



**REMEMBER!**

## *email Communiqué*

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region  
11 August 2020  
St John Henry Newman**

ISSN 2153-6120

BACK ISSUES OF *SKCM NEWS* AND THE *EMAIL COMMUNIQUÉ* ARE POSTED AT THE AMERICAN REGION'S WEBSITE,  
[WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG](http://WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG)

---

### *In This Issue:*

- *The Role of Conscience: St John Henry Newman & King Charles the Martyr - Remember – pp 1-3*
  - *Nearing a New Membership Record – p 3*
- 

## **The Role of Conscience: St John Henry Newman & King Charles the Martyr - Remember**

**S**aint John Henry Newman was famously devoted to King Charles I, Martyr. After his conversion, he kept a devotional image of King Charles. Looking at the strong role that conscience played in the life of King Charles, we might wonder how Newman's devotion to King Charles deepened Newman's understanding of conscience.

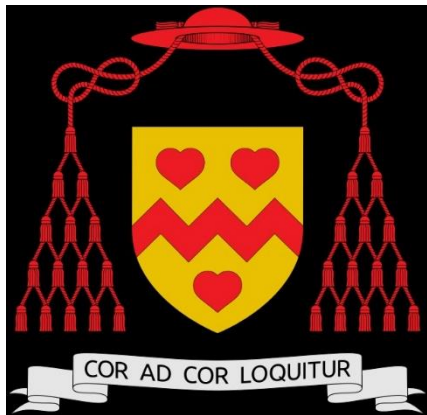
King Charles in the *Eikon Basilike* wrote extensively on the role of conscience in forming his resolve to uphold the Faith. Indeed, his main argument against his persecutors was that they failed to make any *objective* and *rational* appeal to his conscience. Instead, they resorted to fear, force, and convenience. King Charles pointed out that none of these tactics are enough to convince any man of *good* conscience.

Significantly, King Charles emphasized the *objective* and *rational* nature of conscience. Conscience is not purely subjective. His prayer puts it this way: "O never suffer me for any reason of State, to go against my Reason of Conscience, which is highly to sinne against thee, the God of Reason, and Judge of our Consciences."



These thoughts are echoed by Newman in his letter to the Duke of Norfolk. Regarding conscience he states

“This, at least, is how I read the doctrine of Protestants as well as of Catholics. The rule and measure of duty is not utility, nor expedience, nor the happiness of the greatest number, *nor State convenience* . . . Conscience is not a long-sighted selfishness, nor a desire to be consistent with oneself; but it is a messenger from Him, who, both in nature and in grace, speaks to us behind a veil, and teaches and rules us by His representatives. Conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ . . .”  
(*Emphasis added*).



In Newman, we see a clear echo of the thought of King Charles—that not even matters of state could overrule the duty to conscience. And we see that they both recognize conscience as an objective measure of our individual actions. It is a voice that does not encourage us to be “consistent with oneself” but that frees each of us—and obliges us—to act according to God’s law as found in nature (reason) and Revelation. Or as King Charles put it: “Thou never madest me a King, that I should be lesse than a Man; and not dare to say, Yea, or Nay, as I see cause; which freedome is not denied to the meanest creature, that hath the use of Reason, and liberty of speech.”

Ultimately, this shared understanding of conscience resulted in both making sacrifices. King Charles gave the witness of his life. He did so because he understood it was his duty to defend Apostolic Succession and Episcopacy: “Though Mine owne, and My Peoples pressures are grievous, and peace would be very pleasing; yet Lord, never suffer Me to avoid the one, or purchase the other, with the least expense or waste of my Conscience.” And Newman was a kind of martyr too—who gave up all that was comfortable, all that he knew, and traditions he loved to follow his conscience.

These men, following the pattern of their Master, listened to His voice in their hearts to do what was right in His eyes. As the Lord, Himself, prayed in the garden—“thy will be done.” And like the Lord, who told His disciples, “This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me”—these two devout Christians asked those who would be disciples of Christ to remember their example of conscience:

- Newman: “[R]emember such a one in time to come, though you hear him not, and pray for him, that in all things he may know God's will, and at all times he may be ready to fulfil it.”
- King Charles: “I go from a corruptible to an incorruptible crown, where no disturbance can be, no disturbance in the world . . . Remember!”

We see then the importance of recalling and remembering the Christian witnesses that came before us in forming and following our conscience. King Charles remembered Christ and drew his strength from that example, and Newman was formed by his devotion to King Charles and his example. Following the example of Newman, let us never cease to keep in mind the witness of King Charles to conscience—which points us to the King of the Universe, the author of conscience.

Remember!

- Gunnar Gundersen, Esq., Member, Board of Trustees

## Nearing a New Membership Record

As we reported last month, our membership total now stands at 460 members. Our highest number of members (at least since we incorporated a dozen years ago) had been 463; that was the member count just before we suspended 19 members for two years' nonpayment of dues on 31 March. Our members number will continue to rise until 31 March 2021, as more members join, meaning that we should reach another record very soon and that new record will continue to increase!

We also reported that on Sundays over 2/3 of our members will find themselves the only Society member in their local church. We list 40 local parishes with 2 or more members, but only 7 of them have enough – 5 – to seek chapter status. *Here's a hint:* if you are the only SKCM-AR member in your church, recruit another! *Another hint:* if there are 5 or more of you, form a chapter! **Bottom line: the desired 4 more members are there and just need to be asked!**

**REMEMBER!  
BRING IN A NEW MEMBER  
THIS YEAR!  
A MEMBERSHIP FLYER/APPLICATION FORM  
IS ATTACHED FOR YOUR USE!**

+++++

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

PRESIDENT (THE REV'D STEVEN C. RICE, OBL.S.B., D.MIN.): [PRESIDENT@SKCM-USA.ORG](mailto:PRESIDENT@SKCM-USA.ORG);

GOODS INQUIRIES: SKCM [@SKCM-USA.ORG](mailto:@SKCM-USA.ORG)

TO SUBMIT ARTICLES & INQUIRIES TO THE SKCM NEWS, PLEASE CONTACT [EDITORS@SKCM-USA.ORG](mailto:EDITORS@SKCM-USA.ORG);

OTHER INQUIRIES: [MEMBERSHIP@SKCM-USA.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@SKCM-USA.ORG)

#### **OUR SURFACE MAILING ADDRESS:**

SOCIETY OF KING CHARLES THE MARTYR  
C/O DAVID LEWIS, TREASURER/ADMINISTRATOR  
1001 WILSON BLVD #609  
ARLINGTON VA 22209-2262 USA