



REMEMBER!

email Communiqué

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region
10 June 2019 – White Rose Day**

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What Is White Rose Day?

First, some historical background ... **The origins of the White Rose emblem** are said to go back to the fourteenth century, to Edmund of Langley, the first Duke of York and the founder of the House of York as a cadet branch of the then ruling House of Plantagenet (although other reports suggest the rose and Yorkshire have links going back further than that.) The actual symbolism behind the rose has religious connotations as it represents the Virgin Mary, who is often called the *Mystical Rose of Heaven*. The Yorkist rose is white in colour, because in Christian liturgical symbolism, white is the symbol of light, typifying innocence and purity, joy and glory.



During the civil wars of the fifteenth century, the White Rose was the symbol of Yorkist forces opposed to the rival House of Lancaster. The red rose of Lancaster would be a later invention used to represent the House of Lancaster, but was not in use during the actual conflict. The opposition of the two roses gave the wars their name: the Wars of the Roses (coined in the 19th century.) The conflict was ended by King Henry VII of England, who symbolically united the White and Red Roses to create the Tudor Rose, symbol of the Tudor dynasty. In the late Seventeenth Century the Jacobites took up the White Rose of York as their emblem, celebrating "White Rose Day" on 10 June, the anniversary of the birth of James III and VIII in 1688. *(Courtesy of Wikipedia.)*

The White Rose is a symbol of purity and it symbolizes truth and innocence with a message of “I miss you and you are heavenly.” On June 10, White Rose Day is celebrated in the name of King James III and VIII. White Rose also is a symbol of legitimate Roman Catholic monarchy all over Europe. White rose is known for its peace message throughout the world. White rose means Innocence and Purity and Secrecy and Silence. *(Courtesy of 365Celebration.com.)*

It is odd that a commemoration that is so well-known—in a vague sense, not in detail—and that commemorates or is associated with so many different people came also to be so obscure. Part of its significance is that it refers to *King Charles I, whose nickname, the **White King**, refers to his wearing a white garment, visible only at the anointing ceremony at his Coronation, 2 February 1626.* This later date, as Spring turns to Summer, comes at a time of year that may on occasion be a suitable opportunity for a non-Winter gathering, especially on the part of our chapters.

In the end, it is particularly well known in the United Kingdom, especially but not only in Roman Catholic circles, and commemorates four people familiar to most of us:

- ✘ **Saint Charles, King and Martyr,**
- ✘ **Saint Margaret of Scotland** (shared by Anglicans and Roman Catholics alike),
- ✘ **Mary Queen of Scots,** and
- ✘ **James** (son of James II of Great Britain and VII of Scotland, styled King James III & VIII by Stuart loyalists and ‘The Old Pretender’ by the Hanoverians)



Celebration of White Rose Day on 10 June is not unique to Roman Catholicism, although the majority of our tetrad were of the Roman communion. Our Society’s own Patron, King Charles (I) the Martyr remained loyal to England’s established Church and was committed to its teachings and practice. As he replied to a suggestion that he become (Roman) Catholic from his mother-in-law, Marie de’Medici, “Madame, I *am* a Catholic.” And on the scaffold, he proclaimed, “I remain a son of the Church of England, as it was left me by my father. Remember.”

Some writers have dismissed any or all of the four remarkable individuals associated with White Rose Day as hopeless romantics, stubborn fools, even stupid, and venerated by deluded eccentrics. The lost cause has an appeal for romantics, as Tucci points out; the history of the Stuarts provides more than a few examples of lost causes, properly of interest because they were right, not because they were lost. As a Society, our interest in this history stems from an interest in the Stuart dynasty, as related to our Patron, not from any political position (of which there are many represented among our members).

Remember that for unbelievers, whose point of view is worldly only, our Lord’s was a lost cause, in which his death and interment *were* the end. Our faith is based on the *rest* of the story. Our Lord told us that we would be ‘marginalized’, although He wouldn’t have used

such a vapid word: He said, bluntly and with candor, that He came not to bring peace, but a sword, and that as His disciples, we might find that our families turn against us, that our friends shun us, that society ridicules or persecutes us, and we suffer all manner of ill treatment, including death, but that whatever we suffer would be for His sake. Knowing the potential consequences, why would we believe in Him? Because He is “the way, and the truth, and the life”. (S. John xiv: 6)

[The preceding White Rose Day article is extracted and adapted from the 10 June 2010 email Communique. It was authored by Mark A. Wuonola, Ph.D., Ben., OL, our American Representative Emeritus and Past President, to whom we are grateful. The full article is archived and is available upon request.]

Society Goods Reflecting White Rose Day Theme

Also regarding White Rose Day and its reference to the Royal Martyr as the White King, **we offer a number of goods that reflect that theme.** They include E66 (lapel rosette, with the central white cup of the rose symbolizing the white rose), E68 (Society tie), and E69 (Society bow tie). The repeating motif in the two ties is *rose argent slipped or*, i.e., white (silver) rose with gold leaves.

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, Society of King Charles the Martyr, 1001 Wilson Blvd., #405, Arlington, VA 22209-2258 USA.

Summer is Vacationtime for Many of Us

... but it is also a good time to recruit new members! Those who join this late in the fiscal year are credited with membership through 30 September 2020. Just use the membership flyer that accompanies this Communique and recruit a new member! Better yet, make copies and arrange for them to be placed in your church’s tract rack. It’s that simple – and that important to the witness of the Society!

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

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