The National Catholic Committee on Scouting held its Standing Committee, Advisory Committee and Executive Board meetings from April 11-14, 2013 in St. Louis, Mo. The theme for the Conference was Concern, Courage, Commitment. It was the first meetings of these groups under the new format approved by the Executive Board last year.

This meeting was highlighted by the installation of the new Chairman, Chaplain and Associate National Chaplain, along with other elected and appointed officials. Ed Martin of the Diocese of Cleveland was installed as the new Chairman for a three-year term replacing Colonel (Ret.) John Halloran of the Diocese of Lake Charles, La. Father Mike Hanifin of the Orange, Calif. Diocese takes over the role of National Chaplain, replacing Father Stephen Salvador, of the Fall River, Mass. Diocese. Father Kevin Smith of the Rockville Centre Diocese was installed as the new Associate National Chaplain.

The sessions began on April 11, with the Executive Committee and various standing committee meetings. The opening liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston and the USCCB Liaison to the NCCS. Father Stephen Salvador was the homilist.

The sessions on Friday began with the Advisory Board meeting and the meeting with the NCCS Vice-Chair for Regions. The annual Bishops Luncheon was hosted by Bishop Guglielmone and included presentations of the Silver St. George Award to four NCCS members. (See separate story on page six).

All of the NCCS Standing Committees met on Friday afternoon, as well as the Regional Chairs and Chaplains meeting. The day ended with the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy with Bishop James A. Tamayo, Bishop of Laredo, Texas, as the principal celebrant and homilist. Bishop Tamayo has served as the Chair of the Bishops Committee on Hispanic Affairs, and is a member of the Executive Board of NCCS.

A special general assembly was held Friday on the topic “Leadership or Leaderless: The impact of the potential BSA Membership policy change on Catholic units and membership.” Those attending were divided into discussion groups and discussed/raised these topics, among others, during the session:

* The concern that we are applying the same standards to our youth as we do our adults. When does a youth know what his sexual orientation really is? This is a subject of much debate.

* Our youth seem to be more accepting of others with alternate lifestyles and more likely this is not an issue for them.

* Being a homosexual does not equate to being a pedophile.

* Understanding the difference between homosexual orientation and lifestyle is critical as to which is acceptable and which is unacceptable in the eyes of the Catholic Church.

* If the recommendation is to separate from the BSA who will be the voice of the Catholic youth that remain in the BSA program?

(continued on page 6)

BSA MEMBERSHIP POLICY CHANGE

See page 5 for the full text of the newly adopted BSA Membership Policy. Follow NCCS on Facebook or check the NCCS website at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/ for any NCCS updates on this policy.
The 2013 BSA National Jamboree will be held from July 15 to 25 in a new location called the Summit Bechtel Family Scout Reserve in Mount Hope, West Virginia. The Jamboree programs and subcamp will reflect more of the International Jamborees than the past BSA National Jamborees. The programs offered will include a whole new format and a variety of new high adventure activities.

The National Jamboree will be served by 12 Catholic Chaplains. They will reside in the various subcamps and provide spiritual counsel, daily Mass, and sacramental duty. These Catholic Chaplains will work alongside the chaplains of various faiths and traditions providing service as an important member of the subcamp’s staff.

The highlight of the 2013 BSA National Jamboree will be a Catholic Mass celebrated by Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the Papal Nuncio for the United States and the various bishops, priests and deacons from the East Coast region of the United States.

The priests who will serve as Chaplains at the 2013 BSA National Jamboree include:

- Father Michael Hanifin
- Father Kevin Smith
- Father Mark Carr SJ
- Father Glenn Harris
- Father Frank Basa
- Monsignor John B. Brady
- Father Thomas Brown
- Father Leo McDowell
- Father John Peck
- Father Joe Powers
- Father Brian Rafferty
- and Father Brian Roeseler.

During the recently-completed annual meeting of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, two members from the Seattle Archdiocese presented me with a rubber bracelet with the inscription LJC SoG HMOM aS. The bracelet is being promoted by a Catholic Eagle Scout who is responding to Pope Benedict’s invitation to grow closer to Christ and evangelize others in this Year of Faith. The inscription stands for “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” You can learn more about this program at www.nwCatholicConference.com.

