The 2010 Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary National Jamboree is now history. More than 37,000 Scouts from across the United States, as well as from several foreign nations, arrived at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. in late July. There they were met by 8,000 national, regional, and subcamp staff members who had arrived a few days earlier to prepare for the Scouts and Scouters who would participate in the 2010 BSA National Jamboree.

That volunteer staff included approximately 80 staff chaplains representing the various faiths and religions who served the National Jamboree in subcamps, the exhibits, activity centers, the Jamboree headquarters, and Mary Washington Hospital in nearby Fredericksburg, Va. Jamboree Chaplains also served the military Joint Task Force personnel at Fort A.P. Hill during the National Jamboree.

On August 1st the various religions and faiths had their own denominational camp-wide religious services. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting was responsible for the Catholic Mass that was celebrated by Philmont Chaplain, the Most Reverend Gerald Gettelfinger (Padre), Bishop of Evansville, Ind., and the Bishop Liaison to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. The homilist for the Mass was the Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, Philmont Chaplain for 12 seasons, and now the Bishop of Charleston, S.C. Bishop Guglielmone also served as World Chaplain for the International Catholic Conference of Scouting and is past National Chaplain of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. The host bishop for the National Jamboree was Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of the Diocese of Richmond, Va. The concluding Mass was concelebrated by four bishops, nearly 20 priests and several deacons. More than 15,000 participants attended the Mass that was held in the Jamboree Arena.

The 2010 National Jamboree was the last Jamboree to be held at Fort A.P. Hill near Fredericksburg, Va., where it had served as the Jamboree Site for nearly 30 years. The Summit: Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in Glen Jean, West Va., will become the BSA's permanent home for the National Scout Jamboree as well as the organization's fourth high-adventure base. It will also host leadership development training year-round and has the potential to host World Scout Jamborees. Work on the new site has already begun, thanks to a $50 million contribution from the Stephen D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation.
Chairman’s Corner

Col. (Ret) John J. Halloran, Jr.

As mentioned in the last article, Fr. Stephen Salvador and I explained our 3C theme. Our first year and our first C deals with concern. Everyone has concerns whether they be personal, work, family, church, life, etc. NCCS is no different. We have concerns too.

The first concern I would like to address is our Diocesan Committees of ONE. How can one individual be and do everything? How can one individual provide the programs that we offer to the Catholic units and Catholic Scouts? How can one individual stop the loss of Catholic sponsored units while growing new Catholic units and membership? How can one individual plan, prepare, execute and evaluate Days of Reflection, Catholic Camporees, Ten-Commandment Hikes, or any other Catholic type Scouting activity? How can one individual ensure that the Diocesan Committee meets the criteria for the Quality Diocesan Award? I can go on, but I am sure you get the point. The most a committee of one can usually do is sign off on the requirements for those working on their religious award.

The next concern is the loss in Catholic Units and membership. We have been losing membership for over 10 years and units for over 7 years. Yes, the Boy Scouts of America has also felt significant loses in units and membership. So why are we losing units and membership? We need to examine what is being done at the Diocesan Committee level. Are the Diocesan Committees involved in the re-chartering process of their Catholic sponsored units? Are the Diocesan Committees getting the Catholic Chartered Organization Representatives involved? Are the Diocesan Committees working with the BSA Council professionals in chartering new Catholic sponsored units? Are the Diocesan Committees encouraging Catholic Scouts to work on their religious emblems? Are the Diocesan Committees conducting Days of Reflection, Retreats or other related Catholic Scouting activities? Does the Diocesan committee have a well thought out growth plan? New unit growth and membership does not fall on the Diocesan committees alone. What is our Regional leadership doing to motivate, encourage, support and grow the Diocesan committees in their Region? Does the Regional leadership have a plan of attack for helping the Diocesan committees grow new units and increase membership? That leaves the NCCS leadership. What are we doing to help the Regional leadership in accomplishing their goals and objectives?

