



## *email Communiqué*

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region  
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St Joseph**

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## **St Joseph & King Charles the Martyr: Both Guardians**

I was consecrated to the episcopate on March 19, 2011. Soon afterward, there was an aptly timed article in *The Living Church* in which the author set the vocation of St Joseph to be a guardian of the Holy Family alongside the vocation of a bishop to be a guardian of the Church. The word “guardian” is semantically rich; it has different aspects. Certainly, someone who defends, or protects, or drives away attackers can be said to be a guardian. In an environment when much that has been regarded as a sacred inheritance does seem to be under attack, this is not an altogether inappropriate image. One can quite readily conjure up the silhouetted image of Joseph leading his wife and child from danger in Bethlehem to relative safety in Egypt. The baptized faithful have a right to expect their bishops to defend the Church—her creeds, her liturgies, her sacraments, her rightful place in a free society—when it is their duty to do so. But perpetual wartime footing, the constant sense of having to defend, can and does lead to defensiveness, a preferential option for pugnacity and bellicosity that sears the souls of those who live in that place for very long, and, in its negativity, is evangelical suicide.



But, to be a guardian can also denote an ongoing activity and ministry of creating a nurturing environment that fosters growth and maturity. The gospel reading appointed for Mass on the feast day of St Joseph is the familiar narrative of the incident when Jesus is twelve years old and manages to ditch his parents in the big city so he can spend some quality time in the Temple with the top-tier elders and teachers of the Jewish community. Mary and Joseph are

a day out of town, perhaps traveling with a large group from Nazareth, and figure Jesus is somewhere among the “village” that is helping them raise their child. When it dawns on them that he’s not with them, they high-tail it back to Jerusalem and finally track him down in the Temple. In Luke’s account of the incident, Joseph doesn’t say anything—Mary does all the talking—but it seems safe to speculate that he took a strong parental interest in the endeavor, and, in fact, probably led the search. In so doing, Joseph was exercising guardianship, providing the child entrusted to his charge with safety and security, providing a home in which Jesus could “increase in wisdom and stature and grow in favor with God and man.” And, significantly, we are told that Jesus “was submissive to them.” He was part of the network of accountable relationships that describes a healthy family. Joseph, the guardian of that family, saw to it.

Charles Stuart, King and Martyr, saw himself, by all accounts, as very much a guardian. Though not in Holy Orders, he gave his life for the notion that such ecclesiastical order is a divine gift for the welfare of Christ’s Church. In the shadow of St Joseph—one might even be tempted to say, under the *patronage* of St Joseph—Charles was a guardian of the faith, to the point of shedding his blood.



Joseph’s peculiar vocation and charism of guardianship was to be a surrogate—for a time, and then to fade gracefully into obscurity. After the incident in Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve, we don’t hear about Joseph again. By the time of our Lord’s passion, the Blessed Mother is alone, creating the circumstances for Jesus to assign the Beloved Disciple as her caregiver. There has been much speculation about what happened to him, but nothing that we actually know. When I reached the midpoint of my episcopate (which is now shortly drawing to a conclusion), I became acutely aware of what I of course already knew, that I am but a surrogate for the Chief Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, a surrogate, like Joseph, for a limited time, and then it will fall to me to follow the patron of my episcopate into obscurity, quietly exiting the stage.

It certainly cannot be said that King Charles exited the stage quietly. He died literally *on* the stage, in a rather dramatic fashion. Yet, to the extent that “quiet” can be understood as “with dignified resolve born out of conviction,” the Royal Martyr’s death was “quiet” to an exemplary degree. Like Joseph, he fulfilled the mission that was assigned to him and then knew himself to be relieved of duty—one might imagine, with the thanks of a gracious God.

- *The Rt Rev’d Daniel Hayden Martins, D.D., Bishop of Springfield;  
Member, SKCM-AR Board of Trustees*

## Report from 16 February Board of Trustees Meeting

The SKCM American Region Board of Trustees met by Zoom conference on Monday, 16 February. Here is a summary of the meeting:

- 1) **Annual Mass (30 Jan 2021 at St Timothy's Winston-Salem NC USA):** Our President (Fr Rice), who celebrated and preached, reported that the Mass, necessarily in the choir loft, went well; per YouTube, over 200 persons were in virtual attendance, definitely a record number.
- 2) **Membership report:** Total membership was 490, including 30 new members this far this fiscal year; 96 are life members, 14 of them new LMs this year. (See update, next article.) All of these are record highs. Needing attention: discerning why members joined (analyzing new member responses), improving Society visibility, and organizing more chapters.
- 3) **Treasurer's report:** Our income (gross profit) is up 23%, expenses down 32%, and net income up 142%. This is due to donations and dues running ahead of budget and such expenses as advertising and the Annual Mass running well behind. At this time a year-end surplus of \$8,000 is projected, contrasted to \$2,500 last year.



- 4) **Goods needs/issues:** Fr Ostman reported that the coffee cup noted at the last meeting is no longer in production, but that he is pursuing the active prospect of the bust of the Royal Martyr at 30 pounds each.
- 5) **SKCM NEWS:** Mrs Pettingell reported that the December edition went out basically on schedule, other than some postal delivery delays. Fr Rice commended Mrs Pettingell and others involved in making this fine edition happen.
- 6) **Caroline shrines in North America:** Mrs Pettingell and Mr Lewis, with input from Bp Ackerman and Bp Martins, are adding to the current list of North American shrines which will result in preparation of a series of NEWS and/or Communique articles on Caroline shrines.
- 7) **Communique writing:** The February edition will publish an expanded Royal Martyr Day commemorations list to flow into the June NEWS, also publish a shrines list for updates enabling articles to be written, plus give visibility to and promote further membership growth. Bp Martins will write the topical article in March centered around St Joseph, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his consecration to the episcopate. Mrs Pettingell will write articles for August and September, with Dr Roman writing when required.

- 8) **Order of Laud:** The following persons were elected to the Archbishop William Laud Society in recognition of contributions of significance that impact and benefit the Society: **Arthur Bousfield**, of Ontario, Canada, for his years of promotion of the cult of the Royal Martyr in various settings in Canada ... **Benjamin Guyer, PhD**, of Tennessee, USA, for his service as NEWS Editor as well as proposing our very helpful use of PayPal ... and **Robin Davies, Esq.**, of the United Kingdom, also designated as a SKCM-AR Honorary Member, recognizing his former service as SKCM Chairman & Editor and current Treasurer/Subscriptions Secretary in the UK as well as quiet counsel to the SKCM-AR.
- 9) **Good of the Order:** Prayers were offered in response to the severe weather in Texas, including Bp Ackerman's son's ministry in helping those affected ... the President conveyed the congratulations of the Board to Bp Martins upon his upcoming (19 March) 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of consecration ... and Fr Rice asked how everyone was doing during the pandemic and wished all a good Lent.

## Our Growing Membership: Now at 500!

**A**s we go to press, our membership has reached a record 500! This number includes 39 new members since 1 October. We now have 97 Life Members, with one arriving earlier this week. On 1 April our total will drop by a couple dozen due to suspension of members who are two years behind in dues, a normal number. Then our total will again start adding new members and thus will once more pass the 500 mark; per current trends, we should reach 525 a year from now. **Bottom line: your participation is making a difference.**



**A few other statistics:** 39 new and 6 lost members this FY ... 64 total donations (Annual Mass & general) ... median year of birth of all members = 1960s, with new members this FY = 1980s. Membership growth has been especially high in CA, GA, PA and VA, with NC and TX following close behind.

## Remember!

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

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