NCCS Represented at National Catholic Youth Conference

By Ed Gargiulo

The NCCS was at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, Ind. on November 17-19 to represent all Catholic Scouters committed to Boy Scouting Youth Ministry. Imagine 23,000 Catholic youth and chaperones coming together from more than 100 dioceses in a convention center for three days to celebrate their Catholic faith. It’s like a Jamboree for Catholic youth.

The National Catholic Youth Conference is a biennial gathering of high school youth from around the United States. It is an opportunity for these youth to experience the true universality of the Catholic Church by praying, going to Mass, and experiencing Christ in Reconciliation and Adoration with other Catholics from around the country.

The NCCS exhibit team consisted of John Halloran, Bill and Kay Davies, Ed Gargiulo and George Sparks, and they were assisted by conference participants Father Dennis O’Rourke and “Padre” Bishop Gettelfinger. The NCCS exhibit was in the “Victory Park” at the convention center, and drew the attention of nearly 1,500 youth and adults. The team presented “Duty to God” patches to more than 150 participants who identified themselves as Eagle Scouts. They also met chaperones and youth leaders using Scouting as Catholic Youth Ministry with their sons and daughters and grandchildren. There is no prouder parent than the mother of an Eagle Scout who has also encouraged her son to earn three or four religious emblems. Saint George Trekkers and several Trek advisors also stopped to say hello and share their experiences.

Youth and adults were greeted with information advocating Venturing, the St. George Trek, the Doerr Scholarship, and Scouting in the Catholic Church training program at the Philmont Training Center to support the organization and continuity of their youth ministry.

Brendan Finan, a Scout in Troop 377 in Knoxville, Iowa won a new iPod Nano in our raffle, and we presented gift certificates to conference participants who came from Shortsville and Wayland, N.Y., Jacksonville, Ala., New Bremen and Cortland, Ohio, Bettendorf and Bluegrass, Iowa, and Culver, Kan.

The BSA’s Patrol Z was a special addition to our exhibit this year. Patrol Z is a corps of thirteen high-tech, media savvy Scouts and Venturers from across the US charged to produce stories for Scouts, by Scouts, and to promote the 2013 National Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. Scout Jacob Montgomery was present in our booth to interview and video record scouts and leaders participating in the conference.

National Catholic Youth Conferences are planned for 2013 and 2015 in Indianapolis, Ind.
Five Scholarships Available for Catholic Scouts Through Generosity of Doerr Family

By Ed Martin

About nine years ago, John and Julie Doerr offered to provide funds for scholarships in the memory of their father, Emmett J. Doerr.

John Halloran, the NCCS National Chairman, says this of Mr. Doerr: “Emmett was very dedicated and committed to Scouting and the NCCS. His big heart was only exceeded by his generosity. He was the first recipient of the Brother Barnabas Founders Award. He also was awarded the Silver Antelope, Silver Beaver and St. George medals. Emmett’s love for Scouting, especially Catholic Scouting, is the reason the Doerr family wants to ensure that his legacy continues.”

A few years later, the NCCS decided to match the Doerr’s contribution. Since then, the NCCS has awarded five $2,000 scholarships each year. Plans are underway to ensure this continues way into the future.

The scholarships recognize Catholic Scouts in their senior year of high school who have earned both their Eagle award and Boy Scout religious emblem. Additional eligibility requirements and the application can be found on the NCCS website at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/national/EJDoerrScholarship.php. The deadline for submitting an application is April 1, 2012.

We have been receiving more than 100 applications for the last few years and are counting on the local diocesan committees and Catholic Scouters to continue to spread the word of this opportunity to all their graduating Scouts.

Chairman’s Corner by Colonel (Ret.) John Halloran, Jr.

The Chairman could not be bothered to write something because he believes no one really reads his articles or takes to heart what is written.

