NCCS honors four distinguished Scouters at Annual Meeting

By Ed Martin

At the recent annual meeting held in Reno, Nev. four long-serving members of NCCS were recognized with the Silver St. George Award for 2017. This award is presented for dedicated service in support of Catholic Youth Ministry at the national level.

The following NCCS members were honored at the Bishops Luncheon: Fr. Mark Carr, SJ, of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisc.; Scott Harvey of the diocese of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Diana Kullman, Archdiocese of Denver, Colo. and the Ruthenian Eparchy of the Holy Protection of Mary of Phoenix, Ariz.; and Deacon Tommy Watts of the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware.

As part of the business meeting the following individuals were inducted into their new offices. The new Regional leaders (chairs and chaplains) were elected in the fall by the voting members in their respective regions. The new NCCS vice chairs were elected by all eligible voting members.

Regional Chairmen and Chaplains (three-year term):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region 1 Chaplain</th>
<th>Fr. Leo Leblanc</th>
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<tr>
<td>Region 2 Chair</td>
<td>Rick Touchette</td>
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<td>Region 3 Chair</td>
<td>Fred Shetter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region 5 Chaplain</td>
<td>Fr. Michael Weglicki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region 6 Chaplain</td>
<td>Msgr. James Kolp</td>
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<td>Region 7 Chair</td>
<td>Chris Brandt</td>
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<td>Region 9 Chair</td>
<td>Kevin Hennessey</td>
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<td>Region 12 Chaplain</td>
<td>Fr. Leo McDowell</td>
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<td>Region 14 Chair</td>
<td>Phil Krajec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region 15 Chaplain</td>
<td>Fr. Nicholas Rachford</td>
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NCCS Vice Chairs (two-year term):

John Ribar II
Kathy Polowski
Free App is available for those attending the 2017 National Jamboree

by Jim Weiskircher

For those Catholic Scouts and Scouters going to the 2017 National Scout Jamboree, the NCCS has created an app with the help of Our Sunday Visitor. The app will have times and locations of Masses and Confession. It will also list all of the Bishops and Catholic priests that will be on staff, as well as their photos and bios.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting booth in the Duty to God and Country area will provide Scouts with the opportunity to learn more about their faith through the religious emblems and the religious activities program. They will have the chance to make their own Rosary as well as earn the Rosary patch. Scouts can also get a Scout is Reverent booklet, brochures on praying rosaries, Catholic Scout Reference Manual, and a brochure on Religious Emblems for Catholics.

The app is free and can be downloaded from the app store. It is listed under Catholic Scout Jamboree. Keep up to date with Jamboree schedule changes with the app.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, Apostolic Nuncio, celebrates Mass at the 2013 Scout Jamboree.

Chairman’s Corner

BY GEORGE SPARKS

Renew – REBUILD – Rejoice

Our just completed annual meeting starts my second year as your chairman. The theme chosen by Fr. Kevin and myself enters its second phase: REBUILD! You might ask, “Rebuild what?” There is a great deal which we can focus on rebuilding and this will be the topic of my next several articles.

Let us look at our own committees, be they at the local diocesan or at the national levels. The committee that is struggling or even nonexistent in your diocese might be a good place to start. You might feel that you don’t have enough bodies to make an effective change. Now is the time to think outside the box and seek new blood and fresh ideas from the Catholic units in your diocese. There are creative, thoughtful people out there who are committed to strengthening Catholic Scouting. Just ask for help and you might be surprised at the response.

I encourage each of our national subcommittees to seek out prospects with the idea of growing the future of our organization. If your diocese has a website, there are plenty of tech-savvy young people who would be excited at the prospect of serving as your webmaster. You might consider a quarterly newsletter for your Catholic-chartered units. Some bright young journalism student might be willing to take on the challenge of communicating the programs, activities and services provided by your diocesan committee. You’ve got nothing to lose by reaching out to your units and asking for help, especially from the high school-age Scouts who are itching to take on new challenges.

