



email Communiqué

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region
15 December 2020
In Memory and Preparation**

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BACK ISSUES OF *SKCM NEWS* AND THE *EMAIL COMMUNIQUÉ* ARE POSTED AT THE AMERICAN REGION'S WEBSITE, WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG

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In Memory and Preparation

This article and another one on Preparing for Royal Martyr Day (p. 4) are submitted in memory of The Rev'd Canon William H. Swatos, Jr., Ph.D., O.L., the second President of the SKCM-AR (2009-2017), who passed from this life on 9 November. See his obituary in the December 2020 *SKCM NEWS* and in the 19 November *Communique*. They are mostly of his own composition from several years ago, from two *Communique* editions in different years, with only minimal contextual or updating edits. The first article begins with the style with which he prefaced most of the of articles which he composed for the *Communique*.

Greetings in the name of the Royal Martyr—

On 9 December we commemorated the death of Sir Anthony (Flemish: Antoon) van Dyck; 22 March 1599 – 9 December 1641), a Flemish Baroque artist who became the leading court painter in England. He is most famous for his portraits of Charles I of England and his family and court, painted with a relaxed elegance that was to be the dominant influence on English portrait-painting for the next 150 years.

This date comes between those of two Caroline observances, i.e., **19 November** (the **Nativity** of S. Charles, K.M. – Charles Stuart born at Dunfermline Palace to King James VI of the Scots and his Queen, Anne of



Denmark, 1600) and **23 December** (his **baptism** at Holyrood Palace, also 1600). It also provides a logical time frame for sharing an article on the latter observance, courtesy of our American Representative Emeritus and first SKCM-AR President, Mark A. Wuonola, Ph.D., Ben., OL, which appears below (p. 3) and is accompanied by a well-known van Dyck portrait of the Royal Martyr. But first, here are some interesting history lessons of ongoing import ...

Our royal-martyr-to-be was baptized by David Lindsay, Bishop of Ross. This was clearly a Protestant liturgy, what with the Scots Kirk having broken away from Rome in 1560 under the leadership of John Knox, noted as a disciple of John Calvin and thus of Presbyterianism. Initially, the Church of Scotland was organized through a compromise between Calvinist doctrine and episcopal practice, a situation which Charles I subsequently faced and sought to move toward English “High Church” practice. The Scots Kirk finally abolished the episcopacy in 1638.

Out of this milieu also came the Scottish Episcopal Church, formed in 1582 when the Church of Scotland made one of its several rejections of government by bishops. And in 1633 Charles I was crowned with full Anglican rites. Two and a half centuries later, Bishop Samuel Seabury, the first American Episcopal bishop, was consecrated in the Episcopal Church of Scotland – recall that because of the American Revolution it would not have worked for him to have been consecrated in the Church of England, given its allegiance to George III, to whom the “non-juror” Scottish Episcopalians did not swear religious fealty at that time. The American BCP emerged from Scotland rather than England per this circumstance.

Making things more interesting from those conflicted times: what with the Church of England being established in England and the Church of Scotland having similar status in Scotland, to this day Charles’ royal successor, HM The Queen, is Anglican in England but Presbyterian in Scotland!

A big “**thank you**” goes to the members who have already paid their dues and made contributions to the Society. At this point 69% of those members with 2020-21 dues obligations have responded, as have many others who did not owe dues but made contributions. Plus we’ve welcomed 12 new members to date this FY ...



We are particularly thankful for the very fine support to date for the Annual Mass, which already has put us to 77% of the record amount of \$3,880 contributed for the January 2015 Annual Mass. **Please remember:** if you want to be listed in the Annual Mass program, we need to receive your contribution by *15 January*.

You may be interested in joining the growing number of **Life Members** of the Society. If so, you will be joining 90 (19%) of our 473 members in doing so, including some members who have joined the Society as Life Members. Of these, 8 have already joined during the current fiscal year.

Looking for ideas for Christmas gifts? Go to the Society's list of goods on our website where there are some “good” possibilities. Especially attractive may be our recently upgraded lapel pin and charm, lapel rosette, a ladies' scarf (by special order), and Anglican Daily Prayers.

