Standing Committees, Advisory and Executive Boards to Meet in Reno

By Michael J. Kosiba and Father Stephen Salvador

Mark your calendars and get ready for an exciting meeting in Reno, Nev. from April 5-9. Our hosts, the Diocese of Reno and the Nevada Area Council, are very excited NCCS is coming to town. The Reno Hilton Hotel will house all meetings and accommodations for the week and is just 10 minutes from the airport. In fact our room rate is so good for this meeting we invite all NCCS members to come and enjoy the area even if you don’t have any meetings to attend. Our room rate is just $79 per night plus tax and this rate is good for two days before and after our meeting. The hotel features a free airport shuttle, outdoor swimming pool, health club and spa, indoor shopping mall, gambling, 50 lane bowling center, gift shop, ten restaurants, entertainment and more.

During your stay in Reno, Wednesday will be a day of adventure for spouses and guests. They will have an opportunity to take the “Donner, Truckee and North Shore Tahoe Tour” during the day. We will begin the evening activities by transporting everyone to Mass at the beautiful St. Rose of Lima parish where the Most Reverend Phillip F. Stralling, Bishop of Reno, will be our celebrant. Capping off the evening, we will return to the hotel for the NCCS National Chair and Chaplain’s Banquet along with some special entertainment (in the planning stages) provided by the Reno Catholic Committee on Scouting. Thursday afternoon will be an opportunity to have fun or discover the area. Tours will include a Golf outing for golfers at the Washoe County Golf Course or you can choose to board the bus and head for the “Carson and Virginia City Tour.” Both events on Thursday afternoon will have you back in time to enjoy a relaxing evening with friends and dinner on your own.

Conference fees do not include meals so make sure you order your meal and tour tickets when registering for the meeting. Discount airline information, hotel reservation procedures, conference schedule, tour information and registration form will be mailed in late December. Additional forms and information will be available online at the NCCS website the first week of January.

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A View of the Saint George Trek from One Hiker’s Perspective
By Andrew Palczewski

“Here,” said my dad handing me the St. George Trek application. “I think you should apply.”

I had heard about the St. George Trek at my diocese’s convocation, when several boys who had gone on the trek were honored. I had never thought that I would travel to New Mexico to engage in two weeks of Catholic fellowship and spirituality on a Philmont trek.

My dad apparently thought different, and so I submitted the application and hoped for the best.

Several months and one diocesan scholarship later, not knowing exactly what to expect, I was on my way to New Mexico to take part in the sixth St. George Trek.

After arriving at the Madonna Retreat House in Albuquerque, I began to meet the other trekkers and realized how much Catholic Scouting had stretched throughout the United States. I had a previous opportunity to meet other Scouts on a national level at the 2001 National Scout Jamboree, but this was more; these weren’t just my brother Scouts, but also my brother Catholics.

Several hours later, I sat in the main conference room of the retreat house, surrounded by nine relative strangers – my Philmont crewmates, the guys I would be camping, hiking and working with for the next week and a half. I had no idea how I would remember their names, let alone get to know them well enough so that we could become a functioning Philmont crew.

Yet as the night went on and the icebreakers continued, I began to learn more about my crewmates, talking with them about Eagle projects, church involvement, school and life in general. Slowly, as we planned out hiking routes and played charades against other crews, we began to form the bonds that would help us to function cohesively while at Philmont. By the end of the night, the strangers I hadn’t known hours before had become my crewmates and were becoming my friends.

These bonds only strengthened further at the start of the next day when Father Kevin Smith told us that each crew was no longer a group of Scouts from across the country, but one functioning group. From that moment on, everything was done as a crew; we ate as a crew, sat as a crew, traveled as a crew, spent all of our time as a crew.

We arrived at Philmont and then departed onto the trail, helping each other with packs and adjusting to the first day’s hike. As we found camp on the first day, we once again helped each other set up tents and cook dinner.

Throughout the entire trek, our faith was never out of sight or mind. Like the other crews on the trek, our crew attended Mass almost daily. We also prayed together at every meal, starting at the retreat house and ending at our last meal together, by reciting the Philmont grace together.

