May 22, 2015

My fellow Catholic Scouters,

During the May 21 General Business Meeting of the National Annual Meeting of the Boy Scouts of Ameri-
can (BSA), BSA President Robert Gates reported his concern with the impending need to act on the organi-
zation's membership standards for adults (see reference at bottom).

We agree with Dr. Gates that there is cause to act. We also agree with Dr. Gates that chartered organiza-
tions must be allowed “to establish leadership standards consistent with their faith”. We certainly support
efforts to preserve the Boy Scouts of America. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) has
as its mission the constructive use of the program of the Boy Scouts of America as a viable form of youth
ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation. We will continue to pursue that mission until such time
BSA rules conflict with Catholic teaching. That hasn’t happened yet, nor do we expect it to happen.

As Dr. Gates has asked, I ask too that, “in the days and months ahead, everyone here reflect and pray on
our path forward.” Thank you for all you do to promote Scouting as Catholic youth ministry!

Yours in Catholic Scouting,

Edward P. Martin
National Chairman (2013-2016)

Reference: http://scoutingnewsroom.org/blog/watch-and-read-bsa-president-dr-robert-m-gates-addresses-
boy-scouts-of-america-national-annual-meeting/
The following individuals were elected in the NCCS fall elections. The Regional Chairs and Chaplains are elected by the voting members, who are the diocesan chairs and chaplains in their respective regions. National Vice Chairs are elected by all voting members.

Susan Barrill and Jim Weiskircher were elected as National Vice Chairs.

 Newly elected Regional Chairs are Pat Berney, Region 4; Jim Cordek, Region 6; Deacon Tom Gornick, Region 12; Nancy Welton, Region 13; And Diana Kullman, Region 15. John Meakin and Carroll Brennan, were appointed as Regional Chairs for Regions 1 and 14 respectively to fill the unexpired terms of the previous Chairs.

Elected as new Regional Chaplains were Father Andrew Michels, Region 8; Father Joe Powers, Region 9; Father Pat Garrett, Region 10; Father Norm Supancheck, Region 11; and Father Jason Adams, Region 14.

Congratulations to all these newly elected/appointed leaders!

For the latest information and news on Catholic Scouting please go to

http://www.nccs-bsa.org/

CHAIRMANS CORNER
BY EDWARD P. MARTIN

One of my duties as the National Chairman is to represent the NCCS on the BSA Religious Relationships Committee and at the BSA National Annual Meeting. Both of these occurred recently in Atlanta and deserve some mention from me.

Besides meeting during the BSA National meeting, the Religious Relationships Committee (consisting of leaders from all the faith-based national organizations) also conducted an afternoon workshop on using faith-based organizations to promote the formation of new Scout units. Nearly 100 council representatives attended. This is an impressive number considering this is the first time in recent memory anything like this had been done. One of the topics covered was what some of the faith-based organizations were doing currently to promote membership. I presented the Membership Initiative we had underway, some success stories and lessons learned. I was followed by the Mormons, the Methodists and the Lutherans.

In the days following, there were several more workshops, business meetings, recognition ceremonies, and meals with fellow Scouters. If you follow us on Facebook, you would have seen a picture from one of the recognition ceremonies. Bishop James Tamayo of the Diocese of Laredo presented the Parvuli Dei award to Jaden Willette, a Webelos Scout from the local council. Each year, several Scouts from the local council and representing different faiths are invited to receive their religious emblem at the BSA’s Duty to God breakfast. It’s great to see an acknowledgement of the religious emblems among the other presentations that include Silver Antelope, Silver Buffalo and Distinguished Eagle awards.

Finally, if you read my message on the cover of this issue, you know that BSA is likely to begin evaluating a change in the adult membership policy that would allow membership regardless of sexual orientation or preference. Knowing how provocative this topic may be, I will do my best to see that the Catholic position is understood by BSA and to see that BSA’s position is communicated to you. Please pray for the leaders who will be involved.

As always, I thank you for all you do to promote Scouting as Catholic youth ministry!

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.

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NCCS Chaplain           Father Michael Hanifin
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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
Dear Catholic Scouters,

Summer is upon us! School is out for the summer and we find ourselves participating in a number of summer vacation activities along with our family and friends. We rejoice because we have some extra time to rest and relax.

