The School and Main Institute was recently contracted by NCCS to survey diocesan committee representatives, unit leaders, and other Scouters to share their experiences with NCCS and give suggestions on how to better deliver Catholic Scouting programs. The School and Main staff presented the results of their summer 2007 feedback survey to the Executive Board at their October meeting.

Key themes included:

- The need to improve communication between NCCS and diocesan committees, between committees and unit leaders, and possibly more directly between NCCS and unit leaders. In the words of survey respondents: “NCCS offers valuable support but we are too quiet and need to get the word out!”

- Affirmation that religious emblem programs are a “must have” and are seen as top quality. People would like additional features and improvements, such as more fun, hands-on (Scouting style) activities, and Scout and Scouter materials in a variety of formats (online, CD-ROM).

- A strong demand for easier access to training and support – regional and/or online training opportunities, an online forum, and access to more experienced NCCS “coaches”.

- A complete summary of the findings and recommendations appears on the NCCS web site www.nccs-bsa.org

The executive committee asked the Renewal task force to review the 21 recommendations and work with other NCCS committees and members to identify how best to respond, including estimates of cost, resources needed and priorities. Four members accepted responsibility to develop specifics in key topic areas:

- Ed Gargiulo - Mission statement and leadership.
- Ed Martin - Emblems, training and overall delivery of our programs.
- Jerry Scanlan - Communications and marketing.
- Dave Moskal - Diocesan committee support and NCCS interface with them.

The Renewal task force will report back to the executive committee on progress in late January.

Meanwhile, executive and advisory board members are engaged in a parallel effort to identify how the NCCS organizational structure can most effectively support the work the national committee wants to do. Results of this self assessment also will be reported to the executive committee in late January and at the biennial meeting in April.

Bob Mazzucca Named New BSA Chief Scout Executive

On Sept. 1, Robert Mazzucca assumed the responsibilities of Chief Scout Executive. Mazzucca’s most recent position was with the National Council of the BSA as assistant Chief Scout Executive, a position he’s held since 2006. He received a bachelor of arts in history from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, Calif. He and his wife Nanette have two sons. He began his Scouting career in 1971 in Modesto, Calif. as a district executive and an Exploring executive. He became the Exploring director in Sacramento in 1975 and eventually served as a field director and the director of field service. In 1983, Mazzucca became the Scout executive in Stockton, Calif. In 1987, Bob became area director in the Western Region and he was promoted to Scout executive of the Golden Empire Council in Sacramento in 1988. In 1992, he was named assistant region director for the Southern Region and in 1995, the Scout executive in Pittsburgh.
Chairman’s Message
by William Davies

I hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas and a joyous holiday season. This is the time of the year when we make New Year’s resolutions along with plans for 2008.

Everyone should be making plans for the upcoming Biennial meeting in Louisville. The Renew committee has received the data from the questionnaires sent to unit, regional and national Scouters and is prepared to discuss the findings with the general membership. Two sessions will be devoted to discussing the findings and how to implement the recommended changes.

Mark your calendars for the Philmont Training Course (PTC) scheduled for July 27th through August 1st under course director, Father Michael Santangelo. Please join Father Mike and his staff at PTC.

We must not forget our youth. Have the Scouts completed their religious emblems? Did our Catholic units complete and submit the National Catholic Quality Unit Award (Pope Paul VI Unit Award)?

Do Scouts have plans to participate in Scout Sunday at Mass as altar servers, ushers, readers, gift bearers, etc. Now is the time to contact your pastor and plan this event.

Are you recognizing your unit leaders? We have the St. George Emblem, Golden Bow, Duty to God recognition awards and Bronze Pelican Awards to name a few. People who work hard to promote Catholic Scouting deserve to be recognized.

2008 promises to be an exciting year. Thanks for your continued support of Catholic Scouting and I look forward to seeing you at many of the NCCS events. Happy New Year!

Emblems Now Available on Line:

The Diocese of Monterrey, Calif., is the first diocese in the country to complete a total online emblems order with the new, easy to use, NCCS - ESCO online order system that is available 24 hours a day—seven days a week! All authorized buyers in each diocese should have received their pin and password by this time. If not, please call ESCO direct at 800-852-4266.