When we weren’t worshipping together, we were on the trail, hiking and enjoying the most beautiful views I have ever seen. In a way, the hiking we did was worshipping. We were thankful for the opportunity to take part in the trek, the majestic mountains and sprawling deserts created by God, and our camaraderie as a crew. The various animals we saw on the trail were a reminder of God’s creations. On several occasions, deer walked right into our campsite to graze. To see these animals up close was another reminder of the power of God.

On the fourth and fifth days at Philmont, the six crews taking part in the trek met up at Beaubien, a campsite where we continued the religious discussion that had begun in Albuquerque. That night, the entire St. George trek contingent had the opportunity to pray silently, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and take part in Eucharistic adoration in a large field at the camp. To be able to worship, in complete silence, with the moon and stars as the only light source was absolutely amazing. It was the most moving religious experience I had ever taken part in.

To worship in the woods, under the stars truly connects you to God’s creation and His power. I only hope that I will one day be able to take part in another experience similar to that one.

As I left Philmont, and then Albuquerque, I came away with a renewed sense of my Catholic faith, new friends from across the country, and memories that will last a lifetime. To have the opportunity to grow spiritually while taking part in a Philmont trek was something I will hold dear to me for the rest of my life.

Questions or comments for the Bridge Editor?
Chris Hoelle
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Questions or comments for the NCCS Webmaster?
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Father Ray Fecteau Appointed to Assist Regional Leaders

Bray Barnes, National Chair, and Father Roger Lachance, National Chaplain are pleased to announce that Father Ray Fecteau, Associate National Chaplain, has undertaken the additional duties of working directly with the regional chaplains and committee advisors. Barnes said that the chairs of each region and committee have a national vice chair with whom to work. "They have a direct link to the executive committee. Now, each of our chaplains and advisors also have the same type of link to the committee."

Father Ray has agreed to be in touch with the chaplains and advisors and, in turn, they should not hesitate to contact Father Ray for any assistance they may need. This now provides another way of communicating with our committees and regions and, hopefully, create a better flow of information.
ANOTHER SMOKE SIGNAL FROM MY TEEPEE! By: Gordon P. Stiefel, Chair, NCCS Religious Emblems Committee

As the Christmas holiday decorations are beginning to appear and we start the new liturgical year, I fire up another smoke signal from my teepee. Still warm in the after glow of gathering with so many of you at either the great mountaintop experience of Philmont last summer or NCCYM, Pittsburgh, it seems easier to adjust to the idea of snow this year!

If you have not yet come to Philmont for our NCCS Course, this is your call and challenge to commit today your own family plans to journey to Philmont, August 7-13, 2005! The Philmont PTC Class of 2004 is already planning to have a reunion gathering at the 2006 NCCS Biennial meeting! Make this a diocesan key team leadership event and include your chairman, your chaplain, director of youth ministry, and your BSA pro! This is your ticket to be part of the family at Philmont Class Reunion activity at NCCS in 2006!

Many dioceses this time of year are blessed with the new beginnings of many diverse youth starting the journey on either AAD or PPXII. My grateful humble heart soars to be of service as my daily emails seem to fill with diocesan leadership Religious Emblems questions. This year three common themes have appeared focused on the youth AAD program, namely: start age, the flexibility of requirements for our youth with special needs, and double dip on service projects.

Let me begin with the AAD age requirement question. May I simply reaffirm there is no age requirement to begin AAD! As written on the front cover of the current AAD Scout manual, the AAD start requirements are that 1) a youth must be Catholic and has completed the six grade, (2) active in your troop for 6 months and (3) is a registered member in BSA!

But...But...But...now fill in your own experience as to the why the parent or pastor asks for an exception.

The correct answer for both of our older youth programs, AAD as well as PPXII, is these are faith growth journeys. The youth have to have a certain faith development and cognitive level to engage fully in the conversation of the journey; it is not just physical age. It is the youth’s own faith development and journey!

But the AAD manual says 13 and my fifth grader is 13! Yes, we do make specific age range recommendations of 13 -14 for AAD in the manuals. Remember, these are only recommendations! Our design places the age to start decision in the hands of the youth’s parents, local parish pastor, local unit leader, and local counselor/facilitator as reflected by the signatures required on the intent application.

Parents are the first and best catechists, hence, one of many reasons we require them as one of the folks in agreement to proceed! Be kind as a few parents may need you to minister to them as you help them realize just because their son wants to do it all at age 11, or the 13 year old in 5th grade, etc., the youth will have a better faith experience journey later in life, as in after he has completed sixth grade!