Former NCCS Chairman Named ICCS World Chairman

Bray Barnes, (right) Past Chairman of the NCCS, was elected as World Chairman, of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting along with Roberto Cocianich of Italy, who was elected as the World President. The election was held at the ICCS World Council meeting, held in St. Louis, Mo. from December 1-4, 2011.
Did You Know . . .?
By Bob Oldowski

When the St. George adult recognition was approved by the NCCS in 1954, the original emblem consisted of a two-piece pendant suspended on a ribbon to be worn around the neck. The pendant had a removable St. George lapel pin with a screw back which could be used for civilian wear. Perhaps in the early 1970s the pendant became a single piece as we know it now, with a separate lapel pin optional.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Applications Due for Quality Diocese Awards

Silver Saint George Nominations Due
Feb. 15, 2012

NCCS Annual Meeting
Dallas, Texas
April 19-22, 2012

It’s Time to Renew Your Membership with NCCS

The new membership year begins in January 2012. All those who wish to be identified as members of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting are encouraged to renew or register. A membership form is included on the back page of this issue of The Bridge and can also be accessed online at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/JoinNCCS.php.

There are actually 3 types of membership:
Members - identified by a position on the NCCS Executive Board or Advisory Board or who are diocesan chairs or chaplains
Associate Members -not a member, but active on diocesan or NCCS committees
Supporter - neither member nor associate member, but one who wishes to be kept informed of NCCS events and activity.

Any registered Scouter can join the National Catholic Committee on Scouting by filling out the NCCS membership application. Your membership fees support the efforts of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to provide faith-based programs including religious emblems; activity patches; adult, unit, and diocesan committee recognition awards; and national training conferences. In addition to The Bridge, the NCCS quarterly newsletter, you will also receive invitations to the annual meeting, to participate on standing committees, and Scouting in the Catholic Church conference at Philmont Training Center. The cost is $35.00 per year or $350.00 for a Lifetime membership for as long as you are registered with BSA. See Article III of the NCCS Bylaws for full information on membership.
Opening procession of the annual Scout Mass for the Diocese of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, Patroness of the Diocese Catholic Scouting movement.

In October, more than 170 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venture Crew members and Scout leaders from the far reaches of the Ft. Worth Diocese gathered at Furst Ranch in Flower Mound for their annual fall retreat. The weekend was brimming with fun and fellowship as the Scouts immersed themselves in the legend and pageantry of the Holy Grail; along the way, they found ample opportunity to grow closer to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Madison, Miss. has chartered a new Cub Scout Pack and one of their first activities was a Good Turn project benefitting St. Anthony Catholic School, a partner learning institution of the church. Pack members assisted in the semi-annual St. Anthony School “Clean and Green” Day. The highlight of the day was replacing the school’s worn out American flag during the opening ceremony.
Make plans now to join fellow Scout Chaplains, Scouters and spouses in Irving, Texas for the 42nd Biennial Conference of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting for a weekend conference. The local diocesan Committees of Dallas and Fort Worth are the host committees working with the NCCS conference committee.

There will be a chance to attend regional meetings, workshops, a Philmont Reunion Luncheon, Prayer Breakfast, daily liturgies and much more – as well as a chance to meet Scouters and Chaplains from Archdioceses, Dioceses and Eparchies from around the country.

Registration includes a special Friday evening motorcoach excursion to attend Mass at St. Francis Catholic Church in Grapevine, Texas, celebrated by the Bishop of Fort Worth, followed by a Texas barbeque at the church and then off to the Boy Scouts of America National Museum for a tour. This will be a fun-filled evening with plenty of food and viewing of the displayed BSA artifacts and paintings by Norman Rockwell and Joseph Csatari. This is an opportunity you won’t want to miss!

Committees have been hard at work developing interesting, meaningful and useful workshops. Planned workshops include: "Taking Membership in a New Direction;" "The Saint George Trek: Priesthood on the Trail;" "The Training Continuum of Catholic Scouting;" and "Good Catholics Make Better Scouts: A How-To Guide for Meaningful Religious Activities;" plus, two additional workshops are in development.

Shop for best airfares and make your travel plans! The Executive Committee and several standing committee meetings, registration and the Trading Post begin on Thursday afternoon, April 19th, and the opening conference Mass is Thursday at 6:15 PM. The “Diocesan Showcase” (Ideas Fair), Trading Post, and Region Meetings start at 7:30 AM on Friday, April 20th, and Advisory Board meets on Friday afternoon. Workshops are on Saturday afternoon, April 21st, followed by a Saturday Vigil Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Easter, Reception, and Banquet. Sunday’s Prayer Breakfast, April 22nd, is followed by the Executive Board meeting as well as an all-day Region 10 Training Program for Catholic Committee Scouters of Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Our group room rate at the Marriott Las Colinas in Irving is $99! (Our rate is good 3 nights prior/after the official conference dates, based on availability.) And registered conference participants who are also registered guests at the conference hotel receive complimentary round-trip transfers to either DFW or Dallas Love Field airports! Parking at this hotel is complimentary, and in-room internet access will be complimentary. Registration information will be available in early January 2012 on our website at www.nccs-bsa.org. See you in Irving in April 2012!
On second thought ............

