More than 185 Catholic Scouters from across the country joined together in Richmond, Va. from April 12 to April 17 to participate in the NCCS 41st Biennial Conference. Working under the theme of “Celebrating Jesus – Continuing His Journey,” the participants heard from a variety of speakers, shared program ideas and concerns, attended workshops, and spent time together in developing a stronger youth ministry through Scouting under Catholic auspices.

The program got underway on Tuesday, April 13 with meetings of the standing committee chairs and advisors and the regional chairs and chaplains. The standing committees then met that evening to conduct routine business such as reviewing and discussing the religious emblem programs, the Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate for Scouting program, and many other ongoing programs.

Wednesday morning began with a continental breakfast in conjunction with the Showcase 2010 exhibits and displays. Participants had the opportunity to visit 15 different booths and displays highlighting various dioceses and the programs they offer and see displays from the various standing committees, the Philmont Training Center and the Community Alliance Department of the Boy Scouts of America.

The participants spent the remainder of Wednesday morning attending Regional meetings.

Continuing a tradition, the Philmont Reunion lunch was held with Bill Spice, Retired Director of Philmont Scout Ranch, as the guest speaker. Mr. Spice discussed happenings at the training center and attendees had a chance to share their experiences and memories from past training sessions and treks at the Ranch. In addition some of the Jerusalem Crosses earned by past participants were presented.

Following the luncheon was the opening general session highlighted by remarks from the incoming Chairman, John Halloran. In his presentation he outlined the theme for his tenure, which he said will revolve around what he called the “Three Cs” – Concern, Commitment and Courage. He said he would focus on one of the “C”s each year and the first year’s theme of “concern” would focus on stopping the drop in the number of Catholic chartered units and adding new units.

The incoming National Chaplain Father Stephen Salvador presided over the opening Mass at St. Peter Church with Father Roger LaChance, Past National Chaplain as homilist.

Thursday’s activities began with a prayer breakfast. Michael School, Eagle Scout and Director of Youth Ministry for the Richmond Diocese, was the guest speaker, and spoke of how his Scouting background has helped in his current position.

Participants then spent the remainder of the morning and early afternoon attending workshops sponsored by the various committees of NCCS. In all, 21 separate workshops were offered in eight areas, including such wide ranging topics as “Youth Led Retreats – Options for Forming Youth Committees,” “Catholic Scouting Around the World,” “Using Social Media to Communicate,” and “Did You Get My Call?”

The afternoon concluded with the second general session in which the proposed new organizational structure of the NCCS was presented and discussed. This new structure is in part related to the School and Main Study that was recently completed. The evening Mass was celebrated by Bishop Robert Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston, S.C.

Friday got off to a rousing start with a “Breakfast of Champions” featuring Ed Martin and Father Dennis O’Rourke, chairman and advisor of the finance committee, who outlined various ways to provide financial support to the NCCS. The final two workshop periods concluded the morning’s program.

(Cont. on page 3)
Chairman's Corner
Col. (Ret) John J. Halloran, Jr.

As the new National Chairman for NCCS, I am humbled and honored to be able to lead such a dedicated group of Catholic Scouts and Scouters. I take over this position as NCCS is undergoing restructuring and re-organization, so the next three years should be very fluid, dynamic and hopefully exciting as well. If you can say at the end of my term that I am glad he was our Chairman, I will know my tenure was a successful one. I realize I have big shoes to fill and I pray that I never let you and this great organization down. Therefore, I am counting on you to keep me focused and to help me achieve the goals and objectives that will grow NCCS and make us a force to be reckoned with.

Father. Stephen Salvador, the new National Chaplain, and I have selected outstanding Catholic Scouters to serve as Chairmen and Advisors of our Standing Committees during our term of office. With their help and the folks that you have elected as National Vice-Chairs, your respective Regional Chairmen and Regional Chaplain, and other dedicated Catholic Scouters, we will be able to develop realistic goals to continue to achieve the mission of NCCS.

At the Biennial meeting in Richmond this April, I had the opportunity to address the Executive Board about what Father Stephen Salvador and I hope to accomplish during our tenure. Our theme for the next 3 years is C3. The 1st year will emphasize Concern, the 2nd year will emphasize Commitment and the final year will emphasize Courage. My writings for each year will reflect one of the above mentioned C’s.