Our religious emblems programs are Church youth ministry programs, not BSA awards. The sixth grade completion requirement policy suggests a certain common level of faith maturity similar in an unique way to the consideration of faith maturity age as expressed in our Catholic Catechism on the subject of when a person makes the faith journey of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Just as Confirmation is sometimes called the "sacrament of Christian maturity," we must not confuse faith age with the age of natural growth for either AAD or PPXII.

The second issue is on flexibility in requirements for youth with special needs. First, either AAD or PPXII are never to be used as a substitute for formal religious education parish programs for any youth!

Our programs are designed to meet the kids where they are in their faith development and to have them grow and further develop in their faith to be closer and better companion with Christ on the journey through Scouting as Youth Ministry!

Again, all the boys have to be registered as a youth member of the Boy Scouts of America, Catholic, active in their troop for six months and have completed the sixth grade is the requirement to begin! Youth with special needs do progress in school and have grade level promotion just like other youth. A very few folks get all hung up on their own personal judgment about the kid’s disability. Forget about it. This is not license to add or drop requirements, but rather simply to minister!! Forgive me, if this sounds harsh, but you’ll be much more successful if you simply reach out to help the youth with special needs and park your own backpack full of prejudice or pity at the teepee entrance! The faith sharing with kids with special needs is often more amazing than other youth we serve!!

May I share these words of encouragement to all of you who minister to all of our Scouts and especially to those Scouts with special needs? We stand by what we wrote on page 3 of the current AAD youth manual, “Scouts with special needs can easily complete the program, since the counselor has enough flexibility to tailor the program as necessary.”

It is your job, as you learned at training, as a counselor/facilitator to minister and really meet the kids where they are and do this with all the kids you serve! I realize it may mean more work for you to include a youth with special needs and no one likes to do more than they planned.

(Continued on page 4)
I recently returned from Washington, DC where the NCSS recognized the Knights of Columbus for their long time commitment and support of Catholic Scouting. Supreme Knight and former First Class Scout Carl Anderson recited the Scout Oath and spoke of the values that are taught to Scouts especially those of the Oath.

The next morning, NCSS hosted a breakfast at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Annual Meeting. Many of the bishops spoke about Catholic Scouting and what a wonderful program that Scouting provides to our youth.

At both of these events, I was proud to be able to represent NCSS and speak of our role as youth ministers. It also made me think of all the blessings that I have especially during the Christmas time of year.

I am blessed to have my Catholic faith and to love God.
I am blessed to be an American and be able to practice my faith unencumbered. To be able to have those freedoms that so many others can only hope for throughout this world. To see the orderly election of our national, state and local government officials without gunfire in the streets of our cities.
I am blessed to have the love and support of my wife and family, my son safe and out of harms way, and a granddaughter who has me at her beck and call.
I am blessed with good health and that of my family.
I am blessed to have been a member of the Boy Scouts of America for more than 46 years, the finest youth organization in the world.
I am blessed to have long time friendships, most of whom I have met along the Scouting trail.
I am blessed and truly honored to be able to serve you as your chair and be affiliated with some of the finest people I have ever known.
I am blessed to be able to celebrate the birth of Our Lord, for it is because of Him that I have so many other blessings!
Have you counted your blessings lately?
"Thank you for all you do. I hope that you and your family had a joyous and blessed Christmas and looking forward to the happiest of new years."

Pope praises Catholic Scouts

Editor’s Note: Catholic Scouting is world wide. This recent article by Catholic News Service reporter Cindy Wooden speaks of Italian Scouting, but applies to Catholic Scouting in every diocese, Cub Pack, Troop and Venture Crew.

Catholic scouting is an important tool for helping young people learn the value of being faithful to God and true to others, Pope John Paul II said. The pope met Oct. 23 with 40,000 singing, chanting and banner-waving Italian Catholic Scouts and Guides in St. Peter's Square. He told the smallest members - the Cubs and Ladybugs - "to do your best every day to grow joyfully" and to discover "the marvels of creation."

The pope asked the Guides and Scouts to be always ready to do good, to learn to be responsible and to become active members in their parishes and communities. He asked the older members, the Sentries and Rovers, "to commit yourselves to making word service the motto of your lives in the conviction that giving of oneself is the secret to making your existence beautiful and fruitful."

