The 2007 NCCS Standing Committees, Advisory and Executive Board Meeting was held in Milwaukee from April 15-21. Highlighting the meeting was the installation of Bill Davies and Rev. Ray Fecteau as the National Chairman and National Chaplain, for three year terms, replacing Bray Barnes and Rev. Roger LaChance. Rev. Steven Salvador was installed as Associate National Chaplain. A complete listing of the new NCCS leadership can be found on page 7 of this issue of the Bridge.

The Board approved a recommendation from the Executive Committee to hire an outside consulting firm, School and Main Institute of Boston, to conduct a complete review of the NCCS organization and programs with a goal of developing a ‘Renewal’ type program to help NCCS plan for the future. Chairman Davies has asked Bob Oldowski to lead this effort and you can read more about the implementation on page 3. You will also note a survey has been enclosed in this copy of The Bridge and you are encouraged to fill it out and return it.

There were several changes in the NCCS program announced at the meeting. After a 50 year partnership with Eagle Regalia, the Executive Board approved a new emblems manufacturer – ESCO of Milwaukee, Wis. The recommendation to the Board was that ESCO provided a comprehensive proposal that would keep the price of the emblems the same for the next year. In addition, the new company will not only allow authorized diocesan purchasers the ability to purchase through NCCS, but will also provide for ordering directly from a password-protected page on the ESCO website. Following the Board approval, the NCCS office announced that ESCO will start accepting orders on July 9, 2007. More information will be on the NCCS website as it becomes available. Regional Chairmen have been working with all diocesan contacts to update the diocesan authorization lists.

It was also announced that because of a company restructuring, St. Mary’s Press will no longer publish our Religious Emblems manuals. The new publisher will be Ava Maria Press, of South Bend, Ind. While complete details are not yet known, the costs of the Pope Pius XII adult guide and handbook and the Ad Altare Dei counselor guide will be increasing. This should be a transparent change as manuals will still be available from local Scout Shops, PRAY, and the BSA on-line store. The manuals will not be available from the Ava Maria Press website.

In other business the Board agreed to go forward in developing a Chaplain Aide program and continue the Rosary Patch program. Details on these will be provided when they become available and you can get updates on the NCCS website www.nccs-bsa.org/

The Training Committee reported that as the World Scouting Movement celebrates its 100th anniversary on Wednesday, August 1, 2007 the NCCS Scouting in the Catholic Church conference will be in session. Philmont is planning a special celebration on Wednesday, August 1, (continued on page 3)
New Initiative Planned to Help NCCS Review Organization and Plans

By Bob Oldowski

The Catholic Committee on Scouting has a long and successful record of providing Catholic programs to complement the programs of the Boy Scouts of America. Every three years the NCCS has done long range planning to map out the course for the next few years. Each time we find that there are better ways to accomplish our mission and goals.

It's time to try a new approach. This year the NCCS executive board overwhelmingly approved using an outside consultant to review our organization, programs and potential.

We are working with School & Main Institute (SMI) of Boston on this endeavor. Chairman Bill Davies has asked me to head up this NCCS task force.

Questions that we keep asking include:

How can we communicate our programs better?

How can we extend our programs to more youth and more units?

How can we assist the diocesan Scout committees more?

How can we involve more people in the leadership at all levels?

The first phase is data gathering and discovery. Many people at national, local and unit levels will be contacted over the next three months via survey, phone calls, etc. to get input and suggestions. Past successes and challenges will be reviewed. This issue of The Bridge includes our first feedback survey. Get involved! Communicate your opinions and suggestions. This is your chance to speak up.

During the next phase, SMI will present discovery findings and renewal recommendations to the board for review and prioritization. We will then identify specific plans and assignments for making our work together more effective and more efficient.

We will keep you informed with regular reports in The Bridge throughout this process. We are confident that this will result in a more effective program.

