



email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region
09 July 2019

70th Anniversary of Death of SKCM Foundress,
Mrs Ermengarda Ogilvy Greville-Nugent

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In This Issue:

- *Our Founders: Who and Why – pp 1-2*
 - *Our Founders: The Society's Mission Today – p 2*
 - *Supporting the Society – Recognizing Our Givers – p 3*
 - *Are You Interested in a Society Scarf? – p 4*
 - *June Board Meeting Report – pp 4-5*
 - *Recruit a New Member: A Special Incentive – p 5*
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Our Founders: Who and Why

On 30th January 1890, the Rev'd Fr James Leonard Fish (1828-1906), Rector of S. Margaret Pattens, revived the commemoration of the Decollation of the Royal Martyr. (S. Margaret Pattens is one of the 51 churches rebuilt by Christopher Wren in 1687 after the Great Fire of 1666, so-named "pattens" after the wooden overshoes used in the muddy streets of London, which parishioners would remove on entering the church.) Over the course of the next several years, this commemoration came to the attention of the Hon Mrs Ermengarda Ogilvy Greville-Nugent, who was the daughter and heiress of Augustus Ogilvy of Cove and a published author (one of her books recounts her travels in Algeria and Tunisia in the late 19th century). Her husband, the Hon Patrick Emilius J. Greville-Nugent, was the 5th son of the 1st Baron Greville.



On Easter Tuesday 1894 (27 March), an organisational meeting was held at S. Margaret Pattens out of which would emerge the Society of King Charles the Martyr, Mrs Greville-Nugent and Fr

Fish being the driving force. With S. Margaret Pattens no longer a parish church, having become a London City Guild Church in 1954, the Banqueting House at Whitehall became the venue for the observance and High Mass of commemoration on 30th January. This, of course, is the site of Charles's decollation in 1649, his having commissioned the Banqueting House from Inigo Jones in 1638.

Mrs Greville-Nugent also authored a volume of poetry, and composed a Litany of Charles, King and Martyr as well as several hymns in use today, the most popular being "O holy King, whose severed head."

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

Our Founders: The Society's Mission Today

Fr Ostman's fine article on the Foundress of our Society piqued my interest in the church of St Margaret Pattens, a place I've not yet visited. As Fr Ostman writes, he was made a Guild Church in 1954 meaning it is no longer a parish and does not have Sunday services. Instead, a lone Thursday liturgy is offered each week. Thanks to the virtual tour offered on the website (stmargaretpattens.org) one can see the memorial to the Royal Martyr, with the inscription "Touch not mine anointed." Aside from this memorial and a mention of the tradition of keeping the Thursday closest to January 30 as a special service, there appears to be nothing else to commemorate King Charles. I find it fascinating that the rector, Fr. Fish, revived the feast of the Royal Martyr four years before the calling of the organizational meeting that would result in our Society. That means Fr. Fish's devotion, isolated as it might have been, led to a meeting which led to the formation of a Society, which led to you reading this Communique. In the grand scheme of things, Fr Fish is a footnote to a parish church which now just a church without a parish, and yet, here we are.

"I have planted, Apollos watered: but God gave the increase."

Reflecting on our beginnings helps inform the perspective of our mission. The Society of King Charles the Martyr did not begin as an organization to promote devotion. It began as devotion that was later organized. It did not begin in a cosmopolitan church with a celebrity vicar. It began with one priest keeping the feast. Our mission today is the same as it was in 1890 when Fr Fish revived the feast of King Charles. Wherever we are, whoever we are, let us keep the feast. Let our devotion stir the faith in those around us. Let us plant with our prayers and trust other will water and that God, through the intercession of King Charles, will give the increase. Our mission is to remember. Revive the feast in your parish. Revive the feast in your prayers.



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

Supporting the Society – Recognizing Our Givers

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Society is able to keep its dues low: the last dues increase was 11 years ago (2008). Some 38% of our annual budget is supported by non-dues contributions, specifically for our Annual Mass as well as General Fund. For this we are grateful and give thanks.

In recent years, the size of some contributions has increased, for which we are thankful. We want to acknowledge our financial supporters to the membership as well as continue and expand their important witness. Those who give to the Annual Mass or General Fund are recognized in the *SKCM News* as well as thanked individually, and those whose cumulative giving reaches a certain level are further recognized by being able to use “Ben.” (Benefactor) after their names. Thus, the Board of Trustees recently adopted the following policy updates that pertain to recognizing as well as increasing both Annual Mass and general fund giving as well as Benefactors, all effective 1 October 2019:

- For the **Annual Mass**, we are adding an additional category of Sponsor to recognize those who give \$250 or more – which increasingly has been happening. We are also using the same categories - \$250 (Sponsor), \$100-249 (Patron), \$50-99 (Donor), and less than \$50 (Contributor) - for **General Fund** gift recognition.