The pope asked the den and troop leaders to help the young people learn the values and social skills that will enable them "to contribute to building a world of friendship and solidarity."
"Be men and women who, basing their lives on the Gospel of Jesus, know how to educate others to live in freedom and with responsibility, to swim against the current in order to defeat the temptations of individualism, laziness and apathy," he told them.

Pope John Paul told the Italian scouting organization, "Do not be afraid to advance with imagination, wisdom and courage on the path of educating young generations."

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But the rewards of serving that youth will be more too! Isn’t that just one of the many reasons you answered the call to be of service to youth in Scouting as Youth Ministry?

Item last. The Double Dip! The double dip occurs when a youth wants to count the same service double dip occurs when a youth...

St. George, Pray for US. Peace!
Scouts Lend a Hand Across Religious Beliefs

Members of Troop 118, chartered to St. Benedict's Catholic Church in Phoenix (Awahtukee), lent a hand to a clean up project for the Arizona Jewish Historical Society. Scouts Oren Barker, Nathan Gordon, David Rees, John Templeton, Ben Wallis and their Scoutmaster Dr. Michael Templeton spent several hours Sunday afternoon side by side with members of the Jewish community cleaning up the grounds and facilities of the AJHS building at 227 East Culver in downtown Phoenix.

The building, built in the 1920's and recently repurchased by the AJHS, was the site of the first Temple Beth Israel in Phoenix. It had other owners in the interim and sat nearly vacant for the last 2 years but had been changed only slightly from original construction. The interior needed to be cleaned, and outside, the palm trees were overgrown and a couple of the other large trees had been cut down and needed to be removed. Members of the Jewish community and the Boy Scouts got right to work, quickly filling a large dumpster with outside debris and sweeping, cleaning and dusting the accumulation from inside.

Initially, there were a few raised eyebrows from both communities about Catholics and Jews working together, but what better way to teach the values of understanding, Service to Others, and Duty to God to tomorrow's leaders, than to model it this way, today, in our communities" said Dr. Templeton. "Scouting helps boys put some of the basic truths they are taught by their parents and religious leaders. They then learn by the experiences we give them as Scouts to give of themselves, to assume responsibility, to respect the beliefs of others and to understand the values of personal integrity."

Duty to God, Service to Others and the camaraderie of a group of boys having fun, while learning about leadership and the world around them, is part of what makes the Boy Scout movement the largest and most well respected youth group in the history of the world. From the very beginning, the Scouting movement has encouraged its members to be faithful in the practice of their religious beliefs. At the same time, Scouting espouses no creed and favors no single faith over another. Rather, Scouting provides programs and ideals that complement the aims of all religions.
Catholic Scouts In Over 20 Dioceses Participate In Priesthood Sunday by Homer Radford

Information about 2004 Priesthood Sunday was distributed by the NCCS Vocations Committee at the Biennial Conference in April, on the NCCS Website, in The Bridge, and through e-mail.

The first reports indicate that hundreds of Catholic Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and members of Venture Crews made a special effort to show appreciation to priests in their parish. One example, and a model for 2005 Priesthood Sunday, comes from the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware and Holy Rosary Church. Following is a letter from Paul Coulston:

I began planning a parish event after seeing the NCCS web page information about Priesthood Sunday giving directions to contact the Vocations Committee and link to Homer Radford (Chair). The Scout leaders and parish secretary Chrissie Cruz organized the event with help from me and the parish liturgy committee.

Parishioners were given the opportunity to write notes of appreciation to both of our parish priests, Fathers Manista and Gayton. Members of the Troop and Pack were sent a letter asking for their participation in the event, encouraging them to write notes to both Father Manista and Father Gayton, deposit them in the Priesthood Sunday basket at the church’s main entrance before the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Holy Rosary’s liturgy committee requested the letters of thanks and they were presented during the offertory by Scouts in Pack and Troop 61.

After the closing prayer, Father Gayton asked all the children in the church to come forward and asked for God’s blessing. The morning was topped off with coffee, donuts and a cake with the inscription “We Love Our Priests.”

Thanks to Paul Coulston and many other Catholic Scout leaders across the nation and to NCCS for supporting the 2004 Priesthood Sunday. This event has provided an opportunity for Catholic Scouts and Scouters to show their love and appreciation for priesthood and our priests.