Chairman’s Message by William Davies

It is an extreme honor to be elected Chair of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS). Thank you Bray Barnes, Past National Chair, and Father Roger LaChance, Past National Chaplain, for your leadership the past three years. Be assured the programs you have started will continue. Father Ray Fecteau and I know the important responsibilities we have been given as we start our three year journey.

The NCCS is at approximately 9,500 units and we are reaching out to over 300,000 young men and women in Catholic chartered units. How can we reach out and charter more Catholic units? Increasing youth and unit membership through the Knights of Columbus and Military Archdiocesan initiatives that Bray and Father Roger started are important tools to reach out to the Catholic youth. We need to take them to the Diocesan level.

Communication is needed with our Diocesan leadership along with our unit leaders. The eBridge is an important tool that has been developed. If you are not receiving the monthly eBridge, please register at http://www.nccs-bsa.info/NCCSnews/ to be added to the mailing list.

The 2008 Biennial Conference will be held April 1 to April 5, 2008 in Louisville, Ky. Please put these dates on your calendars. The theme for the conference is “Witessing with Youth – Acts 1:3” The focus of the conference is to give diocesan leadership the tools to help strengthen diocesan committees. Now is the time to start planning. Bring a friend and learn more about youth ministry through Catholic Scouting.

We need to focus on all communities, especially, the Hispanic, Asian and African-American Communities to bring the youth ministry of Scouting to them.

This year will be an exciting year at Philmont. On Wednesday August 1, the celebration of the 100 year anniversary of Scouting will take place. Do not forget the conference, “Scouting in Catholic Church,” held there July 29 to August 4. It is still not too late to register. Course director, Tony Madonia, and his staff are excited about the conference.

In summary, Father Ray Fecteau and I have set a number of goals for the NCCS. You will hear more details about these goals from the committees involved over the next few months:

• Evaluate the NCCS organization through the Renewal Task Force to become a better organization.
• Increase attendance at the biennial conference.
• Increase participation within Catholic Scouting - especially the Hispanic, Asian and African- American Communities.
• Develop more efficient ways to:
  • Distribute patches & proprietary items by establishing an NCCS store
  • Register on line for board meetings and the biennial conference
  • Reach out to Catholic youth in non Catholic units.
• Membership, Membership & Membership. Membership increase of 5% to reach the 10,000 unit level.

The Bridge is an authorized publication of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS). It is published quarterly to provide news and information to members of the NCCS, Diocesan Catholic Committees, Youth Ministry personnel and Boy Scout Councils.

NCCS Chairman
William Davies

NCCS Chaplain
Rev. Raymond Fecteau

Chairman, Marketing and Public Relations
Chip Travers

Advisor, Marketing and Public Relations
Rev. Donald Hummel

Editor
Mike Gannon

NCCS Webmaster
Tony Madonia

To submit items for future editions of the Bridge please contact Mike Gannon at scouttrain@aol.com

NCCS Website www.nccs-bsa.org/
Eagle Scout Frank Parater Considered For Sainthood
(Continued from page 8)

27. The spiritual director of the college, Father Mahoney, explained to Frank that his illness was grave and he administered the Last Rites to him. Frank wished to get out of bed and kneel on the floor to receive Holy Communion as Viaticum, but was prevented from doing so. With devotion and unafraid of death, he knelt on the bed and made his last communion. On February 6, Monsignor Charles A. O’Hern, rector of the college, offered the Mass of the Sacred Heart for Frank. Frank Parater died on February 7, 1920. He was buried in the College Mausoleum at Campo Verano. His Act of Oblation was discovered after his death. Two popes have asked for copies of it, and it has been published in English and in the L’Osservatore Romano in Italian.

