



REMEMBER!

email Communiqué

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region
19 November 2019
The Nativity of the Royal Martyr (1600)**

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BACK ISSUES OF *SKCM NEWS* AND THE *EMAIL COMMUNIQUÉ* ARE POSTED AT THE AMERICAN REGION'S WEBSITE,
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A Reflection on the Nativity of the Royal Martyr

The liturgical commemoration of the Saints and the particular days established by the Church for services in their honour as servants of God and Christ teach us as much about how we believe as it does about why we believe a Saint should be held up for veneration.

The phrase “lex orandi – lex credendi” suggests that our worship gives witness to our faith. Thus, the historic term “Orthodox,” used by the early Ecumenical Councils of the undivided Catholic Church, specifically bore this two-fold meaning having to do with our faith and liturgical praxis which proclaims it.

The Church’s liturgical rule with respect to the days on which Saints are commemorated is specifically oriented to the celebration of their “heavenly birthday,” or the day of their repose rather than their birthday on earth. The reason for this was simply that only someone who had achieved, by the Grace of God, Sainthood could be liturgically honoured after a lifetime of struggle that culminated in faithfulness to God until the end.



So how is it that we honour the Royal Martyr specifically on his birthday on earth? Are we somehow suggesting by this that King Charles was already born a sanctified person - which is what we would be saying on the face of a liturgical celebration? Are there precedents for such commemorations elsewhere in the Christian calendar?

And, of course, there are. The Church celebrates the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God, the Nativity of St John the Baptist and also, by ancient Eastern Church tradition, the Nativity of St Nicholas the Wonderworker. These feasts do indeed honour the persons being celebrated as having been already sanctified prior to their natural birth where God the Holy Spirit deigned to prepare their bodies and souls with a superabundance of Grace for their unique earthly missions they were to fulfill in the Divine Plan of Salvation.

At the same time, there are Saints' festivals that celebrate particular moments in their lives as being relevant to both their mission and their impact on the life of the Church, such as, in one example, the founding of a particular monastery and the like. It is in this latter sense that **we in the Society of King Charles the Martyr in particular do liturgically honour him specifically on his Nativity at Dunfermline Palace, Scotland, November 19th.**



In fact, royal sovereigns who were destined to be God's anointed rulers over His people, entrusted also with the protection and promotion of the interests of Holy Church, have always had their

birthdays commemorated during their lifetimes and after their repose.

Republics have their special national holidays which mark the birthday of their respective nations along with their established constitutions which ideally enshrine the rule of law and the protection of the rights of the people.

So too we honour Saint Charles for the same reasons. As he said on the scaffold, "I am the martyr for the rights of the people." It was the very person of King Charles which, when he was alive, guaranteed the rule of law and defended the rights of his people while protecting the Church of Christ against the encroachment of its enemies.

This was truly a lofty vocation to which King Charles was called by God from birth and which responsibilities he so admirably fulfilled precisely because he continued steadfast in the Grace of God until his martyric end.

This vocation is what we do justly thank God for on the feast of the Nativity of King Charles the Martyr as we likewise implore him as his spiritual subjects on earth to continue in his role as our intercessor and defender on behalf of the Church for which he sacrificed his life, thus bequeathing to us the fullness of the Royal Priesthood of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

- Alexander J. Roman, Ph.D., Obl.S.B., OL, Member, Board of Trustees & Canadian Rep.

The Singular Burden of the Crown

Perhaps like many of you, I was delighted at the return of the Netflix series, *The Crown*. The cinematography, beautiful, the acting, superb, and the subject matter, perfect. We are thrilled at any glimpse, even fictional, of the life of the monarch. We are transfixed by the pageantry, tradition, luxury, and power of the sovereign. At least I am. For all the dramatic liberties taken by the writers of the series, I am pleased and really moved, by the portrayal of the crown's *weight*. We see from a new perspective the singular burden of the crown. Moving beyond the envious impression of wealth and privilege or royalty, the series invites us to contemplate on the duty of the monarch. It is a mantle that is not to be discarded.



When it is, as in the case of King Edward VIII, it is seen not only as betrayal, if not blasphemy. The Sovereign is anointed by God and that is an unction that one does not simply rub off.

As we commemorate the nativity of King Charles, we also remember the duty that he assumed, not by preference, but by Providence. As the second son of King James, he was not expected to rule, but the crown was nonetheless placed upon his head, along with the sacred duty to preserve Christ's Church. In two months we will celebrate with great solemnity the sacrifice he made for the sake of this duty. Today, we look to the moment where the journey began. In celebration of his birth, let us meditate on our present duty. Perhaps we can reevaluate our commitments and responsibilities, especially to the Church and this Society. What weighty gift has Our Lord

placed on our heads? How can we offer it back to Him? May the witness and intercession of the Royal Martyr aid us as we seek to exchange the corruptible for the incorruptible.

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

Report from October Meeting of SKCM-AR Board of Trustees

Our Board of Trustees met by conference call on Monday, 25 October. Here are highlights from that meeting:

- + Planning and promotion continues for the **Annual Mass & Luncheon** (1 February 2020 at St Paul's Cathedral, Springfield IL USA). With Bishop Dan Martins to celebrate, the preacher will be The Rev'd John Henry Henschle, recently retired rector of St Paul's-by-the-Lake in Chicago.
- + The **SKCM-AR President, Fr Steve Rice, will be the designated preacher** at the annual Royal Martyr Day Mass in London on 30 January 2020.