NCCS Executive Committee

Front Row: Father Don Hummel, Dave Moskal, Father Ray Fecteau, Ed Martin, Sam Bridgeman, Barb Nestel

Back Row: Father Dennis O’Rourke, Father Roger LaChance, Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger, Jerry Scanlan, John Halloran, Bray Barnes, Ed Gargiulo,
2004 NFCYM Conference in Pittsburgh by John Ribar

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) conducted their 2004 conference in Pittsburgh, PA December 2-5. There were over 2000 people attending. In the Exhibition Hall, over 125 exhibitors presented an incredible array of services, ideas, resources and talents to help those involved working with the youth of our Church.

Representing the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) were 4 individuals totally committed to presenting our programs as available resources. They were:

- Ed Gargiulo, Wilmington, DE – Past National Chair and previously Membership Committee Chair
- John Ribar, Louisville, KY - Chair of the Membership Initiative, Chair of Marketing & Public Relations and previously Chair of Membership
- Gordon Stiefel, Chicago, IL – Chair of the Religious Emblems Committee and Chair of the Archdiocese of Chicago CCS
- George Sparks, Irving, TX – Professional Scout and Advisor to the NCCS from the Relationships Division of the Boy Scouts of America

While many exhibitors at conferences do not have an abundance of visitors the NCCS crew spent many hours visiting with attendees who were, at times, literally standing in line to register for our attendance prizes. While we were the envy of many exhibitors, it was just plain fun to talk to the many NFCYM members who came by.

Having this opportunity to discuss the NCCS plans and programs was, indeed, a pleasure for a number of reasons:

- We were able to present each visitor with our “Religious Emblems for Catholics” brochure and a new dynamite brochure “Scouting is Youth Ministry” which was only printed a week before the conference.
- We explained and passed out literature on the Rosary Patch Program.
- Every visitor had an opportunity to pick up a “Relationship Division” Bic pen, a valet safety key ring and a free personalized laminated luggage tag.
- Everyone was invited to register for the 3 drawings to win Thursday’s prize of a Sony Cybershot Digital Camera. Friday’s prize of a Mini iPod (4GB) and Saturday’s Grand Prize of a Super iPod (40GB).

 Needless to say, this not only was the hit of the show but it seemed as if everywhere we went – breakfast, lunch or dinner – or walking in or out of the convention center we were inundated with comments on our great prizes and the admonition, in fun that “We better win!!” It was FUN, FUN, FUN!!!

Congratulations to the winners who were:

- Thursday, Sony Camera – Juan Ramos, Lackawanna, NY who is a Scoutmaster and was a Cubmaster. He is a Silver Beaver recipient. His wife received an award from the NFCYM at the opening General Session.
- Friday, Mini iPod – Michael John, Venice, FL who is a Director of Religious Education in his parish which supports a Cub Pack and a Scout Troop.
- Saturday, Super iPod – Craig Ferrantino, Wantagh, NY with St. Francis youth. We were unable to contact him in Pittsburgh for a picture presentation, but his prize was shipped to him.

We believe our presence and conversations made an impact on many of our visitors. Our message about “Scouting is Youth Ministry” resounded well. It was amazing to hear of the successes various NFCYM members encountered using our Catholic Scouting programs, especially those with Venture Crews.

The National Catholic Youth Conference is scheduled for October 27-30, 2005 at the Georgia World Center and Dome in downtown Atlanta. We look forward to attending as the NCCS and welcoming over 25,000 youth and leaders to celebrate “Winds of Change.”

Juan Ramos, Lackawanna, NY who won the Sony camera, and John Ribar.

Michael John, Venice, FL who won the Mini iPod and Gordon Stiefel.

Remember the reason for the season
ICCS HISTORY AVAILABLE
At long last, the definitive History of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting-1920-2002 is available. This comprehensive, readable work, by Mimo Sorrentino, chronicles the fascinating link between the Catholic Church and the World Scouting Movement from its earliest days up to the New Millennium. A thorough treatment of the "pioneers" is offered as well as mention of a number of our own NCCS giants.

