



email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region
Death of the Hon. Mrs. Greville-Nugent,
Foundress of SKCM, on 9 July 1949

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An Unlikely Source of Inspiration for the Founding of SKCM

Today is the Birthday into Eternity of Mrs. Ermengarda Ogilvy Greville-Nugent, the Foundress of S.K.C.M. Not only we, but also the wider Anglican world owe her and Fr. James Leonard Fish (and also here in North America, Frs. William Harman van Allen and Robert Thomas Nichol) a great deal. (From the late The Rev'd Canon William H. Swatos, Jr., PhD, OL, SKCM President 2009-2017.)

At the height of tensions between the England and Scotland of the thirteenth century, Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, found himself in a most precarious position.

Having suffered multiple military defeats at the hands of the armies of King Edward “Longshanks,” he fled for his life and hid in a narrow mountainous cave attempting to elude capture by his pursuing victors.

With only a single flickering candle giving light to his shadowy retreat, King Robert was, for all intents and purposes, a broken man.





In the stillness of that terrible darkness, the King of Scots spied a little spider that began to climb up the candle. Nothing was left to The Bruce but to watch this creature's plodding ascent . . .

The spider soon fell off the candle without reaching the top. Undaunted, it began to climb anew before falling off yet again. The spider continued his determined attempts with King Robert counting the number of times to himself. After the spider's sixth fall, The Bruce spoke to the spider, as if to give some good advice to his new-found friend, saying "Why don't you give it up?" Then, on his seventh try, the spider made it to the top of the candle. At this, King Robert began to applaud and praise the spider's persistence. He then broke down in tears as he said to himself this time, "I have not yet been defeated seven times!" The rest, as they say, is history.

As a Founder of our Society, the Hon. Mrs. Ermengarda Ogilvy Greville-Nugent came from a celebrated family tradition that was a living witness to the glories of

British history. For one thing, her property actually included the very same cave in which King Robert had that experience centuries ago.

As a testament to her own comprehensive education and weltanschauung, Mrs. Greville-Nugent was an accomplished cultural anthropologist who paid particular attention to the role of religion in society. Her published book, resulting from her travels throughout Tunisia and Algiers, "A Land of Mosques and Marabouts," is a fitting tribute to her keen analytical and scholarly mind that perhaps gives us an insight into why she involved herself with the founding of our Society.

Far from being simply a retelling of her travel diary throughout northern Africa, our Founder was intensely taken by the role of Muslim saints in the lives of the people and communities she visited. The "marabout" was and is a Muslim teacher who not only explains the traditions of Islam to the people and assists with their application in their daily lives, but is one who also sets an example of holy and even ascetic living through incessant prayer, fasting and separation from the world.

Marabouts wear their characteristic white robes singling them out for their position in society. In fact, the Catholic religious Order of the White Fathers in Africa adopted the same white robes via inculturation in every which way with local traditions – save and except for their habit rosaries which they wear around their necks.

Marabouts with a reputation for sanctity, Mrs. Greville-Nugent observed, were soon enshrined after their death and given popular veneration by the people. Stories of miracles associated with the intercession of marabouts abounded and Ermengarda collected numerous ones with the analytical precision of the serious scholar she truly was. Watching the local villagers pray at the shrines of

these marabouts, she wondered to herself what they were praying for and what favours were they seeking from God through the prayers of the people's beloved saints?

And if certain miracle stories seemed fantastical, Mrs. Greville-Nugent did not, as secular social scientists might do, give in to cynicism but only made the comparison to the Christian sanctoral context – something which betrayed her own deep familiarity with such.

She drew her own conclusions about how the marabouts and their cult of veneration linked the various strata of society together, knitting together people of quite varying social positions within a coherent societal whole.

One cannot but be struck by how these observations of hers would have favourably assessed the role of our Royal Martyr in his dedication to maintaining the same religious and social cohesiveness as a result of the Anglicana Ecclesia at the heart of Royal Britain, a hierarchical community living under the Crown!

The clarity of social scientific thought on the part of our Society's Lay Founder in the person of the Hon. Mrs. Ermengard Greville-Nugent along with her deep and penetrating knowledge of British history and her life's devotional focus undoubtedly formed the basis of her own sense of mission, to both Church and society, when she undertook to help found the Society of King Charles the Martyr and all that he lived and died for. May she rest in peace and may Eternal Light shine upon her!



P.S., completing the connection of Clan Ogilvy/Ogilvie to the Royal Martyr and even to today ... Our Foundress was from a Scottish Highland clan from Angus, Scotland. Gillebride, Earl of Angus, received a barony from King William the Lion in 1163 and bestowed the lands of Ogilvy upon his son Gilbert. In 1491, King James IV elevated Sir James Ogilvy as Lord Ogilvy of Airlie. Saint John Ogilvie was a Scottish Jesuit martyr who was hanged for his faith in 1615 and who was canonised in the Roman Catholic Church. In 1639, the 7th Lord Ogilvy of Airlie was made the 1st Earl of Airlie by King Charles I for his support of the Crown in the Wars of the Three Kingdoms. The present Chief of Clan Ogilvie is David Ogilvy, 13th Earl of Airlie, who served as Lord Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth II. His brother Angus Ogilvy married Queen Elizabeth II's first cousin Princess Alexandra of Kent.

