



REMEMBER!

email Communiqué

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region
26 February 2020
Ash Wednesday**

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Lent: The Royal Martyr, Laud, & Penitential Value

Today marks the beginning of the Lent, forty days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. While we may take this penitential season as a given, Lent was one of many points of conflict between the Puritans and the Laudians. When the moderate Archbishop of Canterbury, George Abbot, died in 1643, Charles I selected William Laud as his successor, to assist in bringing uniformity to the Church of England.



Remember, man, that thou art dust, and into dust thou shalt
return

In his emphasis on the “beauty of holiness,” Archbishop Laud reinstated many of the practices that had either been rejected by Calvinist clergy or simply fallen into laxity. Along with the restoration of churches, the moving of the Communion Table to the east end of the sanctuary, and installing altar rails, Laud also advanced a heightened awareness of the traditional liturgical kalendar.

The Puritans tended to reject anything not explicitly commanded in the Holy Scriptures. At best, these additional liturgical practices were *adiaphora*, at worst popery. While not averse to proclaiming days of fasting in response to concerns of the day, they were opposed to a liturgical season of fasting, and to the ecclesiastical season of Lent more specifically.

It may be helpful to recall the three purposes of fasting outlined in the First Homily on Fasting: 1) To chastise the flesh that it be not too wanton, but tamed and brought into subjection to the spirit; 2) that the spirit may be more fervent and earnest in prayer; 3) that our fast be a testimony and witness with us before God, of our humble submission to His high majesty.

While the Puritans may have won the day in 1649, the Church has always understood the value of the penitential seasons. Lent especially was seen from the earliest days of Christianity to reflect the words of Our Lord: “The days will come when the Bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.” Passiontide and Holy Week highlight this fact explicitly.

The forty days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving enable us to enter more fully into the joy of the Resurrection. Our meagre attempts to emulate Our Lord’s sacrificial offering bring us into a greater awareness of the cost of our salvation. In the end, the Church is victorious, because the Church is the extension of Our Incarnate Lord who defeated the powers of sin and death once for all on the Cross and as witnessed by the empty tomb.

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

Our XXXVII Annual Mass & Luncheon

On 1 February the Society’s flagship Annual Mass and Luncheon, which rotates around various parts of North America, was held at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul the Apostle in Springfield, Illinois USA. Celebrating the Solemn Mass was The Rt Rev’d Daniel Hayden Martins, DD, Episcopal Bishop of Springfield and a member of the Society’s Board of Trustees. Preaching was The Rev’d David Halt, Rector of St Matthew’s in Bloomington, IL, also a Society member; his sermon will be shared in the June SKCM News. Student singers from Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL, under the direction of Diane Akin, organist at St Paul’s Carlinville, sang the Mass setting, the *Morning Star Service*, by Richard Shepherd (contemporary English composer). The SKCM American Region has continued this liturgical expression of witness to the Royal Martyrdom for nearly 40 years, and the Board of Trustees already is discussing various venues for this annual commemoration over the next several years.



Local Observances in North America

A comprehensive list of reported commemorations, including the Society's own Annual Mass & Luncheon and local observances, will be included in the June *SKCM News*. If you want to appear in that report and have not already checked in or desire to update your information, please email membership@skcm-usa.org by 31 March. Thank you.

Board of Trustees Meets on 7 February: Report

Here is a summary of the recent meeting of the Board, which meets by conference call every four months:

ADMINISTRATION

- ✓ The annual **organizational meeting of the Trustees**, who constitute the de jure "membership" of the Society which elects the trustees, was recessed until June to give the Nominating Committee more time to do its work.
- ✓ The President, Fr Steve Rice, reported on his recent trip to the UK where he **preached at the annual Royal Martyr Day Mass at the Banqueting House in London**. Also, a North American tour of Caroline relics is being discussed.
- ✓ As of 31 January, we are **running a \$3,700 surplus (particularly thanks to earlier dues payments) and project a \$900 surplus** when the fiscal year concludes on 30 September.
- ✓ Discussion continued on the role of the **Society's publications**, including the optimal focus of each.
- ✓ The recent practice of **expanding the pool of writers for topical articles in the email Communique** is working well, with the pool continuing to expand.