To order: Send a check made out to OLMICCS for $37 (US) to cover the cost plus shipping and handling to:

ICCS History
c/o Rev. Leo LeBlanc
St. Mathew Parish
46 Langdon St.
Plymouth NH 03264

Also the Letter of Thessaloniki in multilanguage format may be purchased for $2.25. The supplies are limited so act today.

Friends and Family
Beginning with this issue, we will be introducing a new feature to make our “Friends and Family” aware of those who work with us. This will make everyone aware of those with sickness and need our concern, those who have been given awards, promotions, retired, those who have passed away and other information as needs to be circulated. Please send your comments to John Ribar ribarr@aol.com or mail to 9328 Springbrooke Circle, Louisville, KY 40241.

Please keep in your prayers and thoughts:
• Susan Barriball, Chair Training Committee who is recovering from surgery
• Jack Peterson recovering from illness at home
• Jack Thompson recovering from illness at home

Please be aware that:
• Dave Moskal, Vice Chair and George Sparks, BSA Advisor to NCCS were recently honored by the Order with their highest award, the Distinguished Service Award.
• Carey Keane, Director of Relationships/Marketing has retired
• Fr. Randy Cuevas, a former National Chaplain was promoted to full Colonel in the Air Force Reserve. He is currently in Afghanistan temporarily serving the troops there since before Christmas.

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Priest / Chaplain Survey 2005
The NCCS Vocations Committee asks for your assistance. We are developing a file on priests who have experience in Scouting as a youth. Please complete the personal data section and questions in this survey. Information will be used in promoting NCCS and Church vocations.

Name: __________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________
Street                                                                      City                                        State                 Zip

Diocese:__________________________________________________________  Region: __________________________

Phone: _________________________________________________________  E-mail: __________________________

Please provide the following information about your Scouting background:
• As a youth, were you a Boy Scout?  Yes / No  If you were a Scout, give information on your Pack and/or Troop and rank attained.
• Please provide a photo of yourself as a Scout and a current photo in vestments or with Scouts. (All photos will be returned.)
• Was your Unit sponsored by a Catholic Church?
• Please share your experience in Scouting:
• Did you earn a Catholic Religious Emblem? AAD / Other ____________
• Was there a time or experience, while in Scouting, that you felt influenced your discernment of your vocation?
• Additional comments regarding current experience with Catholic Scouting and/or your work in NCCS:
• Return Survey to: Homer Radford, NCCS Vocations Committee Chair, at the address shown above.
CALLING ALL SCOUTS. 16-21 YEARS OLD, TO AN ENCUENTRO PASQUAL
AN EASTER MEETING – SAN DIEGO (USA) MARCH 22-27 2005

Venue: San Diego, California at “Fr. Joe Carroll's Ranch” www.fatherjoesvillages.org
2155 Campo Truck Trail, Campo, California 91906, office tel. # 619-446-2100

Fee: US$ 100 (USA and Canada)
US$ 30 (Latin American and Caribbean countries)
Fee includes transfer to and from airport, meals, accommodation and support material
and is payable to: NCCS at: National Catholic Committee on Scouting 1325 West Walnut
Hill Lane, PO Box 152079, Irving Texas USA 75015-2079.

Participants: 100 scouts – aged 16-21(Venturers, Rovers Registered Scouts). ½ males,
½ females, ½ from USA/Canada, ½ from Latin America &Caribbean Countries
To facilitate integration with all participants, some facility in English is recommended if your
mother tongue is Spanish and in Spanish, if your mother tongue is English

Program: This Meeting will allow scouts to know more about the Easter Mystery of the life of
Jesus and his death and Resurrection and also to link this sacred drama to their own lives.
Through prayer, discussion, reflection, activities and liturgies, the young people will gain a better
knowledge about these crucial days.
This experience will also be enriched by the contribution made by young people coming from
various countries of the Americas gathering around the same Faith and belonging to the same
Scouting Movement. The venue for this Meeting is a livestock farm used as rehabilitation for
“Homeless” young people, the main objective of the organization of Fr. Joe’s Villages.

Jerry Scanlan, a National Vice Chair of the NCCS is serving as Chair of the event. He can be
reached at gascanlan@hotmail.com and gscanlan@optonline.net and he is looking for several
youth to lead a half- hour discussion each day (he will provide an outline of the daily topic).
Please email him directly if you’d like to help as a discussion leader.
Use this letter to help get visas as early as possible. If you encounter problems, let Jerry
know so he can solicit help from the BSA International Office.