In this article, I touched on a few concerns but did not give any answers or solutions. I wanted you to become aware and think about these concerns. Get the juices of the mind flowing, discuss, brain-storm, put ideas into action, evaluate and share. We all have a vested interest in providing the best possible experience and programs to our Catholic units and Scouts. In the next article I will touch on a few more concerns. Take care and God Bless.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Ellie Starr and Nancy Watts, both recovering from surgery
- Tommy Nishikubo, who is out of Hospice and back in the hospital receiving dialysis treatments and reported to be doing better.
- Gordon Phillip "Gordie" Stiefel, age 59, of Western Springs, Ill. who died in August. Beloved husband of Tina (nee Solty); devoted father of Scott Phillip and Pamela Ann Stiefel; dearest son of the late Anna Mae (nee Quinlan) and the late Phillip Stiefel; Avid Boy Scout, including former Cub Scout Leader of Pack 117, Scoutmaster of Troop 216, Venture Crew Leader of Crew 216 and Member of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Member of St. John of the Cross Parish Council and 4th Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus, Proud Alum of Mt. Carmel High School of Chicago and Loyola University Graduate and former employee. He will always be remembered as an advocate for kids.

The NCCS website provides resources and support for all aspects of Catholic Scouting. There is something for every one—parents to pastors; Tigers to Eagles; Den Leaders to Diocesan Committees. The site content is updated regularly. Go to: [http://www.nccs-bsa.org/]
Did You Know . . .?
By Bob Oldowski

When he died last year, Father. Tim Vakoc was the only military chaplain to have died from injuries sustained in the Iraq War. Tim was an Eagle Scout and was ordained in 1992 in the Archdiocese of St. Paul - Minneapolis. He worked as chaplain at Scout summer camp, attended the Catholic Scouting course at Philmont, served on the local diocesan Scout committee, and in 1996 was presented the Bronze Pelican. He became a U. S. Army chaplain. While serving as chaplain in Iraq in 2004, he was gravely injured by a roadside bomb while in a Humvee. Father Tim lost an eye and incurred severe brain damage. He was medevac’d home, where he remained in a coma. After several years he began an almost miraculous recovery, but died unexpectedly in June of 2009. The North Star Scout Museum has an exhibit of his memorabilia. He is being remembered this Year of the Priest.

Are you planning a visit to Rome in the near future? If you are planning a trip or know of a Scout family or group planning a trip to visit the area, Italian Scout Association AGESCI (Italian Catholic Guides and Scouts Association) inaugurated the new Roma Scout Center in Rome. The center offers welcome services to Scouts and their families, and professional Scouters and their families. They will find in Rome a place to stay that is comfortable and of high quality, but nevertheless cheap. Rooms vary from 4-bed rooms with collective services and 2-bed rooms with private services, for a total of about 120 beds.

Roma Scout Center is at Largo dello Scautismo 1) Rome Italy, nearby Piazzale delle Province (Rome 1 State University). It is close to “Bologna” stop of line B of Rome Underground (“Metropolitana”), near the National Railroads (FS) Station “Roma Tiburtina” and the A24 Highway junction and also near the historical centre of Rome.

For information contact the Roma Scout Center - Il fiore rosso, Largo dello Scautismo 100162 Roma. The telephone number is 39 06 44231355 or info@romascoutcenter.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Priesthood Sunday
October 24, 2010

Scout Sunday
February 6, 2011

NCCS Annual Meeting
April 26-29, 2011

St. George Trek
July 7-22, 2011

Scouting in the Catholic Church
July 10-16, 2011

Vicar of Vocations for Diocese of Charleston writes new book “Becoming Father Bob” promoting religious vocations

On February 1st, a children's book was released called Becoming Father Bob. It was written by Father Jeff Kirby, Vicar of Vocations for the Diocese of Charleston, and Marguerite Wertz, principal of St. Mary Help of Christian Catholic School in Aiken, SC. The illustrator on the book is Alice Judd, a mother of three boys and three girls from Aiken.