DEVOTIONAL

- ✓ Reviewed the **1 February Annual Mass and Luncheon** (see separate article, above.)
- ✓ **Next year's Annual Mass** will be on 30 January 30, 2021 and will be sponsored in the Nashville area by the Tennessee Chapter. Trinity Episcopal Church in Clarksville will be the venue, with the Chapter's Chaplain, Fr Roger Senechal, to celebrate and the preacher to be selected by the Society. Discussion continued on site selection options for the following two or three Annual Masses.
- ✓ The goal of **encouraging local observances of Caroline feasts** is being met, with propers for upcoming feasts being circulated with the Communique.
- ✓ The Society's **goods program** has featured a number of recent purchases of Anglican Daily Prayers and holy cards ... an upgraded lapel pin and charm which will be promoted in the near future ... the Devotional Manual (which is received by most new members as well as available for purchase by all) has been reprinted with an updated necrology ... the supply of rosettes is being replenished. The ladies' scarf project is still alive but is taking longer than expected consequent to the death of the principal supplier representative.

- ✓ The SKCM-AR and the Society in the UK are working together to update and consolidate their **lists of Caroline shrines**. The “Cult” section on www.skcm.org, the Mother Society’s website, is the location of the list; it will be linked to the SKCM-AR website if feasible.

MEMBERSHIP

- ✓ **Membership continues to grow** (see separate report, below). Among other things, in terms of percentages there has been a decline in the share of Episcopal and ACNA clergy and Episcopal and Continuum laity joins, with growth in ACNA and Roman Catholic laity joins, particularly Ordinariate. Overall, today’s SKCM-AR membership includes 56% Episcopal and related, 22% ACNA and Anglican Continuum, 16% Roman Catholic, 4% Eastern Orthodox, and 2% other.
- ✓ Of our several **local chapters**, the Tennessee Chapter with 22 members is the most active, with the St John Henry Newman Chapter in Southern California now shifting into higher gear. There are several other areas where there is significant Society membership and potential coalescence into chapter status.
- ✓ The Society continues to seek to **identify and involve leaders with key contacts** who can help “grow” the Society. The Nominating Committee is including this aspect.
- ✓ Although it is **highly unlikely that the Vatican will canonize the Royal Martyr** since he was in the Church of England, there are ways in which persons who are not in the Roman Martyrology to be honored in the Catholic Church.

COMMUNICATIONS

- ✓ The renaming of the Facebook Group as the “**Friends of the Society of King Charles the Martyr**” has been helpful. It has removed the confusion over what constitutes SKCM membership as well as better positioning the SKCM and SKCM-AR to use the renamed Group as a membership benefit.
- ✓ Additional **communications initiatives** are pending.

More Caroline Snippets

The silk vest worn by King Charles I when he was beheaded, in 1649, is going to be put on public view for the first time in a decade. The Museum of London usually keeps the fragile garment under “restricted access”, last exhibiting it in 2009. The blue vest, along with other items worn by the king at his death, will be shown in an exhibition in the autumn. Museum curator Meriel Jeater said the objects would help tell the story of “one of the most infamous executions”. (<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-51313498>).



Our membership keeps growing, up another 10 since the last Communique edition ... we are now at another **record high number of members: 462!** Just think – if each of us would recruit a new member, we would have nearly 1,000, an achievable milestone! Just put copies of the **SKCM flyer** (sent with this edition) which includes a membership application into your parish tract rack and/or give a copy to a friend who may be interested!

A snapshot of our current membership by year of joining may be of interest. Of all members, 241 joined from 1950 to 2015, with the 221 more recent members – constituting around half of the total – enrolled from 2016 to date. This latter number includes the 25 already joining during the current fiscal year.

We give special thanks to the 10 new Life Members who have opted for that status since 1 October 2019: John P. Cahill, of Lakewood, CA ... Richard D. Daves, of Greenville, NC ... Steven Dieter, of Gloucester, ON (Canada) ... Norman E. Downs, of Newark, MD ... Kevin J. Hanratty, of Jackson Heights, NY ... Thomas E. Jacks, of Mandeville, LA ... James C. Kelly, of Alexandria, VA ... Andrew Nadell, of Burlingame, CA ... Scott Spaulding, of Alexandria, VA ... The Rev'd David L. Wells, of Springfield, IL.



***BRING IN A NEW MEMBER
THIS YEAR!***

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

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