

Today, 70 (one of every six) members have taken the confident step of becoming **Life Members**. This means that they pay no further dues and the Society is able to invest their money, recognizing pro rata dues as current income each year. Life Membership is available for a one-time payment of \$360, or \$250 for age 65 or over. We salute Kenneth Grambihler of Tennessee, Preston L. Pittman of New York, Michael Popp of Tennessee, and Gary Thomas Scott of the District of Columbia for their welcome decisions to become Life Members thus far during the current fiscal year.

You may have noticed a list of **Honorary Members** included in your copy of the SKCM NEWS and wondered who they are. They are people who have been added to our ranks by the Board of Trustees as an expression of thanks, have been members for 50 or more years, or have reached the age of 90 having been members for 15 or more years. We are grateful to the Hon. Narvel James Crawford, Jr., of North Carolina for recently achieving 50 years of Society membership. He joins five others who have been with us at least that long, nine who are age 90 or older, and seven specially honored by the Board.

Your Special Support Today Also Matters Tomorrow

Our guess is that not many members realize that the Society has an **endowment which exists with a purpose**: enabling and supporting “durable items related to the Society’s objectives such as churches, chapels, monuments, shrines, and depictions of King Charles the Martyr for public education, edification, and/or veneration in churches, chapels, and other places deemed by the Board to be consistent with the Society’s Objects.”



Per policy adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2014, funds from bequests, legacies, trusts or other gifts bestowed by will are recorded on the statement of profit and loss as current income and on the balance sheet as a distinct endowment. Receipt of any such legacy gift is dependent upon acceptance by the Board. The endowment has been separately invested since 2015. Endowment income may be used for general operations, but principal only may be expended for the purposes described above.

There have been several bequests to the Society since our incorporation in 2008. They total over \$8,000. Once they reach a sufficient level, the Society will be able to use these funds to enable the phase of the Society’s mission for which they are intended. It goes without saying that more assets will enable us to realize the purpose of the endowment.

We'll continue to share ways in which each of us can help build our endowment and put it to work, but right now we'll stop with a simple invitation and request: **Remember the Society in your will or other planned giving.** Here, too, you will make a difference!

Annual Mass 2020 Update

Due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict brought to our attention by the originally selected host parish for our 2020 Annual Mass & Luncheon, S. Stephen's Providence RI, the Society has accepted the gracious invitation of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Springfield, IL to host our Annual Mass on 1 February 2020. Watch for further information in the coming months.



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

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