



## *email Communiqué*

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region  
19 November 2020  
The Nativity of King Charles the Martyr**

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 Nativity of King Charles the Martyr: A Birth Within the Prophetic Tradition – pp 1-2*
  - Fr Bill Swatos RIP – p 3*
  - You Are Invited to Join Us: 38th Annual Mass & Luncheon – p 4*
  - An Invitation to Promote Your Local RMD Observance – p 4*
  - Report on October SKCM-AR Board Meeting - p 5*
- 

## **The Nativity of King Charles the Martyr: A Birth Within the Prophetic Tradition**

On November 19, our Society commemorates the Nativity of King Charles the Martyr.

**C**harles was born November 19, 1600, at Dunfermline Palace, Fife, the second son of James VI of Scotland (James I of England from 1603) and Anne of Denmark. As an infant, Charles was weak and sickly. When his parents and older siblings left for England after the death of Queen Elizabeth I in March 1603, it was thought best that young Charles remain in Scotland with his father's friend Lord Fyvie as his guardian. By 1604,



Charles was able to walk the length of the great hall at Dunfermline Palace without assistance, and it was decided that he was strong enough to make the journey to England and be reunited with his family.

Through courage and perseverance, Charles conquered his physical infirmities, became an adept horseman and marksman, and took up fencing. Still, he was shy and studious, in contrast to his stronger and taller older brother Henry, whom Charles greatly admired. From his youth, Charles showed a sincere piety, so much so that Henry said that when he became king, he would make Charles Archbishop of Canterbury. Henry, however, would die in November 1612 at the age of eighteen. The sincere personal religion that Charles showed in childhood remained

throughout his life and deepened as the years went on, preparing him for his role as King and Martyr.

We honor friends and family on their birthdays, of course, and note the birth of important persons as a matter of historical interest. But saints' days (with the exception of Saint John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary) are generally kept on the day of death, that is, their "heavenly birthday." The full meaning of anyone's life has a certain ambiguity until it is ended, when there is no longer the possibility of either responding to or refusing God's grace. So what might it mean for us to commemorate the Nativity of King Charles the Martyr? Is it of more than historical interest?

Without suggesting that the Royal Martyr was sanctified from the womb, we might place his birth within the prophetic tradition. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you," the Lord said to Jeremiah; "I appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). As with prophets, so with kings. While cognizant of the vicissitudes of history, in God's providence, we may say, a king is called from birth.

And so with the saints. In T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*, Saint Thomas Becket says, "A Christian martyrdom is no accident. Saints are not made by accident ... A martyr, a saint, is always made by the design of God." As with prophets and kings, saints and martyrs, so even with you and me. Saint John Henry Newman expresses this beautifully:

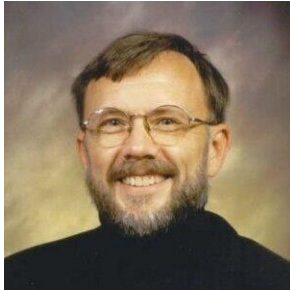
God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for His purposes, as necessary in my place as an Archangel in his—if, indeed, I fail, He can raise another, as He could make the stones children of Abraham. Yet I have a part in this great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connexion between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling. Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life, He may shorten it; He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends, He may throw me among strangers, He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me—still He knows what He is about (*from Meditations and Devotions, "Hope in God—Creator," March 7, 1848*).

*The Rev'd Martin C. Yost, SSC., is a member of the SKCM-American Region Board of Trustees.*



## Fr Bill Swatos RIP

Fr. Bill Swatos is one of those persons whom no one can define. An academic? A father? A husband? A Religious Sociologist? A Priest? A Professor? An Anglophile? The list goes on. Of course he was all of these, and more, and he was also eccentric. Many of us Anglo-Catholics are called “eccentric” sometimes because the way in which we approach life in general and the church, specifically is very different what from those who have less than a world view about Church and Society. I served as Fr. Bill’s Bishop for 15 years. He certainly had no difficulty carrying on a conversation with people, and one might even say that unlike most academics he was extroverted, but he was a complex man. One could see him, as he processed thoughts, having an intelligent debate with



himself inside his very own mind. As a Sociologist he saw the world as it was and is, and as an Anglo-Catholic academic, he saw the Catholic Faith as it was and is, and within his own reasoning he mediated the conflict. As a result he was incapable of saying simply “yes” or simply “no” when others asked him a question. He gave sources for his answers both in conversation and in writing, and occasionally people could not fathom his process. In that regard he felt lonely. But because he was also passionate, it did not take very long to see what the conclusions were that he reached regarding numerous subjects. He had compassion for people, but he also internally evaluated why they behaved the way they did. Although he saw Theology as the Queen of all sciences, he nonetheless could not deny the natural sciences that informed the manner in which he responded to questions. Elsewhere you will see his “secular obituary.” The obituary details the facts, all of which are impressive facts until one reads to the end, where we learned that he died of a Covid 19 related illness in a Memory Center. Can we even imagine what it is like for a brilliant mind that operated without notes, suddenly to forget basic facts? In the end we all may forget numerous facts that formerly were on our list of “immediate response” but Jesus the Great High Priest always visits us where we are, showing Himself and reminding us daily that He has prepared a place for us. That we will never forget.