The gift of this bracelet reminded me of my humanity and dependence on God. The presentation was timely as I was about to assume the role of your National Chairman. I expect the next 3 years to be transformative for me. The bracelet reminded me that—as with any transformation—I must begin by acknowledging my human condition and seeking guidance from someone wiser than myself. Partnering with me on this journey is Father Michael Hanifin, your new National Chaplain. We hope to evangelize others along the way. Might you be one?

Our evangelization effort begins with ourselves and fellow Catholic Scouters. Father Mike and I presented attendees to the annual meeting a book called The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly. In this book, the author identifies what he’s found to be common behaviors of highly-engaged Catholics. We need our members to be highly-engaged Catholics and trust they will read the book. Even if you weren’t able to attend the annual meeting, you can get your own free copy of this book at www.dynamiccatholic.com.

Our evangelization effort then moves to Catholic Scouts. We have set a goal to double the rate of participation in our religious emblem and religious activity programs among Catholic Scouts and Scouters. We are expecting that we will need to increase our corps of counselors in the dioceses to make this happen.

We thank you for your interest and efforts in promoting Scouting as youth ministry. We thank Col. (ret.) John Halloran and Father Stephen Salvador for their leadership, example and mentorship the past three years. Please pray for me and Father Mike as we assume our new roles!

We are committed to doing our best. We believe the effort is necessary and will be worth it. Bishop James Tamayo of the diocese of Laredo, who recently joined our committee as our Hispanic consultant, taught me that there is a popular phrase in Spanish for this: Vale la Pena!
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**National Jamboree**
**Summit Bechtel Reserve**
July 15—25

**St. George Trek**
**Philmont**
July 10-25, 2013

**Scouting in the Catholic Church Training**
**Philmont**
July 21-27, 2013

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**Did You Know . . .?**
*By Bob Oldowski*

There is a lot of NCCS History that we don’t have. So we are doing something about it, and we need your help.

We invited people who were coming to the NCCS annual meeting in St. Louis in April, to bring items that would contribute to this history: patches, records, stories, etc. Julia Fogassy took photos and made notes of many of these. Our plan is to build a virtual museum of these on our NCCS website. We continue to invite friends to add to this.

One rare item that was shown was a St. George emblem with a silver pendant. This was one of only a few that had been specially presented to a bishop probably in 1968-69. This bishop was an uncle of Susan Guidry of New Orleans.

Another item is a Bronze Pelican pendant suspended under a pin with an Ad Altare Dei ribbon. The pendant has a removable lapel pin. It appears this was produced in this manner, as contrasted to someone modifying these items. Origin is unknown. Ideas?

We invite anyone interested in contributing to this history to contact us at Oldowski@juno.com. Join our efforts to build our virtual NCCS museum!

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**Letter from the National Chaplain**

Dear Catholic Scouters,

It seems that the Boy Scouts of America has taken on quite a number of challenges and celebrations in the summer of 2013. In May, Scouters from all over the United States will gather in Grapevine, Texas to vote on the leadership standards of Scout Leaders for the future. In July, Scouts and Scouters from all over the World will gather in Mount Hope, West Virginia to celebrate the BSA National Jamboree from July 15 to 25. This summer Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico will be the destination for 74 Boy Scouts and Venture Scouts for the Saint George Trek from July 10 to 25. This summer Philmont Scout Ranch will celebrate its 75th Anniversary.

I am looking forward to serving on the Chaplain Staff at the National Jamboree and this will be my third occasion to be a Jamboree Chaplain. It is a time for making new friends and reawakening old friendships. We will have a Catholic Mass with thousands in attendance as we wind down the National Jamboree celebrated by the Holy Father’s Ambassador to the United States.

The Philmont Scout Ranch will welcome the Saint George Trek where we have the largest number of participants at 74 youth. Some of the priests and seminarians who served as crew advisors will return with Father Jeff Kirby and Sister Teresa Gunter (Sister “T”) taking on the role of Program Directors for the Trek.

Finally from July 21 to 27 we will have another Scouting in the Catholic Church Course at the Philmont Training Center. 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.

I hope and pray that your scouting summer will be as enjoyable as mine.