In 1920, both city newspapers and the Bishop of Richmond, Most Reverend Denis J. O’Connell, D.D., praised the virtues of the deceased seminarian, the later holding him up as a model for seminarians. Decades later in the 1960’s, a bishop of Richmond, who had been a fellow student with him, the Most Reverend John Joyce Russell, D.D., named a summer camp for Frank Parater and procured various items from his family to be kept in the diocesan archives. The previous Bishop of Richmond, the Most Reverend Walter F. Sullivan, D.D., having received authorization from the Holy See, has initiated the cause by establishing a Tribunal to examine the reputation for holiness of the Servant of God Frank Parater, Seminarian. Father J. Scott Duarte, J.C.D. of the Diocese of Richmond is the Postulator.

Members Urged to Support the International Catholic Conference of Scouting

Contributions are still needed to support the International Catholic Conference of Scouting. The membership goal of $20,000 will supplement the $80,000 allocated from NCCS general funds. To make a donation send your check to the NCCS office and note on the check that it is for the ICCS fund.

Board Meeting (continued from page 1)
traditionally a free day from class. Participants will receive a commemorative patch that will only be available to those who are in attendance at Philmont. After the short ceremony, participants can relax on the trail by foot or horseback, take a tour of Philmont or the Cimarron area, or just kick back and do nothing. Thanks to a generous donation, several scholarships are available. Applicants can download the registration from the NCCS website.

It was also announced that the Saint George Trek is changing dates. Although the trek is typically held in even-numbered years, with World Youth Day in 2008 and US Jamboree in 2010, NCCS has decided to hold the next trek in 2009 to free priests, Catholic Scouts and Scouters to attend these other events. Treks will continue in the odd-numbered years after 2009.

Did You Know . . .?
By Bob Oldowski

15 and 10 years ago

1992  The 32nd Biennial Conference is held in Nashville. Frank Rossomondo is installed as the NCCS National Chairman and Fr. Leo LeBlanc as National Chaplain. Emmett Doerr is presented the first Brother Barnabas award. The Light of Christ emblem is approved for use by Tiger Cub and Wolf Cub Scouts. Ron Turo and Fr. Don Hummel head up the Philmont course with 36 participants. The NCCS NEWSLETTER is renamed The Bridge. BSA reduces the number of BSA regions from six to four and downsizes the Relationships staff. David Worley becomes BSA Director of Catholic Relationships in July. Since he is not Catholic, there is no longer is an NCCS Executive Secretary. The first St. George Trek is held at Philmont. Participants include 63 Scouts, 9 priests and 7 seminarians. Jacques Dubois is awarded the Silver Buffalo.

1997  Executive board meets in Sacramento. Silver St. George emblem is approved by board. Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger, Diocese of Evansville, is appointed as Episcopal Liaison, succeeding Bp. Robert Carlson. The Brother Barnabas award is presented to Jack Deckenbach and Marv Smith. Financial Resource subcommittee is established. Austin Cannon arrives to direct the Philmont course but is called home and John Hammerschmidt fills in. Fr. Leo LeBlanc serves as chaplain. There are 56 attendees. NCCS provides chaplains and lay support at the National Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill in Virginia. Catholics represented 27% of all attending. Jack Coughlin and Marvin Smith are awarded the Silver Buffalo.

NCCS CALENDAR

July 27—August 8  World Jamboree—Hylands Park
Chelmsford, England

July 29—August 4  Scouting in the Catholic Church
Training—Philmont Training Center
Information and registration available at nccs-bsa.org/activities/philmont.php

August 15  Bridge Deadline

April 1-5, 2008  NCCS Biennial Conference
Hyatt Regency
Louisville, Kentucky

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SILVER BUFFALO AWARDED TO PAST NCCS CHAIRMAN

Past NCCS Chairman, Bray Barnes, was awarded the Silver Buffalo Award at the national Boy Scout meeting in May. Created in 1925, The Silver Buffalo is bestowed upon those who give truly noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth.