By Colonel (Ret.) John Halloran, Jr.

I hope the statement in the Chairman’s Corner (page 2) got your attention. If I truly felt that way, I would have tendered my resignation, because I would never stay with an organization I am no longer committed to. Now, to continue my next article on Commitment, this year’s theme.

Our Lord was so committed that He gave His life for us. Military personnel and first line responders have been so committed to their profession that some of them have paid the ultimate price. The good news is that the NCCS is not an organization that asks you to pay the ultimate price.

Being members of the NCCS, we do ask you to pay a price with your time, talent and treasures. In some cases, we have had dedicated Catholic Scouters that have lived and breathed the NCCS until their passing and then still left the organization part of their estate. For those who did just that, we will forever be in their debt. So, while you walk with us, we ask your help in joining, or renewing your membership form each year (from January to December). We also ask your help by supporting the Annual Appeal and we encourage you to purchase the Golden AAD and the Spes Mundi Awards ($2,500 each and can be paid in installments). One thing we have not done much of is asking that you think about leaving us in your will or making us the beneficiary of one of your insurance policies. Please give this some serious thought.

While Our Lord was alive, he made a positive difference in the lives that He touched. You should know that as members of the NCCS, you too have made a significant impact on about 255,000 Catholic Scouts and 8,400 Catholic chartered units. With your help, we can make a positive difference in thousands more Catholic youth and hundreds more units. Membership is our life blood and the NCCS is too important an organization to be allowed to wither and die. If not us, who will have the best interest of our Catholic youth in Scouting at heart?

Scouting in the Catholic Church Conference Set for August 2012

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) will conduct the "Scouting in the Catholic Church" training conference at Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, N.M. as part of BSA Relationships Week. The course will run from Sunday, August 5 through Saturday, August 11, 2012. The director for the 2012 course will be Margaret Matarese. The course advisor will be Father Kevin Smith, the faculty will include Susan Barriball and one other member yet to be named. 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 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 whole family. PTC has served as the National Training Center for the Boy Scouts of America since 1950. The training center provides the opportunity for families to join their Scouters and enjoy a wide range of family programs, making the PTC experience one of a kind. The summer staff will lead hikes, tours, handicrafts, and a wide variety of other outdoor activities, with groups for all ages. A week-long 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 additional information on the conference, go the NCCS website www.nccs-bsa.org and click on Scouting in the Catholic Church in the left column.

NCCS Members Urged to Support Annual Appeal

This year’s Annual Appeal has begun. Funds from this campaign support the work of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting in promoting Scouting as Catholic youth ministry. A letter will be arriving soon seeking your participation.

This year, the NCCS is preparing a unique incentive to encourage participation. Donors have the opportunity to receive a special camp shirt embroidered with the logo of the 2012 Biennial Conference.

“When this was done in 2010, it contributed to one of our most productive campaigns in recent memory,” reports Ed Martin, Vice Chair-Finance. “The Finance Committee hopes that donors will be similarly motivated with this campaign.”

You Tube Video Captures Charleston Diocese Camporee

Below is a link to a video that was done by the Diocesan newspaper in the Diocese of Charleston, S.C. that captures the feeling of the annual Camporee at Camp Barstow. They were able to focus in on the vocation section and the seminarians in attendance. This may be a way to publicize your diocese’s next Camporee or Retreat. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXyx0GHRsNM
Charter is Key for Catholic Organizations to Use the Boy Scout Program in Support of Youth Ministry

By
George Sparks
Membership Committee Chair

In the beginning there was an idea! A program designed to teach young boys life skills and leadership while having fun. The big question was how do we reach these boys; how was this program to be delivered? The answer came in a flash of brilliance! The Boy Scouts of America would work with and through existing community-based organizations to reach youth, many of whom were already being served by these groups. This brilliant concept was the charter.

