



email Communiqué

Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region
Founding of SKCM on Easter Tuesday - 27 March 1894
&
The Accession of King Charles I - 1625

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Remember! The Society is Founded (1894)



27 March marks the death of James I of the United Kingdom and thus the Accession of Charles to the throne in A.D. 1625 (see also separate article, this edition). It would be Candlemas almost one year later, when he would be crowned (incidentally, the last time an English monarch would be crowned with the eleventh century Crown Jewels of Edward the Confessor).

Not coincidentally, on 27 March 1894, the Society of King Charles the Martyr was organized. The rector of St Margaret Pattens, the Rev'd James Leonard Fish, an admirer of the Royal Martyr, had for several years commemorated the Decollation of St Charles to a large congregation. On that Easter Tuesday evening, under the guiding hand of The Hon Ermengarda Greville-Nugent and Fr Fish, the society was

formed to advance the principles of the Catholic movement within the Church of England. The Feast of the Martyrdom was held yearly at St Margaret's until eventually moved to the Banqueting House, Whitehall.

The Easter season is most appropriate to have founded the Society. For only a sincere belief in Our Lord's victory over our ancient enemies of sin and death could have propelled the Royal Martyr to the scaffold. The sin of regicide, almost inconceivable at the time, and yet met with the same spirit of forgiveness manifested by Our Lord. Knowing that death does not have the final word, St Charles could view the executioner's block as his own Cross, the dais as his own Calvary.

Little did the Saintly King know that his Accession would begin his descent to the scaffold. But as weak as he was in statecraft, he was doubly strong in his conviction on the essential nature of the Church. May we who champion His cause be equally convicted in the Catholic faith, and with Fr Fish and Mrs Greville-Nugent do our part to advance that faith in our own day.

- *The Rev'd Canon Jonathan J. D. Ostman, SSC, OL, Vice President – Devotional Programs*

Special Society Goods of Seasonal Interest

With the Easter season, mentioned in the preceding article, only three weeks away, there are two particular items on the Society's list that we would commend to your consideration. These goods make a statement, both showing forth our purpose – a devotion to the Royal Martyr – and without a doubt something “good” to show to our friends. They are:

- **The neckties and bow ties** - perfect for Easter, and
- **The busts of the Royal Martyr** – we have received a new shipment because the previous inventory sold out quickly

To order yours – either for personal use or for gift-giving – just go to the attached goods order form. The code numbers are . You may order through our website, using PayPal, or send a check to the Treasurer, as noted on the form.



Remembering the Deaths of Society Members

During recent weeks we have received word of the passing from this life of the following Society members. Their names have been added to the Society's permanent necrology. Those who were Life or Honorary Members are noted. You are invited to remember them in your prayers and, if desired, make memorial gifts in their name to the Society:

- + Capt Howard S. Browne, MD, of Williamsburg, VA (joined 1996, died 9/21/21) HON
- + Frederick George Buechner, of South Bend, IN (joined 2000, died 4/27/21)
- + Hon. Narvel James Crawford, Jr., of Asheville, NC (joined 1996, died 9/9/21) HON
- + The Rev'd Robert J. Gearhart, of Omaha, NE (joined 1992, died 8/19/21) HON
- + Kenneth L. Grambihler, PhD, of Clarksville, TN (joined 2015, died 2/9/22) LIFE
- + The Rev'd Victor Edward Hunter, Jr., of Mesquite, TX (joined 1989, died 1/5/22) LIFE
- + Lewis J. Overaker, PhD, of Plymouth, NH (joined 2013, died 10/20/21) LIFE
- + The Rev'd Canon John Carter Powers, of Tulsa, OK (joined 1974, died 12/27/21)
- + The Rev'd Michael James Sheehan, of Newtown, PA (joined 2001, died 2/15/19) LIFE
- + The Rev'd Canon J. Robert Wright, D.Phil(Oxon), DD, OL, of New York, NY (joined 1999, died 1/12/22) HON

*May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, rest in peace
and may light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.*

Accession Day: Prince Charles Stuart Becomes King Charles I

March 27 marks the anniversary of the Accession of Prince Charles Stuart, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester. His father, James I, having suffered a stroke earlier that month, succumbed to the ill health he had been experiencing for the past twelve months. His elder brother, Henry, having died at the age of 18, most likely of typhoid fever, meant that Charles had been heir apparent for 15 years.

For the last year of his father's life, he and the Duke of Buckingham had effectively assumed the running the kingdom. James' war with Spain had gone badly, and Parliament was in an ill humor when Charles opened his first Parliament in June of 1625. They resented being pressed to provide additional funds to continue a war in which was lagging interest, as well as being suspicious of concessions that may have been made to recusants as a condition of Charles' marriage to Henrietta Maria. Additionally, the London plague of 1625 forced many Members to flee London for Oxford making Buckingham's appeal for funding appear as exploitative.

Upon the death of James I, the following Accession Proclamation was given from Whitehall:

Whereas it hath pleased Almighty God to call to His mercy our late Sovereigne Lord King James, of blessed memory, by whose decease the imperiall crownes of Great Brittain, France and Ireland are solely and rightfully come to the high and mighty Prince Charles, we therefore, the Lords spirituall and temporall of the realme, being heere assisted with those of His late Majestic's Privy Councill, with number of other principal gentlemen of qualitie, with the Lord Maior, Aldermen and citizens of London doe now heereby with one full voyce and consent of tongue and hearte publish and proclayme that the high and mightie Prince Charles is now by the death of our late Sovereigne, of happy memory, become our only, lawfull, lineall and rightfull liege Lord Charles, by the Grace of God, King of Great Brittain, France and Ireland, Defend of the Faith etc., to whome wee doe acknowledge all faith and constant obedience with all hartly and humble affeccion, beseeching God by whome Kinges doe raigne to blesse the royall King Charles with long and happy yeares to raigne over us.



God save King Charles.

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

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