Mr. Barnes has been active in Scouting for more than 48 years. A distinguished Eagle Scout, he currently serves on the National Advisory Council, Boy Scouts of America, National Relationships and Religious Relationships Committees. He is a member of the Northeast Region Advisory Board, past vice president and president of Monmouth Council, BSA, and is currently serving as the Executive Vice President of Jersey Shore Council, BSA and in 2005 was the first American elected as the Deputy Secretary General of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting. He has also served on nine National Camping School staffs, as an Assistant Woodbadge Course Director, as the Chair for Visitor Information at the 2005 National Jamboree, and as a member of the 2007 World Jamboree Staff.

He is the holder of the Catholic youth religious award, numerous training awards, District Award of Merit, St. George award, Silver St George, Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, Spurgeon award, Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, James E West, 1910 Society, Founders Circle, and an honors level Baden-Powell Fellow.

The first Silver Buffalo Award was conferred upon Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement and Chief Scout of the World. Other award recipients have included aviator Charles A. Lindbergh; artist Norman Rockwell, General Colin L. Powell; and film producer Walt Disney.

Doerr Memorial Scholarship Recipients Named for 2007

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is pleased to announce the winners of the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarships for 2007. The recipients are: Welland Burnside, a student at Maple Hill High School in Murrells Inlet, S.C. ($2,500); John Jabouri III of Charminade College Preparatory High School in St. Louis, Mo ($1,500); and Jonathan Evans of John T. Hoggard High School in Wilmington, N.C. ($1,000).

Silver St. George recipients (from left to right): John Halloran of Lake Charles, La., Dave Moskal of New Britain, Conn., and Clancy Sloan of San Diego, Calif. Not pictured is Robert Nelson, of Kansas City, Mo.

Four Honored With Silver Saint George Medal

Milwaukee, Wis. – Four Catholic Scouters were awarded the Silver Saint George Award at the recent meeting of the Executive Board of the National Catholic Committee (NCCS) on Scouting. They were recognized for their significant service to Scouting in the Catholic Church at the national level. The award was first presented in 1997 and only 59 individuals have received the award. Recipients of this award for 2007 are Robert H. Nelson of Kansas City, Mo; Col. John Halloran, Jr. of Lake Charles, La.; David Moskal of New Britain, Conn.; and Clancy Sloan, of San Diego, Calif.

Nelson currently serves as the membership chairman of the NCCS. He has previously served as the Chairman of the Kansas City – St. Joseph Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and as Chairman of Region 9 of NCCS. He was cited for his communication and executive skills in revitalizing the Region 9 program and for his efforts in raising the quality of units that support Catholic Scouting.

Halloran has been involved in Catholic Scouting for nearly 36 years, most recently as the National Vice-Chairman for Finance. He joined the NCCS in 1983 and since that time has served in a number of capacities including membership on the Religious activities and International committees and as Chairman of Region 5 of NCCS. The Board commended him for his work in managing the NCCS annual budget and for his “outstanding oversight of the committee’s investment account.”

Moskal is a National Vice Chairman of NCCS and was recognized for his efforts in overseeing the regional program of NCCS, including promotion of the Quality Diocesan Award, which saw the number of dioceses qualifying rise by nearly 40 percent in his tenure. He also served two terms as Chairman of the NCCS Region 1 and has served as a faculty member for the Scouting in the Catholic Church training course at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Sloan, a 32 year member of NCCS, was cited for his long service to NCCS, including his key role in the development of the “Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate Formation for Scouting” program, the adult development program for NCCS nationwide. He has also served four years as the Chairman of the San Diego Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting.
The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) has awarded the Brother Barnabas Founders Award to the Most Rev. Gerald A. Gettelfinger, Bishop of the Diocese of Evansville, Ind. and bishop Liaison to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, for his long and meritorious service to Catholic Scouting.

In presenting the award the committee stated: “Bishop Gettelfinger has motivated and strengthened the resolve of leaders to make Scouting a real youth ministry. He has made visible to scouting leaders across the country the broad colors of the Catholic Church and the values it looks for in Scouting. He has helped bring Scouting toward the mainstream of Catholic youth ministry and made it less abstract and threatening to the bishop pastors of our church. And he has touched the lives of and given counsel to youth and leaders as they are searching for the meaning in their lives.”