Any local organization whose aims and purposes are in harmony with Scouting’s may make use of the Boy Scouts of America’s educational program, which is based on a duty to God and country. Such an organization may be a religious institution, club lodge, civic group, urban agency, industry, labor group or group of citizens who get together just for the purpose of having Scouting. The Boy Scouts of America makes its program available by issuing a charter for each unit (Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, Venturing crew/ship) the organization operates.

We might use the analogy of the charter being a “franchise.” The BSA issues a franchise to a Catholic parish, or other Catholic organization, to use the program to educate and serve its young people. As with any franchise, the Boy Scouts have certain expectations that the chartered organization will use and adapt the program, as it is designed, to meet their objectives; in the case of the Catholic Church: to provide a Scouting ministry to young people. In like kind, the chartered organization can expect certain support and services provided by the Boy Scouts of America through the local BSA council. These mutual expectations are outlined in “The Annual Charter Agreement”, found online at http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/Membership/Charter_Partners.aspx.

The Catholic Church charters the third largest number of Scout units following The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the United Methodist Church. In addition to Catholic parishes, key Catholic organizations chartering units include parish organizations: e.g.: Holy Name and Altar and Rosary Societies, Serra International, parish youth ministry programs, parish schools, Knights of Columbus Knights of Peter Claver, and Catholic War Veterans Posts.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Father Stephen Salvador’s father, Seraphim Salvador, was laid to rest on Saturday, December 10, following a funeral Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in New Bedford Mass. If you would like to make a donation in his memory please send it to the Tuition Angel Fund, Saints Peter and Paul School, 240 Dover Street, Fall River, Mass. 02721 or the Restoration Fund of St. John the Baptist Parish, 344 County St., New Bedford Mass. 02740. Please keep Father Stephen and the family in your prayers.

Father Donald Hummel, had knee surgery November 29. He was in the hospital for 3 days and then to the rehab center. Please keep him in your prayers.

For Jean Ribar, who was hospitalized and is now at home recuperating.

For the latest NCCS news and information please go to http://www.nccs-bsa.org/

Region 1 Holds Conference in Vermont Despite Heavy Storms

The Region I conference was held in Brattleboro Vt. on September 17, 2011. Despite the fact that much of the Northeast was without power and had major flooding, the conference went on as scheduled.

The theme was "Find the Path, Share the Joy". The conference opened with welcoming remarks by Ed McCollin, Scout Executive of the Green Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America. The first speaker was Father Dallas, Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Burlington Vt. His topic was "Working with Difficult Youth, Skills for Listening and Affirmation." The second speaker was Dr. Ivan Hawk, Permanent Deacon for Holy Cross Church, Colchester Vt. His topic was "Social Influences and Stresses."

There were 17 attendees from six different dioceses (Burlington, Bridgeport, Hartford, Norwich, Portland, and Springfield.) The conference was held at the American Legion Hall in Brattleboro and the closing Mass was celebrated by Bishop Salvatore Matano, Bishop of Burlington, at St. Michael’s Church.

This Regional conference and training program was in keeping with the desires of the NCCS to make training more available to local leaders by having these type of regional conferences.
NCCS Membership Application and Information
Update Form

Contact Information
Name: ____________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________________ State: ____________________ Zip: __________________
Phone Home: ____________________________ Office: ___________________ Cell: __________________
Email: ____________________________________________________________________________________
(Arch)Diocese/Eparchy: ______________________________________________________________________

My contact information has changed since last update.

BSA Membership Information
Current BSA Membership Number: __________________________________ Expiration Date: ________________
With the ___________________________________________________________________________ Council, BSA.

NCCS Membership Information (Check all that apply):
☑ Executive Board or Advisory Board
☑ Chairman or Chaplain of a diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting
☑ Member of NCCS standing committee or Diocesan Committee ____________________________________________________________________________
☑ I wish to become a lifetime member (please enclose payment of $350)
☑ Already a lifetime member (confirm BSA membership number and update other information as appropriate).
☑ None of the above, but want to be listed as a supporter

Payment Information:
Membership dues are $35.00 per year or a one-time payment of $350.00 for a lifetime membership. Payment may
be made by check or credit card payable to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. The membership period
is January 1 through December 31.

Remit to: NCCS Program Assistant
Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P. O. Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015-2079

☑ MasterCard ☑ VISA ☑ Discover ☑ American Express
Credit Card Number: __________________________________ Expiration Date: ________________
Amount: $______________________________ [Credit to Account 62006-4810]
Signature: _____________________________________________________________________