Scouting in the Catholic Church conference set for June 21-27

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting will conduct the "Scouting in the Catholic Church" training conference at Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, N.M. from June 21 – 27, 2009. The conference brings together religious and lay participants with varying experience in Scouting and the Catholic faith. The goal of the conference is to help the participants understand how Scouting is a Youth Ministry and how to use the information in their dioceses when talking with Scouters, priests, and youth ministers.

The conference is structured to explore the four daily components - Leadership, Holiness, Conversion, and Worship - from several points of view. The NCCS' Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate Formation for Scouting format of bible readings, reflection, and small-group discussion gives the participants insight as to why a Catholic Scouter is called to the lay apostolate.

The priest advisor facilitates the component discussion looking from a catechism point of view. Presentations and discussions explain how NCCS and Scouting views and fulfills its part of the component. Discussion, readings, and reflections using the Renewing the Vision booklet help the participants gain knowledge from a Youth Minister's point of view. The instructors will be Col. (Ret.) John Halloran, Susan Barriball, Father Ray Fecteau (chaplain), and Ed Martin (course director).

Participants may attend Mass each evening at the Philmont Catholic Chapel with crews starting or ending their mountain treks, Philmont staff, and local residents. Class is in session Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. If you would like to bring family members, Philmont has programs for infants to spouses so you can concentrate on your class experience. Go to http://www.nccs-bsa.org/activities/philmont09.php for further details.

New Footsteps of American Saints program patches are now available

The NCCS is proud to announce the 2009 patches in the series called the Footsteps of American Saints are now available. The Footsteps of American Saints Activity program encourages youth to learn about several individuals that have shaped the landscape of Catholicism in America. Each religious activity honors those men and women who led heroic lives of faith. Their words, their deeds, and their devotion to prayer and to the sacraments, inspire all American Catholics. Most of these men and women lived and worked in North America in what is now the United States. Some others never set foot here; however they had a huge impact on American Catholics.

The goal of this activity is to share the lives of several Saints so that the youth might relate to what these people have done and to encourage the Scouts to see these individuals as role models.

In addition to five new Saints for 2009, the Activities Committee has updated the requirements for the five 2008 Footsteps of American Saints activities. Go to the NCCS website for details.
Signs of spring are in the air. We are well into the Lenten season with Easter only a short time away. This Lenten season has been especially rewarding as Kay and I are RCIA Church sponsors. This period of prayer and helping another individual join the Church has been extremely rewarding.

I hope everyone had a tremendous Scout Sunday. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting will be celebrating our 75th anniversary this year. Next year, in 2010, the Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Scouting in the United States.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting will be planning for the 100th anniversary at the annual meeting in Galveston. The annual meeting will be held April 21 through April 25. All committees have been requested to make suggestions on how we can interact at the Biennial meeting to be held at Richmond, Virginia, along with our participation at the 2010 National Jamboree. I should point out that Father Stephen Salvador will be the NCCS’s Jamboree Chair. And yes, we still have to plan for additional 100th anniversary activities throughout the year.

This is an exciting time as Msgr. Robert Guglielmone was recently ordained the Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina. Father Ray and I congratulate Msgr. Bob as he relocates to Charleston and accepts his new assignment. In addition, Padre will be celebrating his 20th year as a Bishop. It is very rewarding to have two great and devoted individuals guiding us in our journey as we promote Scouting as Youth Ministry.

Silver St. George recipients to be recognized at meeting

Four Catholic Scouters will be awarded the Silver St. George at the annual meeting of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to be held in Galveston. This year’s recipients of this prestigious award are:

Msgr. John Dermond
Arthur Keegan
Homer Radford
Edward Winterkorn

Nominations for the Award for excellence encouraged

Each year many of our Catholic Scouting organizations and units conduct retreats, days of reflection and district/council religious events. This is certainly in line with the tenants of Catholic Scouting in the NCCS program. There is now a special recognition for those organizations and units that have planned, organized and conducted such events that celebrate our faith through events, crafts, songs, etc.

They can now be recognized for the contributions they make to the faith life of our youth and adult leadership with the Award for Excellence program. All the information and application forms can be found on the NCCS website at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/awardexcellence.php

NCCS Ad now available for Knight Meeting Booklets

May is Knights of Columbus State Convention month. The Marketing and Public Relations Committee has put together a ¼ page ad that can be inserted into your Knights of Columbus state convention booklet to bring awareness to the NCCS/Knights Membership Initiative. The Word document is available on the NCCS website at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/awardexcellence.php

NCCS CALENDAR

### 2009

- **April 21-25**  
  NCCS annual meeting  
  Galveston, Texas

- **June 21—27**  
  Scouting in the Catholic Church training  
  Philmont Scout Ranch

- **July 20—August 5**  
  St. George Trek  
  Philmont Scout Ranch

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
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- **Chairman, Marketing and Public Relations**  
  Tony Madonia
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To submit items for future editions of The Bridge contact Mike Gannon at scouttrain@aol.com. Photos are acceptable and should be in a jpeg format. Please ensure all people in photos are identified and the subject matter is fully described. To submit items for the eBridge which is published monthly please send all information to nccsnews@nccs-bsa.info
Pope appoints Guglielmone as new Bishop of Charleston

Charleston, S.C. – Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Monsignor Robert E. Guglielmone as the 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston.