- Alexander J. Roman, O.B.I.S.B., PhD, O.L,
Secretary and Member, SKCM-AR Board of Trustees
And Canadian Representative

SKCM-AR Board Meeting Report

The Board of Trustees met by virtual technology on Monday, 12 July. Its first action was to complete its responsibility as the “members” of the Society for the purpose of annually electing trustees, and to that end **re-elected the following trustees:**

The Rt Rev'd Keith Lynn Ackerman, SSC, DD, Ben., OL, of Keller TX
John R. Covert, OL, of Acton MA
Gunnar Gundersen, Seq., of Placentia CA
Kevin J. Hanratty, Esq., CPA, of Jackson Heights NY
The Rt Rev'd Daniel Hayden Martins, DD, of Chicago IL
The Rev'd Creighton McElveen, of Marietta GA
The Rev'd Cn Jonathan J.D. Ostman, SSC, OL, of Marshall VA
Phoebe Pettingell, Ben., OL, of Three Lakes WI
Steven C. Rice, Obl.S.B., D.Min., of Winston-Salem NC
Alexander J. Roman, Obl.S.B., PhD, OL, of Toronto ON CANADA
The Rev'd Martin C. Yost, SSC, of Catskill, NY

Thereafter, the Trustees assembled as the Board of Trustees and re-elected and/or approved reappointment of the following officials:



OFFICERS (@ = Executive Committee) – ** named by election

**@President: Fr Rice
**@Episcopal Patron: Bp Ackerman
**@VP - Devotional Programs: Cn Ostman
**@VP - Communications: Mrs Pettingell
**@Secretary: Dr Roman
**@Treasurer: [non-trustee] David Lewis, FAAO, OL of Arlington VA

ADJUNCT TO BOARD/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - * Presidential appointment with Board approval

*Chairman, Finance Committee: Mr Hanratty
*Administrator: Mr Lewis
**SKCM NEWS Editor: [VP for Communications is interim editor pending selection of permanent editor for 3-year term per policy]
*Canadian Representative: Dr Roman (as a trustee)
*Chief Information Officer: Mr Covert (as a trustee)

OTHER POSITIONS - * Presidential appointment

*Member, Finance Committee: Joseph Goldkamp of St Louis MO
*Member, Finance Committee: John Workman, Esq. of Pompano Beach FL
*Member, Finance Committee: Dcn Todd Renner, CPA of Versailles KY
*Awards Committee: The Ven James Monroe, OL, PhD of Kingwood TX
*Historian: Mark Wuonola, PhD, OL, Ben. of Waltham MA
Editorial Board: [pending appointment]

Future transitions and programs: There was discussion of rotation in offices, including sensitivity in officer changes and term limits. Important pending programs are starting a virtual chapter and having an American pilgrimage to Caroline relics in the UK.

FINANCIAL

Treasurer's Report: Income to date is up 32% and expenses are down 46%, the former mostly because of the high number of new Life Members and the latter due to lower Annual Mass costs and the summer SKCM NEWS not yet published; a surplus of \$9-10,000 is expected. Early budget figures for FY2021-22 project a more normal surplus. Today, 68% of the Society's assets are invested, 13% are designated checking account reserves, and 19% are unrestricted checking account funds; five years ago, those figures were 27%, 49% and 24%, respectively.

Finance Committee report: By unanimous consent the Board asked the Finance Committee to develop investment guidelines along the lines used by similar associations.

ANNUAL MASSES/DEVOTIONAL/RELATED

Annual Mass - 29 Jan 2022 (Tennessee Chapter): The Rt Rev'd John Bauerschmidt, TEC Bishop of Tennessee (an Honorary SKCM-ZAR member), will be the select preacher at the 2022 Annual Mass at Trinity Church in Clarksville, TN. Persons will be able to attend either personally or (like last time) virtually. The Celebrant will be The Rev'd Roger Senechal, Tennessee Chapter Chaplain and a SKCM member. Society personnel will assist local leaders in planning, out-of-area publicity, etc.

Annual Mass - 28 Jan 2023 (St Barnabas Anglican Dunwoody GA): There is high local interest in making this Annual Mass happen, including strong support from Bishop Chad Jones who has now been installed as the Bishop of the Diocese of the Eastern United States (DEUS) and most likely also to be the Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Province of America (APA).

Goods results/needs/issues: The majority of the second order of Caroline busts has been purchased but that some remain for sale. Future plans include sending five copies of the SKCM NEWS to certain parishes beginning with the first edition in 2021-22. Communications roadblocks remain in the way of our having the planned ladies' scarf available for purchase.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

SKCM NEWS: Mrs Pettingell shared the mechanical problems of getting the June SKCM NEWS to print. The content of the June SKCM NEWS is virtually complete but there have been mechanical problems, hopefully close to resolution, in putting the edition to bed.

Communique writing: The email Communique took a June holiday and the July edition was delayed a bit to be able to report on the Board meeting. Monthly topical article writing authors are now in place through November.

MEMBERSHIP

Website photos of trustees: All trustees are to send in suitable photos of themselves for the website.

Canadian scene: Life in the Dominion has slowed down, especially due to strict COVID rules in Ontario and the contemporary indigenous school student deaths discovery tragedy. Discussion began about reaching out within Canada regarding the Royal Martyr also being a Canadian king.

Membership report: There are now 487 members (June 30); there had been 501, 21 had been suspended due to dues delinquency, and others continue to join. We have enrolled 50 new members thus far this fiscal year, equal to last year's final number. Canada now has a record 21 members. Three parishes in the Atlanta area are starting chapters there. There are now two active chapters (St John Henry Newman in CA plus the Tennessee chapter) as well as five other parishes or areas of sufficient size to form chapters. Texas now has the highest member numbers at 40, Virginia next at 39, New York at 36, Pennsylvania at 25, California and Massachusetts at 24, Georgia and North Carolina at 23, and South Carolina at 22.

An Ideal Time to Join

This is an ideal time to join the Society. Since we are so close to the end of the membership year, any new memberships now are being credited through 30 Sep 2022. So, do not be shy about giving the attached flyer to a friend and/or getting it copied and put into the tract rack of your local church!



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

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