Father Bob is a fictional character but his vocation story is loosely based on Bishop Robert Guglielmone and other priests stories from the Charleston Diocese. Bishop Guglielmone's dog Mickey, is in it as well. The idea behind the book is to give boys an introduction to vocations and to see priests as being just like them when they were growing up. “It is important to expose our youth to vocations at an early age. The Catholic Scouting program is a unique place to foster vocational awareness and discernment,” Father Kirby notes. “It's all about letting these young men hear the call. Recent studies have shown that 38% of the seminarians in the US today were involved in scouting at one time. This is a beautiful way to continue to build on the momentum of the Year of the Priest and carry it into next year”

“At the Catholic Camporee each year, scouts that have earned their religious emblems receive a special neckerchief given to them as a gift from the Bishop. Since we have begun the program, the Catholic religious emblems earned each year have tripled from five years ago. We are hoping that our Cub Scouts will see what a beautiful book that they could receive and that will inspire them to want to have one as well. We would love to see the number double this year because of the generous support of the Knights of Columbus”, said Father Kirby.

The South Carolina Knights of Columbus Charity Fund is providing a gift of the book Becoming Father Bob to every Cub Scout that completes his religious emblem (Light of Christ or Parvuli Dei) from May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011 in the Diocese. The hard covered book will be presented by their pastor along with his emblem at a church service.

Becoming Father Bob

Illustrated by Alice Judd
2010 National Jamboree Highlights
Below is a letter received by Father William Byrne, Pastor of St. Peters Church on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

Father Byrne,

Peace!

I enjoyed reading the article about Justin Huber's ordination in the Catholic Standard (Washington Archdiocesan newspaper) and learning of the role that your example played in his spiritual formation. I'm unable to attend the ordination tomorrow but will travel to DC for Justin's first Mass at St Peter. I look forward to meeting you on Sunday, but I wanted to share an amusing story about Justin with you in advance.

As you know, Justin is an Eagle Scout and spent a few summers on camp staff. That's where I first met Justin. I was Program Director at Camp Saf-fran in 1996. Scouting had been an important factor in my own faith journey and so I decided to start a Pope Pius XII study group for those Catholics on the camp staff who wanted to participate. The group included 6 or 7 staff members, boys and girls ranging from 14-18. (I think Justin was barely 14 at the time but convinced me to let him join in; PPXII is designed for ages 15-21).

I share this with you, not because it was evident when he was age 14 that Justin was going to be a priest, but rather because at that time it seemed so incredibly unlikely. As Justin himself mentions in the article, he "had come from a secular background, with misconceptions about religion and religious people." He was very vocal in questioning the faith and it lead to some lively discussions among the group. He was the skeptic. I believe at the end of the summer I even had some reservations about presenting Justin with an award from the Church but, he had fulfilled the requirements. When I heard many years later that Justin had entered the Seminary I practically fell out of my seat. I recently told Justin that if, at the end of the summer, I'd been asked to rank the PPXII recipients in order of "most likely to become a priest," I'd have ranked him dead last... even including the girls! He told me that at the time he'd have agreed with me; he joined in because he wanted the cool medal.

Oh well, so much for my attempt at youth ministry. I'm certainly glad that God reached out to Justin through more capable individuals during his time at College Park!

In seriousness, I do share Justin's story when talking to scout leaders about the beauty and importance of Scouting as youth ministry. The BSA is not a religious organization, but it does allow and encourage adolescents to come in contact with their faith in ways that are otherwise missing from our secular schools and society. Many of our Catholic scouts, like Justin come from families (like my own growing up) that do not regularly attend Mass. Many families have no more than a "cultural" connection to the Church. For many (Catholics and non-Catholics alike), Scouting is the only place where they are told that they have a duty to God and are then provided opportunities (and expected) to put that duty into practice. They may not always embrace or even listen to this message at first but, as with Justin you just never know what path they are going to take.