If your diocese has not yet submitted the new authorized buyer list, please do so immediately and forward it to our NCCS National Secretary, Barb Nestel.

Any other questions regarding ordering from ESCO, please contact Gordon P. Stiefel at (708) 246 5151.
Did You Know . . .?
By Bob Oldowski

The NCCS began offering a series of religious activity programs in 1998. The first was the Millennium program, introduced to honor the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus’ birth. These have requirements at three age levels – Cub Scout age, Scout age and adult. You need not be a Scout to participate. Upon completion a large 5-inch diameter patch can be purchased and awarded.

A follow-on Rosary Patch Program began in 2003 with a similar format. The programs offered were:
- Joyful Mysteries 2003-04
- Luminous Mysteries 2004-05
- Sorrowful Mysteries 2005-06
- Glorious Mysteries 2006-07

This year 2007-08 a new program is being offered, “Pray the Rosary”. In addition, all the previous Rosary programs are made available again. Check it out at www.nccs-bsa.org

NCCS Members Elect Two National Vice Chairmen and Regional Chaplains and Chairs in Fall Elections

NCCS members voted this fall in elections for NCCS Regional Chairs and Chaplains, as well for filling two vice-chairman positions. In the voting for the two National Vice-Chairman positions, Austin Cannon was elected for a first term and Dave Moskal won reelection for a second term.
- Region 1 Rev. David Frederici was elected as Regional Chaplain.
- Region 2 Ed Winterkorn was re-elected as the Regional Chairman.
- Region 3 elected Joe Wagner as Chairman.
- Region 6 reelected Msgr Jim Kolp as their Chaplain.
- Region 7 reelected their Chairman Robert Freville.
- Region 8 Rev. Jerry Fehn reelected as Chaplain.
- Region 9 Randal Kock was elected as the new Chairman.
- Region 11 Msgr. Tony Ferrero was re-elected as Chaplain.
- Region 12 Rev. Leo McDowell was re-elected as Chaplain.
- Region 13 Michael Murphy was re-elected as Chairman.
- Region 15 saw Marge Dillenburg reelected as Chairman and Rev. Nick Rachford as Chaplain.

The position of Regional Chaplain is vacant in Regions 5 and 14.
Edward Gargiulo served as Chairman of the nominating committee and Rev. Roger LaChance, past National Chaplain, served as the advisor. Other members of the committee were Rev. Donald Hummel, Carol Oldowski, John Ribar, Marvin Smith and Bray Barnes.

NCCS Team Presents Catholic Scouting at Meeting of National Catholic Youth Conference in Columbus, Ohio

Imagine 20,000 Catholic youth and their chaperones coming together from 120 dioceses in a convention center for three days to celebrate their Catholic Faith. It’s almost like a Jamboree and the NCCS was there in Columbus, Ohio, on November 8-10 to represent Catholic Scouters at the National Catholic Youth Conference.

The NCCS team, led by George Sparks, consisted of Msgr. Jim Kolp, Ed Martin, Tom Nishikubo, John Ribar, John Ribar, Jr. and Ed Gargiulo. Our display in “Port Discovery” drew more than 4,000 youth and 1,000 adults, attracted in part by drawings for two Video IPODs.

Visitors to the booth were greeted with information advocating Venturing to support the organization and continuity of their youth group.

We met youth from Santa Rosa, Calif. to Newark, N.J. More than 100 of the young men visiting identified themselves as Eagle Scouts and many women were members of Venturing units.

Part of the National Catholic Youth Conference was a program called Encuentro, Spanish for encounter. Its purpose is to find out what the Catholic Church needs to do to foster participation of Hispanic youth and many Spanish speaking members stopped by our exhibit to hear about Scouting.
In the spirit of this dream begun by Fr Dolan, creator of the Ad Altare Dei Award, the Knights of Columbus Council 759 in Keller, Texas put together the 2007 Ad Altare Dei Pilgrimage for the diocese of Fort Worth. The Pilgrimage ran from July 26 to August 1st and featured 39 boys working on the Ad Altare Dei Award. Seminarian Keith Hathaway (a former scout who decided to convert to Catholicism while on a scout trip to Philmont), Fr Anh Tran (a Vietnamese priest who has served as Diocesan Scout Chaplain to the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Ft Worth), and 19 adults volunteered to sponsor the trip that featured visits to religious sites that ran from Amarillo, Texas to Santa Fe, N.M. and then on to the Philmont Scout Ranch. The first stop was a visit with the Most Reverend John Yanta, Bishop of Amarillo, Texas who thrilled the Scouts with the story of his vocation. He told the boys he was known as a “traviesa” or mischievous boy in his childhood and the one least likely to become someone as serious as a priest. However, he secretly harbored a destiny that would include being a priest and even pointed to a few unsuspecting boys and wondered if they were a “traviesa” and would become one too. The group’s visit culminated with his blessing and a gift of a medallion honoring St John Bosco – patron saint of boys. He then asked the scouts where they wanted to go… and everyone pointed to heaven.

The Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has designed and produced a new “Chi Rho” patch to recognize those Scouts who complete all four religious emblem programs – Parvuli Dei, Light of Christ, Ad Altare Dei, and Pope Pius XII.

Only a small percentage of boys who join Scouting achieve the rank of Eagle and an even smaller percentage of Catholic boys earn all four religious emblems. The Los Angeles Catholic Committee now has a patch to present to the boys who complete all of the emblems. Please check the Catholic Committee’s website at www.ccsala.org for more information.
On Sept. 11, 2007 a new partnership was formed to introduce Scouting programs to Hispanic families served by the Archdiocese of Detroit and in the boundaries of the Detroit Area Council. This program will incorporate the efforts of the Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores, Archbishop of Detroit, 12 parishes and the Detroit Area Council. The initiative will focus on three areas of traditional Scouting: Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturing.

Bishop Flores hosted an evening program where he pointed out the wide diversity of programs present within the many parishes of the Archdiocese of Detroit that currently serve the Hispanic community. He stressed the need to continue in service to these communities by presenting and making known the variety of good programs that are available to help develop the talents of the youth, and also to encourage discussion at the parish level as to how best implement them in their youth ministry programs. The Bishop shared his perspective and experiences on how Catholic Scouting has had a positive influence nationwide.

Life Scout Andrew Holz of Troop 89 in Brandon Florida chose to do his Eagle Scout project at the La Victoria Mission in the Dominican Republic – where the troop’s sponsor, Nativity Catholic Church, has had an outreach program for many years. Andrew, second from right, had plenty of support from the parish volunteers in mixing the concrete by hand that would be used in a concrete slab for a local community home.

Joe Martinez (left) explains Cub Scouting to Adrian Aguirre, the Youth Minister for St. Francis Xavier Parish.
another smoke signal from my teepee
by gordon steifel

As my great joy and after glow of being part of the 2007 World Scout Jamboree, and serving on the International Catholic Committee on Scouting staff fades, it is hard to believe that were are now in the New Year.  I hope the peace of Christ is with you throughout all of 2008.

The new religious emblems online ordering system by ESCO was unveiled in late October, 2007. Authorized buyers can now order all NCCS emblems as well as the Bronze Pelican and the International Awareness Award twenty four hours a day – seven days a week.

If your (arch) diocese/eparchy has not yet submitted your authorized buyer list, please contact our National Secretary, Barb Nestel immediately.

The most recent addition of the International Awareness Award to the web site is designed to permit (arch) dioceses/eparchies who are interested to now handle and sell this award. Authorized buyers now can bulk order as many awards as they desire. This change should greatly enhance your ability to get the award to youth and adults faster. It is one more support to (arch) dioceses/eparchies to encourage units to identify with your local council scout office.

The next step in our process of updating our awards ordering process is the complete elimination of ordering on account. As of our upcoming meeting in Louisville, all authorized buyers will be required to submit payment with their order. This can be done with a VISA or MasterCard credit card, or a check. This is being implemented by the NCCS leadership to bring our ordering process into the same relationship with orders placed through our National Secretary at BSA.

As many of you already are aware, I have declined the nomination for reelection as a National vice-chairman. Short term, I plan only to continue to serve as the Chairman of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Catholic Committee on Scouting. Thank you all for your patience and support and for providing me the opportunity to serve you as your National Vice Chair.  I am most grateful to you all.