Our other major objectives are to ‘stop the drop and add new units’; improve communications; continue making the website more user friendly; making the Advisory Board more dynamic and responsive; update the Handbook of Operations; look again at all our published material to ensure that they are relevant, updated and accessible; improve and increase training materials that can be used by the Regions; improve our image at all levels by using the media more frequently and wisely; conduct a Memorial Mass at each of our Biennial Meetings to recognize our fallen Catholic Scouts and Scouters that have died since the last Biennial Meeting; and recognize our clergy at the Regional and National levels, who are celebrating five years or multiple of five years milestones of their ordination dates.

Before Father Salvador and I took office, we had the opportunity to get involved with implementing School and Main’s recommendations and those that came from the NCCS membership. This allowed us to shorten our conferences to 4 days, develop a better structure chart and make recommendations for possible changes to the By-Laws. The Executive Board unanimously approved all seven recommendations that we made and soon the entire voting membership of NCCS will have a chance to vote on them. Updating the By-Laws was also an objective of ours.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve. You are to be commended for the time, talents and treasures that you have given to Scouting and especially Catholic Scouting. Thank you for making a positive difference in the lives that you have touched. Take care and God Bless.

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 John Halloran
NCCS Chaplain Rev. Stephen Salvador
Chairman, Marketing and Public Relations Dr. Thomas Sisk
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. 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.
One hundred years ago the first Catholic Boy Scout troop was approved by the BSA. Fr. William J. Hart, pastor of St. Mark’s Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, learned of Scouting from a Canadian priest and quickly started a troop at the parish. He called this troop the “George Washington Scouts.” He wrote the national office in New York City to register the group, and received a letter dated Sept. 26, 1910 designating this “the first Troop of St. Paul,” and it became Troop 1. Research at BSA has validated this.

A parish photo of 1910-1911 shows Father Hart and ten Scouts at the church ready for an outing.

Initially it was the Scoutmaster who was registered by BSA. The next year troops were “chartered,” and in 1913 the Scouts themselves were first registered.

The Philmont Training Center (PTC) is nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northeastern New Mexico near Cimarron. Rich in history and natural beauty, this area offers exciting educational experiences for the entire family. PTC has served as the National Training Center for the Boy Scouts of America since 1950. A variety of week-long conferences will be conducted for unit, district, and council volunteers and professionals. Each conference features the latest tools, audiovisuals, and techniques led by a faculty of experienced Scouters. In addition to hosting these Conferences, the Training Center also provides the opportunity for families to join their Scouters and enjoy a wide range of Family Programs—making the Philmont Training Center experience one of a kind.

The summer staff will lead hiking, tours, handicrafts, and other outdoor activities. A week-long backcountry Mountain Trek is offered for Venturing-aged youth. Full details on programs are sent to participants upon acceptance. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

For information on the conference go to the NCCS website at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/
More than 1,000 current and former Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venturers and adult leaders attended a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Boston Auxiliary Bishop John Dooher at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston on February 28, 2010. The Mass was sponsored by the Archdiocese’s Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Office for the New Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults, whose director, Father Matt Williams, concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Dooher.

Also concelebrating the Mass was Father Matt Westcott, an Eagle Scout, whose commission as Scout Chaplain for the Archdiocese was announced during the liturgy. As Father Westcott’s letter of commission was read by Bishop Dooher, he was presented with a hand-sewn stole containing a complete set of the NCCS’ Footsteps of American Saints patches. Father Westcott then blessed the crowd and special commemorative patches that were designed for, and distributed to all those in attendance.

Additional festivities included tours of the 135-year old Gothic cathedral, led by church historian Edward Furey, and an opening procession in which many dozens of Scout representatives carried their units’ flags to the sacristy. Before dismissal, Edmund Romanowski, an Eagle Scout for 65 years and former Scoutmaster, District Chairman and St. George Emblem recipient, along with Christopher Romines, the newest Eagle Scout in the Archdiocese, led the congregation in renewing their Scouting promises and oaths.
As Scout councils across America are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Scouting, the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and the Dioceses of Charleston, Charlotte, Raleigh, and Savannah joined for a Catholic Jamboree celebrating 100 Years of Duty to God. Eight hundred Scouts attended the Province of Atlanta Catholic Jamboree that was held at Camp Barstow outside of Columbia, S.C. on March 19-21. This event was unique because the province has one of the lowest percentages of Catholics in the United States.