- *The Rt Rev’d Keith L. Ackerman, SSC, DD, Ben., OL, SKCM-AR Episcopal Patron*

An SKCM member beginning in 1968, Fr Swatos was SKCM-AR President 2009-17. Among other things, he involved more people in the leadership tasks of the Society and initiated our practice of gathering demographic information on all members. Here is his 11 November obituary from the *Quad City Times*:

**William H. Swatos, Jr. September 25, 1946-November 9, 2020** + William H. Swatos, Jr. 74, passed away while being treated for COVID-19 complications at CGH Medical Center, Sterling, IL on November 9, 2020. A native of West Milford, NJ, he graduated from Transylvania University in Lexington, KY, and the University of Kentucky. He graduated from the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Lexington and was ordained a priest while serving at the Church of the Transfiguration in Lawrenceburg, KY. He served at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Silvis, IL from 1980-1993. He was a resident at the Windsor Manor memory care center in Morrison, IL where he contacted the virus following an outbreak at the facility. His academic career included teaching sociology at King College (Bristol, TN), Augustana College (Rock Island, IL), and Baylor University (Waco, TX). As a Fulbright Scholar in 1981, he travelled to Iceland to teach and study Icelandic religion. He was a noted author/editor of over 20 textbooks exploring topics in the sociology of religion. He served as Executive Officer of the Association for the Sociology of Religion from 1997-2012, and as Managing Editor of the Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion at Baylor University. He is survived by sons Eric (Elizabeth) Swatos and Giles Swatos and grandchildren Arthur, Lillian, Claire, and Stephen.

## You Are Invited to Join Us



**REMEMBER!**

## Society of King Charles the Martyr

**XXXVIII ANNUAL SOLEMN MASS  
OF SAINT CHARLES, K.M.**

11 a.m., Saturday, 30 January 2021

**ST TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Winston-Salem NC USA

***WATCH FOR STREAMING INFORMATION!***

*Buffet Luncheon reservations: \$25/person by 18 January*

Checks to "St Timothy's" - memo "SKCM"

Send to St Timothy's Church at 2575 Parkway Drive,

Winston-Salem NC 27103 USA

Parish website: [www.sttimothysws.org](http://www.sttimothysws.org)

Contact: [president@skcm-usa.org](mailto:president@skcm-usa.org) or 336-602-0370

## An Invitation to Promote Your Local RMD Observance

**T**he Board of Trustees continues to encourage more Royal Martyr Day celebrations in the US and Canada as well as to make those celebrations better known, both before and afterwards. Thus, we again are offering to advertise in advance those local observances that are made known to the Society - in addition, of course, to the Society's official Annual Mass & Luncheon that moves from place to place each year.

To this end, in an early January edition of the *email Communiqué* we will be reporting on any planned Royal Martyr Day observances or related activities that are sent to us. Thus, you are invited to send in any report, whether skeletal or detailed, with the deadline being 31 December. Also, the June *SKCM News* will as usual report on celebrations after they have been held.

This will be a great opportunity for you to give visibility to your plans, thus increasing access to royal martyr devotion - the purpose of our Society. Just respond to [membership@skcm-usa.org](mailto:membership@skcm-usa.org) and we'll take it from there as well as help you with any liturgical resources (many are already on the Society website, [www.skcm-usa.org](http://www.skcm-usa.org))!



## Report on October SKCM-AR Board Meeting: Looking Good

The SKCM (American Region) Board of Trustees met via Zoom technology, as usual, on 26 October. Here's a recap:

**NEW TRUSTEES:** Welcomed were Gunnar Gundersen, Esq., of Placentia CA (St John Henry Newman Chapter President) and The Rev'd Deacon Creighton McElveen, of Marietta GA (Curate at St Barnabas' Parish Dunwoody GA).

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:** The 2019-2020 fiscal year closed with a **surplus of \$2,460**, similar to last year ... as of the third week of the new fiscal year, there is already a gain of three members with renewals and most income categories the same as last year at this time; although general and Annual Mass donations were down at the time of the meeting, they have since increased decently ... investment gains for the year were around 4.5%, standard for that period.

**ANNUAL MASSES:** Arrangements are in progress for our 30 January 2021 Annual Mass at St Timothy's in Winston-Salem, NC, which will be streamed (see above) ... planning continues for Masses for subsequent years.

**PUBLICATIONS:** The December 2020 SKCM NEWS edition is nearly ready for publication as the transition team continues ... a series of articles on Caroline shrines will be initiated in the email Communique.

**DEVOTIONAL:** The new lapel pin and charm continue to be well received ... additional new goods were suggested and are expected in the near future.

**BUDGET:** A balanced budget of \$15,500 was adopted, similar to that of last year.

### UPDATE THROUGH 22 NOVEMBER

**Total membership = 469**

**+ All contributions up 13%**

**+ Dues (all categories) up 38%**

**+ 7 new members (up from 5)**

**+ 7 new life members (up from 4, now 89)**

**+ Current year dues renewals up 15%**

**+ Prepaid dues up 17%**

**+ Goods sales up 30%**

**THANK YOU!**

### *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@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*