Commenting on his appointment, Bishop Guglielmone said, “I am both humbled and grateful that His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI would entrust this awesome ministry to me. I must admit that I am a bit anxious about leaving Long Island where I have spent almost my whole life. However, I do trust in the Lord and am very encouraged by the wonderful sense of southern hospitality I have already experienced.”

Bishop Guglielmone has undertaken particular care of the youth in his priesthood. In addition to teaching high school, he has been involved in Scouting since 1974. Bishop Guglielmone has held local, regional, national and international leadership positions in Scouting, including National and World Chaplain as appointed by the Vatican.

Changes made to Pope Paul VI and Golden Bow programs

The unit recognition program of the NCCS has been renamed. Formerly known as the Pope Paul VI Award, it is now called the National Catholic Quality Unit Award – Pope Paul VI.

The Golden Bow Award has been discontinued and the Duty to God recognition will serve as its replacement. This is not an award, but rather a recognition, and as such there are no set "requirements" to complete. It is to be used to recognize Scouters and Scouts for their contribution and support to Catholic Scouting. There are many situations in which this recognition can be made, and limited only by one’s ideas.

Visit the NCCS website for the latest in program highlights and the latest information on NCCS activities.
http://www.nccs-bsa.org/

Did You Know . . .?
by Bob Oldowski

2009 is a big year for NCCS. This is:

* 75 years since the BSA and the Bishops' Conference approved the Plan of Cooperation that is the basis of our NCCS
* 70 years since NCCS presented the first Ad Altare Dei
* 35 years since the first Pope Paul VI National Unit Recognition was presented
* 35 years since the first Catholic Scouting course at Philmont was conducted
* 20 years since the Golden AAD was created

Watch for a listing of NCCS' significant events over the years. This will be distributed at the annual meeting in Galveston in April, and later included with The Bridge and posted on our web site.

New program teams Serra Clubs as chartered partners for Venturing programs in Catholic high schools

All across the country leaders of Catholic high schools are asking about Serra Clubs forming relationships with Catholic high schools to establish Venturing units. The Serra Clubs and Catholic Committees are responding to this opportunity and the NCCS Executive Board has recognized the value of this new concept.

David Gironda, Sr., a long time Catholic Scouter and member of the Serra Club of Phoenix, Ariz. came up with the idea of forming Venturing units in Catholic high schools with Serra Clubs as their chartered partner. Serra is an international lay organization whose purpose and objectives are to foster and promote vocations to the Catholic priesthood and religious life, and to encourage its members to fulfill their own Christian vocations to service.

During the past three years the concept was adopted by the USA Council of Serra International. A grant was received from the Serra International Foundation to reimburse half of the cost of establishing new Venturing units by Serra Clubs and the work has begun to bear fruit.

The units chartered by Serra Clubs provide programs that combine a vocation discernment focus with the benefits of belonging to a unit of the Boy Scouts of America within a Catholic high school extracurricular group.

The success of the program will be based on offering quality programs that are not available to most Catholic high schools, while reinforcing the values and skills taught there. It further gives a venue to make ethical choices, acquire leadership skills, advance knowledge and skills in the areas of high adventure, sports, arts, hobbies and earn a vocation-oriented Catholic Scouting emblem.

For more information please email lhradford2@comcast.net for the NCCS Vocations Committee Coordinator of the Serra Club/Venturing in Catholic high schools.
The Archdiocese of St. Louis Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Youth Apostolate hosted a Scout Sunday Mass in the first weekend of February. The event showed the joy and honest pride of those being presented recognition for growth in faith through the youth awards and the service provided by Catholic Adults who dedicate their time and talent to make Catholic Scouting a youth ministry in the Archdiocese.

The new Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Catholic Committee on Scouting held its inaugural Light is Life Camporee in late November at Camp Guyasuta in Pittsburgh, Penn. The event was well attended, serving the dual purpose of fellowship for Eastern Catholic Scouts and a unique opportunity to work on the Light is Life religious emblem in a group setting. Beyond working on emblem requirements, the Scouts participated in the activities such as camping, hiking, and attending daily religious services.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Basil (Schott) was able to attend and celebrated the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, which offered many of the Scouts the rare honor of serving at the altar with him. The archeparchy is comprised of seven states from Pennsylvania to Texas so it is not often that its Scouts and Scouters have an opportunity to meet. Another camporee is already being planned with Scouts from other eparchies of the Metropolia and Eastern Catholic Churches showing interest in attending.

Dallas, Texas - As an outgrowth of an 18-month process aimed at establishing a permanent home for its iconic event, the national Scout jamboree, the Boy Scouts of American announced in February that it will enter negotiations with sites in Virginia and West Virginia to explore the vision of a National Scouting Center. The National Scouting Center will comprise three major areas of focus: the permanent home for the national Scout jamboree, a new high-adventure base and expanded opportunities for national leadership and outdoors skills training. The site selection process drew 80 proposals from 28 different states. The plans announced call for placement of the permanent home for the BSA’s national jamboree in the Goshen Scout Camp in Goshen, Virginia (currently run by the National Capital Area Council) and the high-adventure base in Fayette and Raleigh counties in West Virginia.

The Diocese of Sacramento held its 16th annual religious emblems recognition ceremony on February 7, 2009 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento, Calif. Bishop Jaime Soto recognized 145 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who had received their awards during the past year. Shown in the picture with the Scouts and Bishop Soto are Diocesan Scout Chaplain Father Mark Richards, BSA Professional Advisor Ricci Dula and Catholic Committee Chairman Bob Shumate, along with other members of the Committee.

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