In addition the committee highlighted his participation in the Saint George Trek, a two week high-adventure backpacking trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. They called this “his most impressive contribution as a visible example of priestly life to Catholic youth. Though his active participation in the St. George Trek he has forever influenced the lives of hundreds of young men and women at a most formative period in their lives. How better to show a vocation than by the presence of a happy priest solving the same day-to-day problems of an extended trek in the back country.”

The award is in honor of Brother Barnabas, F.S.C., a Brother of the Christian Schools, who was involved with youth work in the New York City area for his entire life. He was a driving force in the early years of Catholic Youth ministry and founded one of the earliest Catholic Boy Scout troops at St. Patricks Cathedral in 1912. He is credited with creating the formal association between the Catholic bishops of the United States and the Boy Scouts of America.

Bishop Gettelfinger is the 10th recipient of the Brother Barnabas award.

Chaplain (Major) Jerome Fehn, United States Army, (and NCCS member) was recently presented the Bronze Star for exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States as the Battalion Chaplain, for the 216th Air Defense Artillery (Minnesota National Guard), forward deployed in Iraq, from 13 April 2006 to 31 July 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chaplain Fehn was cited for his work in spreading the Word of God amidst the dangers of combat as the only Roman Catholic Chaplain assigned to the Southeast Region of Iraq. He provided bi-weekly direct ministry to over 20 remote locations throughout the Iraqi Theater of Operations to Soldiers serving in combat.
GOLD MEDALLION WINNERS FOR 2006 ANNOUNCED

| REGION 1 | Pack 570 St. Rose of Lima Church | Newton, Conn. | Diocese of Bridgeport |
| REGION 1 | Troop 7 Saints Rose and Clement Church | Warwick, R.I. | Diocese of Providence |
| REGION 2 | Pack 345 Our Lady of Assumption Church | Bronx, N.Y. | Archdiocese of New York |
| REGION 2 | Troop 99 St. Athanasius Church | Brooklyn, N.Y. | Diocese of Brooklyn |
| REGION 3 | Pack 108 Our Lady of the Valley Church | Patterson, N.J. | Diocese of Patterson |
| REGION 3 | Troop 63 Immaculate Conception Church | Mineral Point, Penn. | Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown |
| REGION 3 | Ship 201 Immaculate Conception Church | Jenkintown, Penn. | Archdiocese of Philadelphia |
| REGION 4 | Pack 274 St. John the Evangelist Church | Frederick, Md. | Archdiocese of Baltimore |
| REGION 4 | Troop 342 St. Mary Magdalene Parish | Wilmington, Del. | Diocese of Wilmington |
| REGION 5 | Pack 308 Mother of Good Counsel Church | Louisville, Ky. | Archdiocese of Louisville |
| REGION 5 | Troop 7 St. Aloysius Church | Baton Rouge, La. | Diocese of Baton Rouge |
| REGION 5 | Crew 78 St. Clare Catholic Church | Waveland, Miss. | Diocese of Biloxi |
| REGION 6 | Troop 169 Our Lady of Peace Church | Columbus, Ohio | Diocese of Columbus |
| REGION 7 | Troop 368 St. Theresa Church | Evansville, Ind. | Diocese of Evansville |
| REGION 8 | Pack 374 Nativity of Mary Church | Bloomington, Minn. | Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis |
| REGION 9 | Pack 351 St. Charles Borromeo Home and School Association | St. Charles, Mo. | Archdiocese of St. Louis |
| REGION 9 | Troop 829 St. Sabina Church | Florissant, Mo. | Archdiocese of St. Louis |
| REGION 10 | Pack 814 Our Lady of the Atonement Church | San Antonio, Texas | Archdiocese of San Antonio |
| REGION 10 | Troop 343 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church | Selma, Texas | Archdiocese of San Antonio |
| REGION 11 | Pack 105 Knights of Columbus Council # 5300 | Goleta, Calif. | Archdiocese of Los Angeles |
| REGION 11 | Troop 99 Knights of Columbus Council # 9102 | Las Vegas, Nev. | Diocese of Las Vegas |
| REGION 11 | Crew 453 Diocesan Catholic Comm. On Scouting | Las Vegas, Nev. | Diocese of Las Vegas |
| REGION 13 | Troop 280 Our Lady of the Annunciation Church | Albuquerque, N.M. | Archdiocese of Santa Fe |
| REGION 13 | Crew 747 Corpus Christi Church | Tucson, Ariz. | Diocese of Tucson |
| REGION 14 | Pack 1776 St. Ann Church | Roswell, Georgia | Archdiocese of Atlanta |
| REGION 14 | Troop 707 Knights of Columbus Council # 8182 | Greenville, S.C. | Diocese of Charleston |
96 DIOCESES EARN QUALITY DIOCESE AWARD IN 2006 FOR OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS

Region 1 - Hartford, Fall River, Providence, Springfield, Norwich, Portland, Worcester, Manchester.
Region 2 - Albany, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Ogdensburg, Rochester, New York, Rockville Centre, Syracuse.
Region 3 - Paterson, Camden, Metuchen, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Newark, Altoona-Johnstown, Erie, Trenton.
Region 4 - Arlington, Wilmington, Baltimore, Washington, D.C.
Region 6 - Columbus, Detroit, Youngstown, Saginaw, Kalamazoo, Toledo, Grand Rapids.
Region 7 - Evansville, Milwaukee, Fort Wayne-South Bend, Peoria, Gary, Green Bay, Superior, Chicago, Madison
Region 8 - Saint Paul-Minneapolis.
Region 9 - Kansas City-Saint Joseph, Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Jefferson City, Wichita, Sioux City, Saint Louis, Kansas City.
Region 10 - Tyler, Galveston-Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Victoria, San Antonio, Austin, Tulsa.
Region 11 - Fresno, Sacramento, San Jose, Las Vegas, Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino.
Region 13 - Salt Lake City, Colorado Springs, Santa Fe, Tucson, Pueblo, Phoenix.
Region 14 - Saint Petersburg, Raleigh, Atlanta, Charleston, Palm Beach, Saint Augustine

### NCCS KEY LEADERSHIP — 2007

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>William Davies</td>
<td>National Chair</td>
<td>Rev. Raymond Fecteau</td>
<td>National Chaplain</td>
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<td>Rev. Stephen Salvador</td>
<td>Associate National Chaplain</td>
<td>John Ribar</td>
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<td>Dave Moskal</td>
<td>Vice Chairman</td>
<td>Gordon Stiefel</td>
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<td>Gerard Scanlan</td>
<td>Vice Chairman</td>
<td>Rev. Dennis O’Rourke</td>
<td>Advisor—Finance</td>
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<td>Carol Oldowski</td>
<td>Chairman, Advisory Board</td>
<td>Sam Bridgeman</td>
<td>Liaison, Knights of Columbus</td>
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<td>John Thompson</td>
<td>Chairman, Vocations Comm.</td>
<td>Msgr. John Dermond</td>
<td>Advisor, Advisory Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bray Barnes</td>
<td>Past National Chairman</td>
<td>Rev. Scott Wood</td>
<td>Advisor, Vocations Comm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Barriball</td>
<td>Chairman, Special Projects</td>
<td>Rev. Roger LaChance</td>
<td>Nominating Comm.</td>
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<td>Michael Gannon</td>
<td>Editor, The Bridge</td>
<td>Sam Bridgeman</td>
<td>Liaison, Knights of Columbus</td>
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<td>Tony Madonia</td>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Edward Gargiulo</td>
<td>Parliamentarian</td>
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<td>George Sparks</td>
<td>Liaison, BSA</td>
<td>Barb Nestel</td>
<td>Secretary, NCCS</td>
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<td>Liaison, NCYC/NFCYM</td>
<td>Don York</td>
<td>Liaison, BSA</td>
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<td>Most Rev. Gerald Gettelfinger</td>
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<td>Robert Oldowski</td>
<td>Renewal Task Force</td>
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<td>Episcopal Liaison NCCB</td>
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Francis Joseph Parater was born into a devout Catholic family on October 10, 1897, in the city of Richmond, Virginia. His parents were Captain Francis Joseph Parater, Sr. and his second wife, Mary Raymond. Francis, Sr.’s first wife died as did several children she gave birth to by him.