For the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, this summer is full of activities for Chaplains. We have another Saint George Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch from July 8 to 23. There will be 78 youth walking the backcountry of the ranch along with 16 adult advisors that include priests, seminarians and religious sisters. At the Philmont Catholic Chaplaincy we will have five chaplains that include Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger “Padre”, three priests and a seminarian. This year our Seminarian will be Cole Bestgen from the Archdiocese of Saint Louis Missouri.

At the Philmont Training Center another Scouting in the Catholic Church training course will take place from July 19th to 25. The faculty will include George Sparks, Father Michael Hanifin, Deacon Tommy Watts, Roselito de los Reyes, and Kathy Polowski. Many scouters will receive training on how to use scouting as a way to minister to youth in the Catholic Church.

This year BSA celebrates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Order of the Arrow. There will be a National Order of the Arrow Conference at Michigan State University from August 3 to 8. There will be two priests who will function as Catholic Chaplains: Father Mark Springer and Father Frank Basa.

This summer in Kirara-hama Japan a World Scouting Jamboree will take place from July 28 to August 8. Immediate Past National Chaplain Father Stephen Salvador will represent the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

It was announced that Bishop John C. Wester will become the new Archbishop of Santa Fe. We wish to congratulate this great supporter of the programs of the Boy Scouts of America. We also offer our best wishes and gratitude to Archbishop Michael Sheehan for his many years of service to the Catholics of the archdiocese and his support of scouting, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and especially his support of Philmont Scout Ranch.

Fr. Mike

Father Michael P. Hanifin
NCCS National Chaplain
(2013-2016)
The 2015 “Scouting in the Catholic Church” course is scheduled for July 19 to 25, 2015 at the Philmont Training Center located at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. 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 youth ministry and how to use the information in their dioceses or archdioceses when promoting Catholic Scouting with Scouters, priests, and youth ministers.

This year’s faculty includes:

**Father Michael P. Hanifin**

As a youth Father Michael was involved as a Cub Scout, Webelos, Boy Scout and Explorer (the precursor of Venturing). He became an Eagle Scout in July of 1972. As a member of the Order of the Arrow he was the Chapter Chief of the Serrano Chapter in the Siwinis Lodge in the L.A. Area Council and is a Vigil Honor Member. He was the Scout Chaplain for the Diocese of Orange from 2006 to 2011. He presently is the National Chaplain for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Father Michael has completed three Philmont Treks in 2006, 2009 and 2011 with the NCCS Saint George Trek. For the last six years he has served as a Philmont Chaplain. He worked three National Jamborees. In 2005 he served as a Subcamp Chaplain for the Northeast Region, and in 2010 and 2013 he was a Jamboree Headquarters Chaplain.

**Kathy Polowski**

Scouting is part of Kathy’s heritage. Her grandfather was the Scoutmaster in her small hometown in Michigan, an uncle attended the first national Scout Jamboree in Washington, DC in 1937, and her older brother was an Eagle Scout. Two sons attained Eagle rank.

Kathy was a First Class Girl Scout and leader in the Arizona Cactus Pine Council for 20 years and became involved in BSA when her sons joined Cub Scouts. After serving the pack as a den leader, Kathy became an assistant Scoutmaster and committee member. After 15 years, she continues to be involved in the troop. Kathy also serves as financial advisor for the “Bishop’s Crew”, a Venturing Crew chartered by the diocese and Serra Club.

Kathy has served the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting for 9 years, currently serving as committee chair and is a counselor for the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII programs. She is secretary for the Grand Canyon Council Interfaith Committee and a member of the steering committee for the 2015 Arizona Rosary Celebration. Kathy has earned the Bronze Pelican and St. George emblems.

**George Sparks**

George Sparks has been active in Scouting since 1957. He is an Eagle Scout, has the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow and the Ad Altare Dei award. He has been recognized with the District Award of Merit, the O. A. Founders’ Award and O. A. Distinguished Service Award, the St. George emblem from NCCS.

George has a Bachelor’s Degree in Secondary Education and taught in the Chicago Public School System for nine years. He entered the professional Service of the Boy Scouts of America and served as a district executive, program director, field director, Scout executive and Associate Director of the Relationships Division. In his latest assignment he served as the adviser to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. He retired from professional Scouting in 2011 after thirty-one years of service.