The Baptism of Charles – 23 December 1600

from *Charles I: The Personal Monarch* by Charles Carlton,
2nd Ed., London & New York: Routledge, 1995

“Charles’s entry into this world was far less noteworthy than the manner in which he left it. He was born shortly after midday on Wednesday, 19 November 1600, in Dunfermline castle, the second son and third surviving child of Anne of Denmark and James VI of Scotland. Although the birth was a difficult one, the midwife, Janet Kinlock, being amply rewarded for her services, the boy’s father was not pacing anxiously up and down outside the delivery room, but was, instead, a day’s ride away in Edinburgh supervising the distribution of the remains of the Gowrie brothers, who had been hung, drawn and quartered for treason. Even though Dunfermline was her favourite castle, the surrounding countryside reminding the queen of her native land, Charles’s birth did not bring his mother and father closer together, their marriage having long since gone sour. No outburst of popular rejoicing welcomed the baby into this world, only the official three-gun salute from Edinburgh castle. No bonfires were lit in Edinburgh town, no Latin paeans came from the dons at St Andrews, not a dram recorded tipped to wet the bairn’s head in the Highlands, not a kirk bell tolled. In fact the only man who bothered to record the exact moment of the baby’s birth was an unknown astrologer, who fearing perhaps that the conjunction of the planets or else the expectations from a second son promised so little, did not bother to continue to cast Charles’s fortune.



“On 23 December, five weeks after his birth, Charles was taken from Dunfermline to Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh, to be christened. For the first time in his life he became part of the spectacle that attends royalty. The Prince de Rohan carried the boy wrapped in a golden robe into the Chapel Royal, where the Bishop of Ross preached, exhorting all to obey the king as God’s lieutenant upon earth. As the choir sang a psalm, the bishop baptized the boy, and Lord Lyons proclaimed his full style—Duke of Albany, Marquis of Ormonde, Earl of Ross and Lord Ardmnoch. Cannons roared, trumpets blared, as Dingwall Pursuivant shouted the new prince’s titles out through a window to the crowd who waited below, excited less in expectation of learning Charles’s correct style than in scrimmaging for the 100 marks that John Blinsele, another herald, tossed down. The mob fought, the royal party withdrew for a banquet in the queen’s rooms, and Charles was taken back to the daily routine of his nursery.”

Preparing for Royal Martyr Day

+ In the era of Christmastide, of course all Christians focus first and foremost on the Birth of Our Lord and Savior and devotion to His Blessed Mother. But, in fact, **there is much more to this season than many of us may realize** – a period that has come to be marked by what are called “The Witness Days” for the number of martyrs whose anniversaries fall at this time. In the Book of Common Prayer, the first holy day to be observed is that of the Martyrdom of St. Andrew on November 30, but that is only the beginning. On December 21, we observe the Martyrdom of St. Thomas. To these we can add the First Martyr, St. Stephen, on December 26, the Holy Innocents on December 28, and St. Thomas Becket on December 29.

+ So what is my point? Simply this: **The Church has been sustained by the witness of those who preferred death to compromise**, who believed that the Sacred Deposit of the True Faith bequeathed to Christian men and women across the centuries was something for which it was worth dying, if that should be one’s circumstance. The men I mentioned above, of course, are only the first among a glorious “cloud of witnesses” whose inspiration has sustained the Church in the past and to this day.

+ **It is into this glorious family of the “saints in light” that King Charles I entered** by the hands of small and scheming men for whom temporary political glory was worth far more than the things of God. We do not celebrate King Charles because he was perfect. I hope we all know that he was not. I also hope that we all know that none of us is. And that’s just the point: We are bound together in the holy compact of the redeemed. None of us deserves the gifts that Christ has given. We are all able to receive them by His grace.



+ We hope your local parish or church is already planning a local **Mass of Remembrance** for next month, on or near the 30 January martyrdom anniversary date. We strongly encourage widespread observance of King Charles’ Martyrdom. We recently invited our members and friends **let us know when local Royal Martyr Day observances are planned**, with their announcements to be shared in the Communique issue to be published in early January (see box below). This early information should assist our members and friends in finding more local observances to attend as well as encourage more places to offer this key devotion. The type and style of observances, including streaming, necessarily will vary per local resources.

+ We recently learned that our long-time member, **The Rev’d Richardson Libby** of Annapolis, MD, passed from this life on 2 April. Please remember his soul in your prayers.

A Further Reminder: In early January, the *Communique* will share any planned Royal Martyr Day observances that are sent to us. Thus, you are invited to send in any report, whether skeletal or detailed, with the deadline being **31 December**. Just respond to 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)! The June *SKCM NEWS* will share news on the actual observances.

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
IN JANUARY COMMUNIQUE!**

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

Contact: president@skcm-usa.org or 336-602-0370

Remember!

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

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