Best Wishes,

Father Michael P. Hanifin
National Chaplain

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**Annual Appeal Needs Your Support**

This year’s Annual Appeal is underway and your donations are needed to support the work of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting in promoting Scouting as Catholic youth ministry. “For the past few years we have had very productive campaigns and we want to make this year as successful as well,” says newly appointed Finance Chairman Bill Davies. You can make a regular donation, remember our deceased members with a donation in their name for the memorial plaque at Philmont, or you can participate in one of the many funds, such as the Spes Mundii, to recognize long term meritorious service.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities you can contact Nancy Watts at the National Office at NCCS@scouting.org for details on how to contribute.
The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is pleased to announce the winners of the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarships for 2013. The recipients (all Eagle Scouts) are: Neil Almeida, a student at Washington High School in Freemont, Calif.; George Bagay, a student at Bishop Canevin High School in Pittsburgh, Penn.; Jonathan Cunningham, who attends Lake Travis High School in Austin, Texas; Benjamin Helkey, who attends Bishop Garcia Diego High School in Montecito, Calif.; and Keith Hurst, a student at Forest Park High School in Ferdinand, Ind.

These scholarships were established eight years ago by the family of the late Emmett J. Doerr, a dedicated Catholic Scouter who was an active member of the NCCS. Each of the five $2,000 scholarships recognizes outstanding Eagle Scout or Venturing Silver Award recipients who are registered in a program of the Boy Scouts of America.

This year’s winners were chosen from over 160 applicants from across the country based on a number of criteria including service to their home parish, leadership in their Scout units and other school or community organizations, letters of recommendation and their scholastic record.

“We take great pride in recognizing these five outstanding Catholic Scouts for their achievements as they certainly are very deserving of this recognition,” said Ed Martin, NCCS Chairman, who oversaw the scholarship committee. “As always, the committee was extremely impressed with these recipients and wish them all the very best as they go into college.”
For 103 years, the Boy Scouts of America has been a part of the fabric of this nation, with a focus on working together to deliver the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

Based on growing input from within the Scouting family, the BSA leadership chose to conduct an additional review of the organization's long-standing membership policy and its impact on Scouting's mission. This review created an outpouring of feedback from the Scouting family and the American public, from both those who agree with the current policy and those who support a change.

Following this review, the most comprehensive listening exercise in Scouting's history the approximate 1,400 voting members of the Boy Scouts of America's National Council approved a resolution to remove the restriction denying membership to youth on the basis of sexual orientation alone. The resolution also reinforces that Scouting is a youth program, and any sexual conduct, whether heterosexual or homosexual, by youth of Scouting age is contrary to the virtues of Scouting. A change to the current membership policy for adult leaders was not under consideration; thus, the policy for adults remains in place. The BSA thanks all the national voting members who participated in this process and vote.

This policy change is effective Jan. 1, 2014, allowing the Boy Scouts of America the transition time needed to communicate and implement this policy to its approximately 116,000 Scouting units.

The Boy Scouts of America will not sacrifice its mission, or the youth served by the movement, by allowing the organization to be consumed by a single, divisive, and unresolved societal issue. As the National Executive Committee just completed a lengthy review process, there are no plans for further review on this matter.

While people have different opinions about this policy, we can all agree that kids are better off when they are in Scouting. Going forward, our Scouting family will continue to focus on reaching and serving youth in order to help them grow into good, strong citizens. America's youth need Scouting, and by focusing on the goals that unite us, we can continue to accomplish incredible things for young people and the communities we serve."

**Boy Scouts of America Membership Standards Resolution**

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law:

AND WHEREAS, duty to God, does not proactively inquire about sexual orientation of employees, volunteers, or members, we do not grant membership to individuals who are open or avowed homosexuals or who engage in behavior that would become a distraction to the mission of the BSA.