Scouts could choose from 26 different scouting events. The events included everything from climbing, archery, rifle, shotgun, pioneering, ax throwing, to the religious events such as the Stations of the Cross, an adoration chapel, a booth explaining the St George trek manned by past participants, a jeopardy-style Bible question game, an area where the scouts built the back drop for the Jamboree altar, to a USO activity where the scouts wrote letters to our servicemen around the world. Additionally, the activities included a vocations booth manned by priests, deacons, and an Eagle Scout seminarian. At this booth, the Scouts learned about religious vocations and signed a card of support to the seminarians of their home dioceses.

A special two-part pocket patch was designed so that the Scouts received the top portion for attending the Jamboree, but the larger bottom portion (a Scout mounted on a horse slaying a dragon) had to be earned. With the day broken into four rotations, each Scout had required activities along with a percentage of optional activities to earn the larger patch. This enabled the Scouts to experience as many of the Jamboree events as possible.

Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C. celebrated Mass at the Jamboree and told the Scouts that, “If you take the time to make the world a little better place, then you have said yes to God.” He spoke of his experiences as a chaplain at Philmont and the impact that Scouting has had on his life.
Michael School's remarks at conference Prayer Breakfast

(continued from page 2)

truly make Christ the centerpiece of all that you do?

It is from this place, where Christ is the center of our lives, that we can grow and be true catechists (those who echo) the faith to our young people. As I reflect on the 12 points of the Scout law, three points come to mind that frame our role in the evangelization of young people: trustworthy, brave, and reverent.

Our Scouts look to us as those who are worthy of trust, or trustworthy. Now more than ever, this generation needs adults who can be trusted. Our young people need adult role models who will care for them and live by the values that have led the Boy Scouting program for the past 100 years. Perhaps nights of family dinners, two- parent families, and family discussions have been replaced by fast-food in the car, parents who come home late and leave early, and texting and social networking. While none of these things are bad in and of themselves, it requires us to maintain the values that have remained strong for the past 100 years stronger over the next 100 years. Pope Benedict challenges the Church to live in the “new evangelization.” This “new evangelization” requires us to bring people to a relationship with Christ with a new ardor, a new zeal – through the realities of the world.

Brave. In order for us to be brave, we must realize the relationship of Truth and freedom. The very freedoms that we enjoy today are a result of the Truths that were established by the Founding Fathers. So it is the same with the Catholic Church. We must distinguish between Truth that leads to freedom and the decay that leads to a false freedom. It is Saint Paul who tells us that it is the Truth that will set us free. Speaking to the Truth of the Good News requires us to be brave, not to stray from the teachings of the Church, but to recognize and promote the freedom that comes through this gift.

Reverent. The first shall be last and the last shall be first. In the same way, the last point of the Scout law should be at the forefront of our minds. The work that we do in the Scouting program as Catholic Christians must be a beacon of the Good News to the young people and families with whom we work. It was only this week that I learned that Bill (NCCS National Chairman) & Kay Davies have led the RCIA program at their parish together for the past several years. It is the very example of their lives that points people to Jesus Christ. In the same way, all of the work we do must point to Jesus Christ. It is not about “my program, my troop, my camporee,” but rather about how the work we do can point the boys and girls to Jesus Christ. We know from scripture that it was John the Baptist who pointed the apostles to Jesus, and even it was Andrew, the brother of Peter, who pointed him to Jesus. In much the same way, we too must point those young people to whom we minister toward Christ.

We celebrate this year 100 years of a movement that was built on a vision set on a firm foundation by Lord Baden Powell in 1907. To this day, I feel very honored to have received my Eagle Scout award on February 8, 1994, the 84th birthday of the Boy Scouts of America. The Scouting program has had a profound impact on my own life and has contributed significantly to the man, husband, and father that I am today.

But, what will the next 100 years hold for scouting and the Catholic Church? What will we face as we embark upon the next century?