Until we meet again at table…

**Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on the Rosary Patch Series**

**What is the Rosary Patch series?**
The Rosary patch series is a series of patches that focus on the different Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and how to pray the Rosary. All youth and adults are eligible to earn the patch. For more details go to the NCCS website.

**Can Christian youth registered in Girl Scouts or Camp Fire relate to the questions associated with these patches?**
Yes. The questions are taken from the Bible describing the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus and in some case the biblical reference is made.

**Is the Rosary Patch considered a religious emblem and will Cub or Boys Scouts receive their religious knot after completing the form?**
No. The Rosary patch is considered a religious activity and not a religious emblem. Cub and Boy Scouts will not receive the religious knot after completing the form.

**Will there be more than one Rosary patch?**
Yes. There are currently five patches available. They are the Joyful Mysteries; Luminous Mysteries; Sorrowful Mysteries; Glorious Mysteries; and the Rosary Patch. All are still available for ordering.
40th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE – RESERVATION FORM

Diocesan Showcase 2008 (“Witnessing with Youth”)  
April 1-5, 2008 + Hyatt Regency Louisville in Louisville, KY (Archdiocese of Louisville)

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME: _____________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________________________

CITY: _______________________________   STATE: _______   ZIP CODE: _________________

TELEPHONE: (________)_________________ E-MAIL:__________________________________

(ARCH)DIOCESE / (ARCH) EPHARCY / OTHER: _______________________________________

NATURE OF THE DISPLAY: _________________________________________________________

PLEASE NOTE:

SET UP: No one will be allowed to set up until the Conference Committee gives its clearance. All displays will be set up and taken down at the designated times. Removal of materials is the responsibility of the exhibitor.  

Set-Up Times are: April 1 – 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and April 2 – 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

DISPLAY HOURS: April 2 – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Take Down: April 2 – 11:30 a.m. to Noon

TABLE/BOOTH: Display area will be limited to one table and two chairs. Tables will be set up and covered by hotel staff. If you plan to decorate your table, please specify materials you would like to use and attach the information to this reservation form.  

(FIRE MARSHALL APPROVAL IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF YOUR DISPLAY.) No electrical hookups (TV-VCR, etc.) or music.

ATTENDANCE ESTIMATE: Bring handouts for 150. No items are to be sold.

FOOD OR DRINK: If food or drinks are to be handed out, please specify with an attachment to this reservation form. 

(Supplied by and Conference Committee approval is required.)

SUPPLIER/VENDOR INFORMATION: Space is limited. Contract and Reservation Form must be requested from:  
NCCSConference@nccs-bsa.org or write to NCCS® Conference Display,  
ATTN: Michael J. Kosiba, P.O. Box 320636, Tampa, FL 33679-2636 or phone / fax (813) 839-4644. 

Set-up Time is: April 1 – 10:30 a.m. Take Down is: April 3 – 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

(ARCH)DIOCESAN / (ARCH)EPARCHY-INDIVIDUAL-STANDING COMMITTEE EXHIBITORS: Reservation Form should be sent to: KB3CPV@ARRL.NET or write to NCCS® Conference Display, ATTN: Mike Conlon, 17 Birch Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD 21061-2013 or phone (410) 760-8484.

RESERVATION DEADLINE:  February 15, 2008. Requests after this date will be reviewed and honored only on space available basis.

NOTES: Any other information about your display that would be helpful to the Conference Display Committee.
Make plans now to join fellow Scout Chaplains, Scouters and spouses in Louisville, Kentucky for the 40th Biennial Conference of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

There will be a chance to attend regional meetings, workshops, the 2nd Biennial Philmont Reunion Luncheon, Prayer Breakfast, daily liturgies at the beautiful Cathedral of the Assumption and much more – as well as meet Scouters and Chaplains from Archdiocese, Dioceses and Eparchies from around the country.

Plans are underway for a special evening out hosted by the Archdiocese of Louisville. This will be a fun-filled evening with plenty to food and entertainment. This is an opportunity you won’t want to miss!

Registration information is now available on the NCCS website at www.nccs-bsa.org

Can’t attend and would like to assist in underwriting some of the conference expenses or know of an organization or group that would like to help? If so, donors and sponsorships opportunities are available by contacting the conference planning committee at nccsconference@nccs-bsa.org

See you in Louisville!!