He was baptized at Saint Patrick's Church on Church Hill, the highest of Richmond's seven hills. He grew up in a close-knit family and in the large Catholic community in that Church Hill neighborhood at the time. Frank's father was a city employee who cared for the park across from their very modest home. He also took care of the garden at the Monastery of the Visitation located two blocks from their home. From their home Frank could easily walk to the monastery for daily Mass at which he served as an altar boy from the day of his first communion until he left Richmond for college.

Frank was educated at the Xaverian Brother's School (currently Saint Patrick’s School) and at Benedictine High School in Richmond. He graduated in 1917, top in his class and valedictorian. In his late teens, Frank became very active in the Boy Scouts of America. His involvement was so exemplary that he was asked to serve in roles of leadership even at his young age. A remarkable young man, Frank was known for his ideals and practical judgment. Although small in stature, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

In 1917, Frank began studies for the priesthood at Belmont Abbey Seminary College in North Carolina. He continued to lead a very devout life as is detailed in the journal he kept while there. His stated goal was: "To strive by every possible means to become a pure and worthy priest, an alterus Christus [sic]."

During this period, he continued to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion daily, prayed the Rosary and Memorare daily, and went to confession weekly in accord with a Rule of Life he had drawn up for himself. He had an abiding sense that "...the Sacred Heart never fails those that love Him." The Benedictine Fathers made him aware of the spirituality of the Little Flower, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, O.C.D.

While at the college seminary, Frank made the decision to study for the diocesan priesthood. This decision was made with the assistance of his spiritual director and after discussions with the Right Reverend Denis J. O'Connell, D.D., Bishop of Richmond. Frank decided that there was such a great need for priestly ministry in his native Virginia that he would forego his desire for monastic life in favor of direct service to the people of God.

During the summers, while at Belmont Seminary College, he was active in the Knights of Columbus summer wartime activities for youth and was director of the summer camp for the Boy Scouts of America. The leaders of the Scouts saw such virtue and ideals in Frank that they wanted him to serve as a summer camp director supervising those who were his seniors. He was considered a "four-ply scout", exceptional in every way.

In the Fall of 1919, the Right Reverend Denis J. O'Connell, a former Rector of the North American College, and then Bishop of Richmond, sent him to study at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He arrived and was matriculated on November 25, 1919. He was popular among his peers, displayed a warm sense of humor and cheer to all and continued to deepen his spiritual life. In December he wrote an Act of Oblation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus which was sealed and marked to be read only in the event of his death in Rome. Frank expressed his motivation in making his offering in this way. I have nothing to leave or to give but my life and this I have consecrated to the Sacred Heart to be used as He wills...This is what I live for and in case of death what I die for. ...Since my childhood, I have wanted to die for God and my neighbor. Shall I have this grace? I do not know, but if I go on living, I shall live for this same purpose; every action of my life here is offered to God for the spread and success of the Catholic Church in Virginia. ...I shall be of more service to my diocese in Heaven than I can ever be on earth."

In addition, he wrote an "Open Letter to the Scouts of Richmond" marked in a similar manner. The Act of Oblation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was not discovered until after his death on February 7, 1920, when a fellow seminarian, Frank Byrne, of the Diocese of Richmond went through his effects and found this testament.

In late January 1920, Frank came down with rheumatism that developed into rheumatic fever causing him tremendous suffering. He was taken to the hospital of the Blue Nuns on January (continued on page 3)