Since retiring, George has served the NCCS as Membership Chairman and Chair-elect. George has been active in community service as a member of Kiwanis, Exchange and Rotary and has served his parishes as a member of the parish council, Eucharistic minister, Lector and Commentator. He is a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

**Deacon Tommy Watts**

Deacon Tommy Watts has been involved in Scouting, as a youth and adult, for over 30 years. He has held many adult leadership positions: Webelos Leader, Pack Committee Chair, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, District Committee, and is currently the Chartered Organizational Representative for Pack and Troop 283 at Saint Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, Delaware. In his current position, he stresses that Scouting is Catholic Youth Ministry where the Christian way of life is always exposed to the scouts and expected. He has been awarded the Scouters Award, Scoutmaster’s Key, District Award of Merit from the Nassau County Council and the Del-Mar-Va Council, the Bronze Pelican and St. George Emblems.

While in formation for the diacurate, he was selected to be the Chair for the Catholic Committee on Boy Scouting for the Diocese of Wilmington, a position that he held until 2009. Currently he remains as a member on that committee. For the past 8 years he has served with the National Catholic Committee on Scouting as an advisor for the Chaplains Committee, where he has assisted the priest chair in promoting chaplaincy within the scouting program.

He is currently working on his Masters in Theology.
Jaden Willette was selected as one of four Scouts to receive his religious emblem during the Duty to God breakfast May 21 at the BSA National Annual Meeting held in Atlanta. The Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Laredo, Texas, and member of the Duty to God Breakfast Committee, presented Jaden the Parvuli Dei emblem.

On April 26, 2015 Cardinal Dolan presented 115 AAD, 69 Pius XII, five Bronze Pelicans and five St. George Emblems to Scouts in the New York area. In addition, Bray Barnes, World Chair of ICCS, presented the ICCS Duty to God Award to the Cardinal, only the 4th such award presented by ICCS. Bishop O’Hara, a newly ordained Bishop and Board member of Greater New York Council also attended and greeted Scouts from his old troop on Staten Island.

Jaden Willette was selected as one of four Scouts to receive his religious emblem during the Duty to God breakfast May 21 at the BSA National Annual Meeting held in Atlanta. The Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Laredo, Texas, and member of the Duty to God Breakfast Committee, presented Jaden the Parvuli Dei emblem.

TO MONSIGNOR JOHN BRADY

Thank you for your 60 years of service with humility, humor and positive approach as a servant of Jesus Christ.

And a special thank you from the Boy Scouts throughout the United States for your service to the Catholic Committee on Scouting at Jamborees, Camporees and Goshen Summer Camp.

From NCCS Region 4 Members:
Archdiocese of Washington
Archdiocese of Baltimore
Diocese of Arlington
Diocese of Richmond
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Diocese of Wilmington
Archdiocese of the Military Services
Diocese of St Thomas
NCCS has a unique organizational structure. In addition to a national chairman and national chaplain, each major leadership function is headed by a member of the clergy and a lay person. This is best seen in each of the NCCS committees. Typically these are titled as chair and advisor. Either could be appointed as the chair with the other then the advisor. Each function determines how they will allocate the responsibilities. This strengthens the bond between Scouting and the Church.

This came to be since NCCS was originally a committee of bishops, a committee of what is now the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Eventually priests, then lay people took on these leadership positions. The NCCS helps fund priests who serve in these positions. This encourages our clergy to participate by alleviating the costs related to these activities.
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Five Awarded $2,000 Emmett Doerr Scholarships

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is pleased to announce the winners of the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarships for 2015.

The recipients are: Nyle Almeida, a student at Washington High School in Oakland, California, Diocese of Oakland; Braeden C. Benedict, a student at Palos Verdes High School in Palos Verdes, California, Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Samuel Handshy, a student at Fred J. Page High School in Franklin, Tennessee, Diocese of Nashville; James Jaeger, a student at Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park, Illinois, Archdiocese of Chicago; Anna Nemec, a student of Joan of Arc Homeschool Academy in Taylor, Texas, Diocese of Austin.

These scholarships were established twelve years ago by the family of the late Emmett J. Doerr, who was an active member of the NCCS.

Each of the five $2000 scholarships recognizes outstanding Eagle Scouts 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. This year marked the first a female Venturer was selected.

“We are honored to recognize these five outstanding Catholic Scouts for their achievements as they certainly serve as role models in their communities,” said Bill Davies, NCCS Vice Chairman for Finance, who oversees the scholarship committee.

This year’s applicants and found it extremely difficult to have to select only five recipients.”

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED