



REMEMBER!

email Communiqué

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region
27 March 2019 – Accession of King Charles I (1625)**

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Accession, Death, and Veneration

I've often been told by those far more connected than I that Queen Elizabeth II does not mark the date of her accession with celebration. While millions of her loyal subjects greet her Accession Day with earnest shouts of *Vivat Regina*, Queen Elizabeth remembers the day as the anniversary of her father's death. It's a tension that is often missed. Accession comes through death.



Last November I submitted a resolution to the annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina to include King Charles on the diocesan liturgical kalendar. One of the objectives of our Society is to have the Royal Martyr included in the sanctoral kalendar of the Episcopal Church. Attempts to accomplish this at General Convention have come up short and will likely always come up short unless there is a real acknowledgement of local commemoration on the parish and diocesan level. This is why the promotion and sharing of local celebrations for Royal Martyr Day are so important for members of the Society.

I'm sorry to report that my resolution to include King Charles on the diocesan kalendar died an inglorious death. The effort, however, was not in vain. It was very helpful to

hear the objections raised against devotion to King Charles; objections I would not have anticipated.

All of the objections focused on the policies and temperament of Charles as the King of England. In this tense political climate in the United States, the idea of venerating a king who dissolved parliament for 11 years was not well received. There were also questions concerning King Charles's role in supporting and/or expanding the slave trade. I imagine similar questions would be raised in dioceses all across the Church.

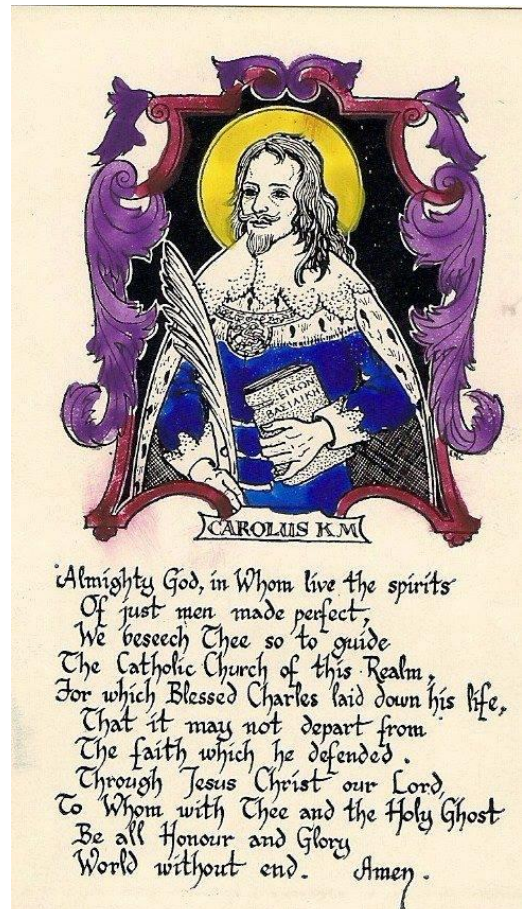
It's important for us, as members of the Society, to understand the opposition to a veneration, especially when the reasons for veneration may seem to us to be straightforward. We need to know our blind spots so we can intelligently and patiently address them. We should also recognize that there is much teaching to be done in regards to both the theology of saints and martyrdom. We venerate King Charles not because of his accession on March 27. We venerate King Charles because of his accession on January 30. "I go from a corruptible to an incorruptible crown." The crown that is our focus in the crown of martyrdom, that was given to him not because of personal power or political savagery, but through the submission of his life for the sake of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. His accession to the true crown came through death - his own.

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

Advancing Our Cause through Apologetic Aids

We can all play a part in advancing the cause of the Royal Martyr. One way is to increase awareness of the Society and its aims. To that end, we have a number of items available on our website that serve as apologetic aids. These include:

- **King Charles the Martyr Holy Card (L70)** – on the front a Van Dyke portrait of the Royal Martyr; on the reverse a prayer for country and Church invoking the intercession of the Royal Martyr
- **King Charles the Martyr Glorification Prayer (L71)** – on the front the engraving from the frontispiece of the Eikon Basilike; on the reverse a prayer for the glorification of the Royal Martyr
- **"Is Charles a Saint" (in two parts) (G20 & G21)** – Charles Coulombe's examination of this question from the standpoint of the Universal Church



- **“The Sanctity of Charles I”** (G31) – The Rev’d J.M. Charles-Roux’ view that Charles I belongs to the Universal Church and stands in the long line of Her glorious Saints who have allowed the Light of Christ to shine through them
- See also L72-L74, by which one may order L70 & L71 in quantity

These items can all be purchased directly through the website using the Society’s PayPal account, or may be ordered using the downloadable order form and posted to:

David Lewis, FAAO, OL, Treasurer/Administrator
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1001 Wilson Blvd., #405
Arlington, VA 22209-2258 USA

- *The Rev’d Canon Jonathan J. D. Ostman, SSC, OL, Vice President – Devotional Programs*

Hot Off the Press

- ❖ In late March the Society’s **membership reached a record of 450!** We’ve been moving steadily in that direction for a number of years, with the 31 March count (the day before we suspend members for two years’ non-payment of dues and thus the high mark for the year) being 318 in 2013, 345 in 2014, and continuing upward each year to now.
- ❖ **This record easily can be broken** if each member would recruit a new member each year. It can be done. Just use the Society flyer, with the embedded membership form, and give it to a prospect and/or make copies for your tract rack. The flyer may be downloaded from the cover page that includes this edition of the email Communique.
- ❖ Please remember in your prayers the soul of The Very Rev’d J. Charles King, Ph.D., who died late in March. He was the Dean of the Cathedral of St. Edward the Confessor (ACC) in Indianapolis, IN and had been a member since 1996.



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