➤ For **Benefactors**, ever since this recognition was first created 11 years ago the qualifying cumulative threshold of non-dues giving has been \$700. What will now happen is that there will be several recognition levels, with the lowest qualifying benchmark to be \$1,000; any current Benefactor who has given at least \$700 but less than \$1,000 will be credited with \$1,000. There will be three levels, with all able to use “Ben.” but with recognition in the *SKCM News* to be by groups, i.e., \$1,000 (Supporter), \$1,500 (Champion), and \$2,000 (Cavalier).

Watch Society communications, as well as the annual dues statement and contributions invitation that members will receive early in October, for further information. And we’ll make certain that any gifts **received by 31 October**, rather than the usual 30 September deadline, are reflected in the Benefactors listing in the December 2019 *SKCM News*.

There’s another important form of financial support to the work of the Society – **planned giving and similar legacy gifts**. Today, we have a very modest endowment of \$8,300+ which is separately invested and by policy is available for such significant projects as **funding shrines to the Royal Martyr**. We’ll have more to say on this topic in the coming months, but in the meantime all members simply are encouraged to **remember** the Society in our wills or other planned giving: this will make a difference in our future!

Are You Interested in a Society Scarf?

We've been talking about adding a **ladies' scarf** to our Society goods list for a year or two. The news is that we are now beyond the "special order" or inquiry stage and into final design with our vendor! Details: English silk scarf with an equestrian picture of the Royal Martyr ... a first-rate item of the same quality as similar products out there ... price expected to be under \$200, perhaps as low as \$160 ... an ideal Christmas present!

Our next step: ascertaining interest – we need to hear from you to determine the size of the initial run and the price. ***So, if you are seriously interested in obtaining a Society scarf, please email skcm@skcm-usa.org no later than 15 August.*** We hope to be able to add the scarf to the goods list in time for the first dues notice/contributions invitation this fall.



June Board Meeting Report

Our Board of Trustees met by conference call on 20 July. Here is a summary of the meeting:

- ✓ **OVERARCHING ROLE OF SOCIETY:** A recent Executive Committee meeting summarized the focus of the Society as bringing together diversity into unity, noting that Charles died for the Church, and reminding all that we are a devotional society.
- ✓ **ANNUAL MASS:** This is the key Society activity and our continuing challenge is how to underscore it before and after. Planning is commencing for the 1 February 2020 Annual Mass at the Cathedral of St Paul in Springfield, IL, with Fr Rice, Bp Martins, and others in charge of planning. Promotion will begin after Labor Day. The superiors of the other devotional societies will be invited.
- ✓ **ROLE OF EMAIL COMMUNIQUE:** Mrs Pettingell will review current policy regarding the relative roles of the *email Communique* and *SKCM News* in the light of current Society needs.
- ✓ **FINANCIAL:** The current fiscal year is running a surplus \$700 head of last year at this time, with a \$2,000 surplus expected on 30 September.
- ✓ **BOARD VACANCIES:** With Dr Jensen's resignation, there will be at least one open trustee seat to be filled next year. Thought is being given to what is desired for the Board to look like. A nominating committee will be appointed at the next meeting, probably in October.

- ✓ **SPEADING WORKLOAD:** Some *email Communique* writing assignments are to be spread out among the trustees. All are keeping an eye on whether we are trying to do too much and if so where should we adjust.
- ✓ **SOCIAL MEDIA:** The Executive Committee will take action on how to proceed with the SKCM-AR's role in Facebook, where there is now a Group but could also be a Page open to all. Mr Covert is the lead in this matter.
- ✓ **ADVERTISING THE SOCIETY:** Work continues, especially for Annual Mass promotion.
- ✓ **SOCIETY ARCHIVES AT NASHOTAH HOUSE:** Discussion continues on how to add materials.
- ✓ **MEMBERSHIP:** Our total membership now totals 430 (now 432 at press time), up from 417 one year ago and from 309 six years ago. There have been 36 new or reinstated members, similar to recent years. Members are getting younger, with this year's new members averaging age 45 contrasted with the overall membership averaging several decades older.
- ✓ **BENEFACTOR AND DONOR RECOGNITION:** The Board approved updated policy on this topic, initiated by Dr Jensen (see separate article).
- ✓ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** With planned giving and related being important to expanding the work of the Society, volunteers with a background in this field remain needed. Also needed is more activity to identify and involve SKCM leaders with key contacts who can provide personal touch to add chapters, members from specific quarters, etc. Bp Ackerman underscored the importance of having members in key places.
- ✓ **INTRODUCING SKCM TO LOCAL PARISH:** Dr Roman is developing guidelines for this activity.
- ✓ **HONORARY MEMBERS:** Strategic award of honorary memberships is being examined.
- ✓ **SKCM NEWS:** It's being mailed during the week of July 7-13. Watch your mail!

Recruit a New Member: A Special Incentive

The Society continues to grow, but we want to add an incentive to those who bring in new members. If you sponsor or otherwise recruit a new member, as a specific token of thanks we'll send you a complimentary DVD of the Society's Annual Mass at the Church of the Resurrection in New York City several years ago.

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

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<i>REMEMBER ... THE SOCIETY IN YOUR WILL OR OTHER PLANNED GIVING</i>