AND WHEREAS, Scouting is a youth program, and any sexual conduct, whether homosexual or heterosexual, by youth of Scouting age is contrary to the virtues of Scouting; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America does not have an agenda on the matter of sexual orientation, and resolving this complex issue is not the role of the organization, nor may any member use Scouting to promote or advance any social or political position or agenda; and

WHEREAS, youth are still developing, learning about themselves and who they are, developing their sense of right and wrong, and understanding their duty to God to live a moral life; and

WHEREAS, America needs Scouting, and the organization’s policies must be based on what is in the best interest of its young people, and the organization will work to stay focused on that which unites us, and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America will maintain the current membership policy for all adult leaders of the Boy Scouts of America, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The following membership standard for youth members of the Boy Scouts of America is hereby adopted and approved, effective Jan. 1, 2014:

Youth membership in the Boy Scouts of America is open to all youth who meet the specific membership requirements to join the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Sea Scout, and Venturing programs. Membership in any program of the Boy Scouts of America requires the youth member to (a) subscribe to and abide by the values expressed in the Scout Oath and Scout Law, (b) subscribe to and abide by the precepts of the Declaration of Religious Principle (duty to God), and (c) demonstrate behavior that exemplifies the highest level of good conduct and respect for others and is consistent at all times with the values expressed in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
Four Named Silver St. George Recipients for 2013

Four NCCS members were awarded the Silver St. George Emblem at the annual Executive Board Meeting in St. Louis. The Silver St. George Award was approved by the Executive Board in 1997 to honor those NCCS members who have provided significant service to National Catholic Scouting. Recipients are members of the Boy Scouts of America and the NCCS Executive Board or one of its committees or is an individual who has otherwise contributed significant service to Catholic Scouting at the national level.

Membership on the Executive Board, Executive Committee, or Advisory Board is not a prerequisite and financial contribution alone cannot be a deciding factor in the presentation. Since 1997, 85 members have been recognized with this emblem of service. The recipients named this year were:

Father Michael Santangelo, of the Diocese of Trenton, is an Eagle Scout and has been a long time member of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. He has given workshops at several Biennial Conferences and was a course presenter at the Region 3 Training Program. He has also been both advisor and course director for the “Scouting in the Catholic Church” course at Philmont Training Center. He has also served as a member of the NCCS Chaplains Committee, Advisor for the Training Committee and currently serves as Diocesan Scout Chaplain for the Diocese of Trenton, a position he has held for the past 17 years.

Father Joseph Powers of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph has given 15 years of dedicated service to the chaplaincy for Region 9. He has also served as Chaplain for the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting for 23 years as well. He has also served as a Chaplain at the 2005 and 2010 Jamborees. Fr. Joseph’s recognitions include the Award of Merit in 1997, the Silver Beaver in 2007, and the St. George emblem in 1994. He was also awarded the Girl Scout’s St. Elizabeth Ann Seton medal.

Harvey Carter, of the Diocese of Nashville, was nominated for his outstanding contributions to the development of Catholic Youth Ministry and dedication to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting which he has been a member of since 1985. He has chaired the Religious Emblem committee since 2006, providing leadership in the development and printing of the 2012 edition of the Ad Altare Dei emblem activity book. Other accomplishments include being an ordained Deacon since 1980 for the Diocese of Nashville, the St. George Award and the Silver Beaver Award.

Margaret Matarese is from the Diocese of Arlington and has been a member of NCCS since 1998, and has served on the Training Committee, including tenure as the Chairman. She was recently installed as a NCCS Vice-Chair for Programs. In her training capacity she served on the Philmont Training Center Scouting in the Catholic Church faculty in 2007, 2010, and in 2012 served as the Course Director. Margaret is also active in the Region and Local Diocesan level as Regional Membership Chair and as an active member of the Arlington Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting.

NCCS Holds Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

The annual Banquet was held following Mass and Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger, Bishop Emeritus of the Evansville, Ind. Diocese and past USCCB Liaison to the NCCS, was the guest speaker.

The final agenda item for the conference was the annual Executive Board meeting on Sunday morning. Highlights from that meeting included the approval of two new awards – the Miter Award, named in honor of the Bishops who have supported NCCS and in particular the Philmont Trek, and the Jacques Sevin Emblem to provide benefit the Inter-America Region of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting. Jacques Sevin is credited with being the Father of International Scouting. Details on nominations will be forthcoming.