First, I would say that we face a challenge of being relevant to a generation that seeks to separate from formalized structure and institution. Young people, especially young men, seek a place to belong. Scouting has traditionally been a place for many young men to belong and have a place they can feel safe to grow and experience their teenage years. Our challenge will be to continue to hold to the values and tradition that has been built in this century and carry it with a new ardor, or zeal, through the methods we use to reach these young men and women in the years ahead. We have to be open to the change that may come. I can remember when the new Scout manual was published in the late 1990s and the beloved skill award belt loops went by the wayside. It was a significant change in the way we did Scouting, but the program itself still remains strong. We must be careful to not “water down” the values of the Scouting movement or secularize the message of the Gospel in favor of relevance.

Second, I see both the Scouting program and the Catholic Church taking a significant role in the reuniting of the role of the family or domestic church. For years, we believed that the best way to minister to young people was to pull them out of their families and provide a separate “age appropriate” experience for them. While this method is good at times, it cannot be the sole experience for our young people. We must look to ways to include parents in the growing experiences of our young people. Most especially, I think we need to look to ways to grow a tighter bond between fathers and their sons through the Boy Scouting programs. The stronger relationship that a father has with his son, the healthier the son will turn out to be in his adult years.

Lastly, I see the need to engage our young adult population into the work we do as Scouters as well as in the ministry of the Church. Once young people turn 18, they tend not to participate as fully in the Scouting program or Church ministry. At a conference such as this, it would be fantastic for us to double the number of attendees, but fill that increase with only 18 to 30 year olds. It is up to all of us in this room to pass on this great legacy we have been given to the next generation, but that has to start now. How are we equipping young adults to carry on this legacy? We must believe that the young people of today are the saints of tomorrow – and if we truly believe that, our actions must speak of our beliefs.

Finally, I want to say thank you for all of the hard work that you have done, are doing, and will continue to do in the next century to build the Scouting program as a vital part of youth ministry in the Catholic Church. Your attendance at this conference shows our youth the importance of taking a week of your busy lives to spend in prayer, reflection, fellowship, and community. This speaks volumes to your commitment to them and the Church.

Be prepared for what lies ahead. Celebrate and cherish these moments that you are able to gather in freedom with one another to share in friendship and fellowship. But most of all, remember that all we do should point to and give glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. May the Lord be praised now and forever.
104 DIOCESES EARN QUALITY DIOCESE AWARD IN 2009

Region 1– Bridgeport, Hartford, Fall River, Providence, Springfield, Norwich, Portland, Worcester, Manchester
Region 2- Albany, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Mayaguez, New York, Ogdensburg, Rochester, Rockville Centre, San Juan
Region 3- Paterson, Camden, Metuchen, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Newark, Altoona-Johnstown, Erie, Trenton, Greensburg, Pittsburgh
Region 4- Arlington, Wilmington, Baltimore, Washington, D.C.
Region 5- Knoxville, Owensboro, Lexington, Birmingham, Houma-Thibodaux, Lafayette, Shreveport, New Orleans, Mobile, Nashville, Memphis, Baton Rouge, Biloxi, Covington, Louisville, Jackson, Lake Charles
Region 6- Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, Youngstown, Saginaw, Grand Rapids
Region 7- Evansville, Milwaukee, Fort Wayne-South Bend, Peoria, Green Bay, Superior, Madison, Rockford, Springfield
Region 8- Saint Paul-Minneapolis
Region 9- Kansas City-Saint Joseph, Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Jefferson City, Wichita, Saint Louis, Kansas City-Kan., Sioux City
Region 10– Amarillo, Tyler, Galveston-Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Victoria, San Antonio, Austin, Tulsa, Corpus Christi
Region 11- Sacramento, San Jose, Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego
Region 12—Seattle
Region 13- Salt Lake City, Colorado Springs, Denver, Tucson, Pueblo, Phoenix
Region 14- Saint Petersburg, Charlotte, Raleigh, Atlanta, Charleston, Palm Beach, Miami

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Three Catholic Scouters awarded Silver St. George Award for significant service to Catholic Scouting

Three Catholic Scouters were awarded the Silver Saint George Award at the biennial meeting for their significant service to Scouting in the Catholic Church at the national level. The award was first presented in 1997 and only 69 individuals have received the award. This year’s recipients were Alan I. Tarlo, Sr., Charles Raimond, Sr., and Robert D. Mashia.