Thank you for your service to Christ and to our Church and for the positive influence you have had on my friend Justin Huber.

In fellowship through Christ,

J.D. Urbach
Baltimore, MD

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Priesthood Sunday to be celebrated on October 31

Priesthood Sunday, is a special day to honor Priesthood in the United States. It is a call for parishioners to honor Christ as Priest and the men who were called to be his priests on earth. It is also a day to honor all religious and to focus on the importance of vocations. Catholic Scout Packs, Troops and Venture Crews are encouraged to make a special effort to involve the youth in programs of making appreciation cards to be presented after Mass on the 31st of October this year or at an event planned in your parish.

**When was the last time you expressed appreciation to a priest?**

- Sit down with your Scout unit, family members and friends and make a list of the priests who have served your parish and family. Then:
  - Call them during the last week of October.
  - Send them a card / make a personal card
  - Write a personal note and enclose a gift card for a restaurant
  - Take a priest to lunch
  - Invite them to dinner
  - Visit those who are in a retirement home or care center

**Where can I learn more?**

A special website has been established (www.priestsunday.org) to provide ideas for liturgies, social celebrations, preaching, Scouting activities and other events. In some dioceses there will be special Catholic newspaper sections devoted to honoring priests.

Priesthood Sunday sends a message to all that we, the Church, love and appreciate and respect our priests as the instrument of Christ's ministry on earth. They are loved and respected by those in parish community. This nationwide event is coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and World Wide Marriage Encounter. The counterparts of these organizations on the diocesan level are encouraged to collaborate in parishes to spearhead activities in their Catholic Scouting troop and Cub pack, parish school and school of religion.
The San Diego Catholic Committee on Scouting held its annual Mass and religious emblems ceremony May 25 at St. Michael Parish in Poway, Calif. Bishop Robert H. Brom celebrated Mass and presented Catholic religious emblems to 138 Scouts and seven adults. He was then surprised to discover that he was among the recipients. At the recommendation of the San Diego Catholic Committee on Scouting, Bishop Brom received the St. George emblem for having promoted Scouting in the Diocese of San Diego. In his homily to the gathered Scouts, adult leaders and parents, Bishop Brom extolled the virtue of obedience – not acting on one’s desires, but rather following the example of Jesus and being holy in every aspect of one’s conduct. The bishop also paid tribute to Msgr. Joseph Carroll, who has served as chaplain of the San Diego Catholic Committee on Scouting for more than 30 years.

Stephen Salvador, Associate National Chaplain, Father Michael Hanifin, and BSA Associate Director for Community Alliances, George Sparks, were able to spend Thursday and Friday with the participants, coming to Philmont directly from the National Jamboree. At a special graduation Mass at the Philmont Catholic Chapel on Friday afternoon, the participants received their certificates of course completion from Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. They were also presented a special certificate recognizing them for having completed 24 hours of training in Scouting as Youth Ministry.

Also at the graduation Mass, a special Jerusalem Cross presentation was made to David Williams by Archbishop Sheehan. David is from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and attended the Scouting in the Catholic Church course in 2008. He completed work on his Jerusalem Cross Mission project this past spring.

The Scouting in the Catholic Church course in 2011 will be led by John Halloran, as course director, and Father Stephen Salvador as the course advisor.
The 249th New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade was dedicated to the Boy Scouts of America. The Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting was one of the main sponsors of the event in which Catholic Scouts joined Scouts from all over the tri-state region to celebrate the BSA’s 100th Anniversary.


The following website contains materials about Stephen Kaszap, a Hungarian man who may become the first Boy Scout to be canonized as a saint: http://www.nccs-bsa.org/information/stephenKaszap.php

The material is taken from a non-copyrighted book The young Stephen Kaszap, Servant of God, written by Jeno Boday, SJ. (Note: This may be a good Christmas present or gift for that new Eagle Scout).