Other significant actions include the approval for the Religious Emblems Committee to develop a proposed new Religious emblem, that would be added between the Parvuli Dei and Ad Altare Dei; approval to develop five new Marian Patches, and authorization for youth in the Venture and Sea Scouts programs to earn the Ad Altare Dei and for American Heritage Girl units to use the Pope Paul VI Quality Unit Award for their units.

It was also reported that in calendar year 2012, there was a loss of 197 registered units and nearly 10,950 youth in Catholic registered units.

For further information on Catholic Scouting go to the NCCS website at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php
NCCS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

National Chair
Ed Martin

NCCS Chaplain
Father Mike Hanifin

Past National Chair
Colonel (Ret.) John Halloran

Past National Chaplain
Father Stephen Salvador

Advisory Board
Edward Gargiulo/Father Ray Fecteau

National Chair Elect
George Sparks

Associate National Chaplain
Father Kevin Smith

Vice Chair Finance *
Bill Davies/Father Dennis O’Rourke

Vice Chair
Margaret Matarese

Vice Chair
George LeCrone

Vice Chair
Michael Gannon

Vice Chair
Susan Barriball

Episcopal Liaison (USCCB) **
Bishop Robert Guglielmone

BSA Advisor **
Mark Wappel

Legal Advisor **
Richard Matthews

* Appointed
** Non-Voting

STANDING COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Chaplain
Father Gerard Gentlemen (Chairman)
Rev. Mr. Tommy Watts (Advisor)

Conference & Meetings
Father Randy Cuevas (Chairman)
Kay Davies (Advisor)

Contract Management
Barry Ekle (Chairman)

Finance
Bill Davies (Chairman)
Father Dennis O’Rourke (Advisor)

International
Scott Harvey (Chairman)
Father Stephen Salvador (Advisor)

Marketing & Public Relations
Jerry Scanlan (Chairman)
Father Roger LaChance (Advisor)

Membership
George Sparks (Chairman)
Father Don Hummel (Advisor)

Nominations
Col. (Ret.) John Halloran (Chairman)
Father Stephen Salvador (Advisor)

Religious Activities
Julia Fogassy (Chairman)
Father Joe Palacios (Advisor)

Religious Emblems
Harvey Carter (Chairman)
Father Shawn Tunink (Advisor)

Training
Ben Feril (Chairman)
Brother Ross Chamberland (Advisor)

Vocations
Susan Guidry (Chairman)
Father Ken Shuping (Advisor)
QUALITY DIOCESE AWARDS
2012


Region 2: Albany, N.Y., Buffalo, N.Y., New York, N.Y., Ogdensburg, N.Y., Rochester, N.Y., Rockville Centre, N.Y., Brooklyn, N.Y., San Juan, Puerto Rico, Ponce, Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico


Region 4: Arlington, Va., Wilmington, Del., Baltimore, Md., Washington, D.C.


Region 6: Detroit, Mich., Toledo, Ohio, Saginaw, Mich., Youngstown, Ohio, Grand Rapids, Mich., Cleveland, Ohio, Lansing, Mich., Kalamazoo, Mich., Columbus, Ohio


Region 8: St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minn.


Region 10: Galveston-Houston, Texas, Corpus Christi, Texas, Ft. Worth, Texas, Oklahoma City, Okla., Dallas, Texas, San Antonio, Texas, Tyler, Texas, Brownsville, Texas, Lubbock, Texas, Austin, Texas. Laredo, Texas, Tulsa, Okla.

Region 11: Orange, Calif., Fresno, Calif., Sacramento, Calif., San Diego, Calif., San Jose, Calif., Los Angeles, Calif., San Bernadino, Calif., Honolulu, Hawaii

Region 12: Portland, Ore., Seattle, Wash., Anchorage, Alaska

Region 13: Phoenix, Ariz., Tucson, Ariz., Denver, Colo., Colorado Springs, Colo., Salt Lake City, Utah, Santa Fe, N.M.

Region 14: St. Petersburg, Fla., Charleston, S.C., Raleigh N.C., Atlanta, Ga., Venice, Fla., Palm Beach, Fla., Charlotte, N.C., St. Augustine, Fla., Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., Miami, Fla.

Dioceses highlighted in bold have earned the Quality Award every year since its inception in 2002.