Mashia earned his Eagle Scout Award in 1954 and is a member of St. Anne’s Parish in Chicopee, Mass. where he serves as a Eucharistic Minister. He is a Lifetime Member of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and has been a member of the Springfield Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting since 1971 and its Chairman since 1992. He began service at the national level as a member of the Religious Activities Standing Committee for ten years where he organized Idea Fairs in Rich mond, Tucson, and St. Louis. He joined the Conference Committee in 1994 and has been on-site facilities and banquet coordinator for six annual conferences.

Tarlo, a member of St. Dennis Parish in Royal Oak, Mich., has been working with youth and young adults on a part time basis for over 35 years. Al currently chairs the Detroit Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting composed of four BSA area councils, four GSA councils and two Camp Fire areas. Prior to this, Al was the Detroit CCS Area Chairman and a member of the Detroit Area Catholic Committee. In three terms as Chairman for NCCS Region 6 he has conducted region meetings and presented national awards and assistance in training in the region. In 2007 he initiated work with Region 6 National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers to train and build a collaborative relationship with Diocesan Committees.

Raimond has been active in his home parish - St. Thomas More Catholic Church and at the diocesan level in the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese. He has been an active member of the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese Catholic Committee on Scouting for over ten years serving as Finance Committee chair, Vice Chairman, and Chairman. He is serving his third term as the Chairman of NCCS Region 10. The region holds regular conferences and under his leadership 11 dioceses earned the Quality Diocese Award in 2009.

Edward Gargiulo awarded Brother Barnabas Founders Award for significant service to Catholic Scouting at the national level

The Brother Barnabas Founders Award for 2010 has been presented to Edward Gargiulo in special recognition for his long and meritorious service that has significantly affected the course of Catholic Scouting. The award is named in honor of Brother Barnabas, F.S.C., a Brother of the Christian Schools, who was involved with youth work for his entire life and a driving force in the early years of Catholic youth ministry. He founded one of the earliest Catholic Troops at St. Patrick’s 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 that is now known as the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

A member of the Wilmington Catholic Committee on Scouting since 1974 Ed had served as its Chairman for more than ten years, leading annual religious retreats and diocesan workshops. At the NCCS level he has served as the Membership Committee Advisor and led the revision of the Pope Paul VI Unit Recognition Award. He helped in the planning and implementing of the NCCS nationwide membership initiative of 1995. As Vice-Chairman, he coordinated several committees, served a liaison to the Regions and acted as the contract administrator for religious emblems and literature. He was on the faculty of the 1998 Philmont Training Conference and was the Course Director in 2000. In 2000 he was elected as the Chairman of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Following his service as Chairman, he has served as the Nominating Committee since 2004 and as recorder and parliamentarian for all official NCCS meetings.

Youth safety is the number one concern of the BSA.

To increase awareness of this societal problem and to create even greater barriers to abuse than already exist today in Scouting, the Boy Scouts of America is implementing several important changes to further enhance its Youth Protection policies.

Effective June 1, 2010:
-- Youth Protection training is required for all registered volunteers.
-- New leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before they submit an application for registration. The certificate of completion for this training must be submitted at the time application is made and before volunteer service with youth begins.
-- Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer’s Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.

To ensure these policies are fully implemented, please take the following steps:
-- If you have not taken Youth Protection training within the past two years, please log on to MyScouting and take the training. Be sure to have your member ID number. The number can be found on your Boy Scouts of America membership card.
-- If you do not know your member ID number, contact your unit leader or committee chairman. Your council can also assist.
-- A person does not have to be a registered volunteer or have an ID number to take Youth Protection training. To take the training, log in to MyScouting and create an account. From the MyScouting portal, click on E-Learning and take the Youth Protection training. Upon completion, print a certificate and submit it with an application or submit to the unit leader for processing at the local council.
-- If you have taken Youth Protection training online but did not input your member ID number, please log on to MyScouting and input your member ID in the My Profile section so the training will be linked to your records.
-- If you have taken Youth Protection training within the past two years but did not take the course online, log on to MyScouting to ensure your records are up-to-date, or contact your council for verification that your Youth Protection training records are accurate.