- + **Goods program** planning continues ... the long-awaited scarf, nearing readiness, has been delayed by the death of the vendor representative with whom the Society has been working but has been resumed with his successor ... upgrading of our charm and lapel pin is proceeding ... other initiatives also are proceeding.

- + The Board adopted an outline of **basic devotions** that all members should practice in their spiritual lives (see separate article, this edition).

- + Following discussion of the **continuing evolution of the Society's governance** from a "single proprietor" to "group leadership" model, typical for membership organizations, the Board also evaluated trustee skills that are needed at this juncture. One sensitivity

is to the ethic of "Catholic Christians living together in community" in a Society comprised of Episcopal and related, Anglican (ACNA and Continuum), (Roman) Catholic of various types, and others. A nominating committee was named to propose both job descriptions and nominees.

- + The **fiscal year (October 2018-September 2019) closed with a surplus of \$2,587**, some \$600 higher than the previous year. A financial statement will appear in the December SKCM News. With the annual dues statements and contributions invitations having been mailed in early October, income is flowing very well.
- + Joseph Goldkamp of MO and John Workman, Esq. Of FL were welcomed as **new Finance Committee members**. Both are SKCM-AR Life Members.

- + Current structure, procedures and guidelines are being reviewed regarding the **Society's publications**, with the intention of updating them per current Society needs. Among them will be focus and coverage, distribution methods, and involving more members. One step already taken is involving more members in writing the topical articles for the Communique.
- + There was significant discussion of the confusion coming from persons who are not SKCM members but are in the **Facebook** SKCM discussion group identifying themselves as "SKCM members." The Group's administrators, who are all members of either the SKCM-AR or the SKCM headquartered in Great Britain, are developing solutions with Board support.
- + Placement of SKCM-AR **archival material** in the official archives at the Nashotah House Library has begun. Also forwarded to the library were a number of books contributed by our member John Arthur Edward Windsor, Ben., of New York City.
- + Board members reviewed **responses from some new members** describing how they found the Society and their reasons for joining. These findings will be used in ongoing pertinent planning.
- + A suggestion that members be able to **use "SKCM" after their names**, in a manner parallel to "OL" or "Ben.", is being evaluated in terms of potential conflicting contexts.
- + The Board received draft **guidelines for introducing SKCM to a local parish**; they will be developed further in the light of life experiences.
- + There is good interest in **potential SKCM membership** from Ordinariate members in Canada, but there are also differing viewpoints from them regarding the Royal Martyr. This subject matter, including potential Vatican interest in his canonization, is under inquiry.
- + Given the importance of bishops to the success of the Society's mission, it was agreed to give **Honorary Membership** to the five **bishop members** who currently are regular rather than Honorary or Life Members; ten other bishops are already in those other two categories.
- + A FY 2019-2020 balanced **budget** of \$14,495 was adopted; it is approximately \$1,000 higher than that of the recently concluded year.



Recommended Devotional Practices for Members of the Society of King Charles the Martyr (American Region)

- 1) To commemorate daily the Royal Martyr using either a Collect from among the many options recommended by the Society or of one's own choice and to enshrine an image of Saint Charles, King and Martyr, within one's home;
- 2) In imitation of the Royal Martyr, to be faithful in the fulfillment of one's Christian duties by means of Morning and Evening Prayers, Reading of and Meditation on the Scriptures, regular Church attendance and frequent reception of the Sacraments;
- 3) To join with all SKCM Members in keeping the day of the Martyrdom of Saint Charles, January 30th by means of fasting, reflection on the life of the Royal Martyr, and attendance at a liturgical commemoration in his honour on that day or on the Sunday nearest to it. On this day, SKCM members would do well to imitate the Earl of Montrose, James Graham, who, upon hearing of the death of King Charles I, donned black attire and to wear a white cockade or other symbol of the SKCM;
- 4) Also encourage and join in such other Caroline commemorations as Restoration Day and the Nativity of KCM;
- 5) Members are encouraged to avail themselves of the prayers of the SKCM Devotional Manual, Liturgical Manual, Akathist to St Charles, and Anglican Daily Prayers, and enter into the celebration of other festal days throughout the year on which we deepen within our hearts and minds the Royal Martyr's injunction to "Remember!" his life and legacy;
- 6) SKCM Members should likewise promote the veneration of Saint Charles, King and Martyr within their own parishes and, according to their means, help support the ongoing work of the SKCM in this regard.

***REMEMBER ... THE SOCIETY IN YOUR
WILL OR OTHER PLANNED GIVING
AND BRING IN A NEW MEMBER
THIS YEAR!***





REMEMBER!

**SOCIETY OF KING CHARLES THE MARTYR
XXXVII ANNUAL SOLEMN MASS OF SAINT CHARLES, K.M.**

11 a.m., Saturday, 1 February 2020

**CATHEDRAL OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE
Springfield IL USA**

The Rt Rev'd Daniel Hayden Martins, DD, Bishop of Springfield, *Celebrant*;

The Rev'd John Henry Heschle, Rector 1993-2019,

St Paul's by-the-Lake, Chicago, IL, *Preacher*

Buffet Luncheon reservations: \$25 by 18 January; checks to "St Paul's" - memo "SKCM"

Send to 815 S. Second St., Springfield IL 62704 USA

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Church website: www.stpaulspringfield.com



SOCIETY INFORMATION

Founded 1894 + incorporated in U.S. 2008 + an Oxford Movement devotional society

Serving members in Canada & the U.S.

email to membership@skcm-usa.org; web www.skcm-usa.org

Join our growing devotional society via our website; click on "Join or contribute"

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

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