Father Joe Carroll, former U.S. National Scout Chaplain, and his organization will cooperate with
accommodation and meals in this Meeting.

This is the first activity of ICCS-America designed for young scouts of the entire region. The following is
a very brief outline for the week:
Monday is planned as arrival/get to know you day
Tuesday will hopefully be a relaxing day, possibly visiting sights in the San Diego Area
Wednesday will focus on the Sacrament of reconciliation and understanding of Prayer
Thursday will focus on the Last Supper and the need for a balanced Christian Life of Prayer Study and Action,
Friday will focus on the Passion, with participants planning a Living Stations of the Cross
Saturday will focus on understanding the Paschal Mystery and participation in the Easter Vigil
Sunday will be a departure day and return home

Participant Application is available on the NCCS Website: www.nccs-bsa.org
**Venture Crew Reaches Out to Serve Those in Need**

*by Jerry Scanlan*

Venture Crew 2079, sponsored by St Augustine parish in New City, NY, has long been associated with the Capuchin Franciscan Youth and Family Ministries (CYFM) in Garrison NY. This year, seven Venturers and their advisor participated in two CYFM outreach programs to serve those less fortunate. In both week-long programs, the participants followed in the footsteps of Saints Francis and Claire. They lived in community where they prayed, slept, shared and ate together, then went out during the day to serve the needy in nearby communities.

The first mission was to local communities in the Hudson Valley. Justin Sadruclaca worked with a group in a soup kitchen in Newburgh and Beckie Brehl worked with a larger group installing insulation in a Habitat for Humanity project.

The second mission called for a 750 mile trip to Harlan, Kentucky, one of the poorest areas of Appalachia. Five Venturers, accompanied by their Crew Advisor joined seventy others in a van-caravan sleeping on church floors and bathing in a nearby lake, or under a hose, and serving the community in various outreach programs. There were five work groups that went out each day to repair broken down trailers and homes. I led one crew in which Dan Capasso participated. We repaired the leaking roof on a trailer, replaced and reinforced a broken front porch and wooden walkway. We spent another afternoon assisting a group running a Vacation Bible School in Wallins Creek. On Thursday and Friday, we went back to a family CYFM helped before. Titus and Carolyn needed a fence and gate around their front porch to keep their grandchildren (part of their extended family of children spouses and grandchildren living on the property) from getting off the porch and into the road. The group was also joined by Megan Fraino who helped inside the house replacing wall board and installing tile floors. Megan’s normal assignment for the week was working on an outreach van bringing food and clothing to the needy. Jessica DeSantis did double duty on another work crew where she also signed for a deaf girl who was working on the crew. Andrea Passatino and Jessica Capasso served on two different work crews. One ripped down a dilapidated back porch and built a new enclosed room in its place. The other completely gutted and rehabilitated a kitchen complete with repairing the appliances and installing a new water heater.

The work was often dirty and hard, but the smiles on people’s faces and the teary good-byes of the children were a great reward. The shared prayers and meals, the sharing in small spiritual reflection groups, the bathing and swimming in the lake, complete with a local blue grass band one night, and mostly in the joyful daily celebration of the Eucharist accompanied by 17 musicians and song leaders made the work week a true Franciscan retreat experience.

These projects were just one way Scouts can do “A Good Turn for America.” We can do simpler projects locally such as: “Get Out the Vote”, setting up a crèche at Christmas, helping with blood, food or clothing drives or in a food kitchen or Habitat for Humanity project. Scouts do care. Let’s show it and report on it so the world can know how we and the whole Scouting movement do “A Good Turn for America.”

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<tr>
<th>NCCS Region 6 (Michigan/Ohio) Meeting</th>
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<td>On October 10-11, 2004 at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, Ohio, Arch/Diocesan Chairs and Chaplains met to discuss the Catholic Scouting activities that are ongoing in the 13 Diocesan Catholic Committees on Scouting throughout Region 6. Everyone came away from the meeting with new ideas on to how to make the programs in their home diocese work even better.</td>
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The following 16 Catholic Scouters were in attendance:

**Michigan:**
- Archdiocese of Detroit-
  - Father David Burgard, Chaplain
  - Al Tarlo Sr, Diocesan Chair and NCCS Region 6 Chairman
  - Eugene Mozel, Area Chairman Blue Water Council

**Ohio:**
- Archdiocese of Cincinnati-
  - Father James Manning, Chaplain
  - Father David Vincent, Advisor and NCCS Chaplain advisor
  - Joe Schneider, Chair
  - Diocese of Columbus-
    - Alex Chamberlin, Chair
    - Ed Martin, Committee member and NCCS Region 6 Vice Chair
  - Diocese of Toledo-
    - Kevin Miller, Chairman
    - Chuck Lamb, Emblems Chair
  - Diocese of Steubenville-
    - Susan Molloy, Chair
  - Diocese of Youngstown-
    - Father Ron Shock, Chaplain
    - Rick Kajawa, Vice-Chair
  - Father Leo Wehrlin, Chaplain
  - Monsignor James Kolp, Chaplain advisor and NCCS Region 6 Chaplain

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| Front Row (left to right): Eugene Mozel, Chuck Lamb, Joe Schneider, Ed Martin and Rick Kajawa |
| Back Row (left to right): Kevin Miller, Father Jim Manning, Al Tarlo, and Father David Burgard, Monsignor James Kolp, Alex Chamberlin, Susan Molloy, Father Leo Wehrlin and Frank Butwin |
| **Not Pictured:** Father David Vincent and Father Ron Schock |
Eagle Project wins Community Service Award

Boy Scout Troop 300, chartered by St. Matthew Catholic Church won fourth place in Colgate-Palmolive Company’s 31st Annual Campaign of Community Service. A panel of judges chose this project from among thousands of entries as one of the best examples of community service in the nation. Troop 300 was awarded $100 for Philip Kreckel’s Eagle Scout Project. Philip’s project involved the construction of an outdoor granite altar and brick paver patio at Oak Grove Cemetery.

Father Joseph Off, pastor of St. Matthew Parish, wanted a granite altar for outdoor liturgies in Oak Grove Cemetery. In March 2003 Kreckel met with St. Matthew Parish Council, the cemetery committee and Penn Woods Council Eagle Project Committee. Permission was granted, and with the help of local contractor Jack O’Connell the project was a go. Dick Stever of Mayes Memorials provided his expertise. Kreckel said that “Mr. Stever was reimbursed for the cost of the granite only; he offered all his services of setup, design and construction at no charge. I could not have pulled off this project without his help.”

After the granite was set, Kreckel set out to obtain the patio pavers for the 10 foot by 10 foot area around the altar. He was given a substantial discount on the pavers by Lowes in Altoona. When it came time to install the pavers, Aaron Scordo, who became an Eagle Scout in Troop 300 over five years ago, offered his services and expertise. Kreckel said “I just wanted Aaron to look at the base on my project, but six hours later we laid the last paver. Aaron is such a great example of how an Eagle Scout can keep giving back to the program. He showed me how I can repay my debt to all those who helped me on my journey.”

The Eagle Scout project is an opportunity for the candidate to act as a project manager. He must enlist the help of the other Scouts in his Troop. Scouts from Troop 300 helped raise the funds for the project by having a carwash and a Mothers Day flower sale. These, along with the support of St. Matthew parishioners, provided the funds for the project. Dennis Boscaino donated and delivered the stone base for the patio. Scouts and leaders from the Troop helped prepare the stone base, as well as plant flowers and landscape the completed project. Philip was pleased to see Mrs. Claudia Reed, Chairman of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting come from Cresol to help plant flowers. Over 148 man-hours and nearly $2,000 were expended completing this project.

Philip said most of all, his family has provided the support necessary for such a project to be completed. “My Mom and Dad have been with me from the moment I wanted to join Scouting as a Tiger (Continued on page 12)
Cub in first grade. My sisters helped me unload bricks and provided refreshments. Although I have lots of great memories of camping, canoeing and hiking without a doubt my Eagle project is something I will get great satisfaction from for years to come. I am so delighted to see that such a large company as Colgate Palmolive recognized my Scout Troop for all of the hard work.

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<th>Calendar of Events</th>
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<td><strong>2005</strong></td>
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<td>March 22-27</td>
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<td>April 5-9</td>
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<td>August 7-13</td>
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<td>August 16-21</td>
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To all of you who give so much to Catholic Scouting, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Holy Holiday.