We’ve just completed our 2017 Annual Meeting in Reno, Nev., and I am very pleased with the great work accomplished by our program and administrative committees. I wish to express sincere gratitude to the Reno Diocesan Committee for their support of this important meeting. I am also thankful for the hard work which was put in by our conference committee under the leadership of Committee Advisor Kay Davies and Chairman, Fr. Randy Cuevas.

Keep up the good work and remember to Renew – REBUILD – Rejoice.
New Diocesan training course to debut next Spring at BSA

by
Mark Kramer

The NCCS Training Committee has some great news to share with the NCCS family and Diocesan Catholic Committees across the country. The Diocesan Committee Development Conference was approved by the Executive Board at the 2017 Annual Business meeting! Conference participants and Executive Committee feedback on the course has been incorporated to ensure an even stronger program for 2018.

The planning for this project started in earnest in August of 2016 at the Franciscan Friary in Saint Bonaventure, N.Y. Congratulations to our inaugural staff for developing and executing NCCS’ newest training course in about six months. The next course is scheduled at BSA's Florida Sea Base from February 27 to March 3, 2018. Come for the great information and warm Florida weather!

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2017 JERUSALEM CROSS AWARDEES

The NCCS awarded 14 Scouting in the Catholic Church participants the Jerusalem Cross for their post-course mission project. The mission project focuses on the needs of the participant's parish youth ministry or diocesan Catholic Scouting community. The focus of the mission project is developed from one of the four components of the Scouting in the Catholic Church conference: Leadership Development, Advocacy; Catechesis, Evangelization; Pastoral Care, Justice and Service; and Prayer and Worship, Community Life.

Anne Moskal, Archdiocese of Hartford
Gail Meakin, Archdiocese of Hartford
Paul Paloski, Archdiocese of Hartford
Deb Sitz, Archdiocese of Chicago
Debra Watson, Diocese of Grand Rapids
Joseph Vig, Diocese of Grand Rapids
Kim Lewis, Diocese of Kalamazoo
Phil Krajec, Archdiocese of Atlanta
Fr. Mark Carr, S.J. Archdiocese of Milwaukee
William Jenkins, Diocese of Pittsburgh
Rev. Ben Ross, Diocese of Gary
Kenneth Lee, Diocese of Norwich
Robert Paquette, Diocese of Venice Florida
Richard E. Tuggle, Diocese of Birmingham
Eagle Scout could be on his way to Sainthood

From Bryan on Scouting – a blog for BSA’s Adult leaders.

Frank Parater was born Oct. 10, 1897, in Richmond, Va.

As a teenager, he became active in Boy Scout Troop 40 — then in the Richmond Council and now in the Heart of Virginia Council.

He was just one of 96 young men who became an Eagle Scout in 1915. The feat was so rare that Boy’s Life magazine published the names of all new Eagle Scouts in its pages.

Parater was one of the magazine’s earliest fans. He wrote frequent letters to Boy’s Life sharing snapshots and stories with the magazine’s editors. His name was published in at least seven different issues of the magazine, including the February 1914 issue where he expressed his desire to become pen pals with a fellow Scout. The magazine called this mail-exchange service “Lonesome Corner.”

Nearly a century after his death, leaders in the Catholic Church want to honor Parater’s life with an even rarer honor: Sainthood.

Parater died of rheumatic fever in Rome; he was just 22. But in that short life he sought perfection as a student, Scout and seminarian. Just before he died, he wrote a letter to his Scout troop back home. He told them, that, when their time came, he’d warmly welcome them to “the campfire of eternal life.”

In 2001, church leaders began the canonization process for Parater — formally initiating the steps toward sainthood.
Region 1: John V. Meakin, Region Chair/Rev. Leo LeBlanc, Region Chaplain

Region 2: Richard Touchette, Region Chair/Rev. James Lang, Region Chaplain
Buffalo, N.Y.; AD-New York, N.Y.; Mayaguez, Puerto Rico; AD-San Juan, Puerto Rico; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Rockville Center, N.Y.; Rochester, N.Y.

Region 3: Fred Shetter, Region Chair/Rev. Michael Santangelo, Region Chaplain
Camden, N.J.; Greensburg, Penn.; Pittsburgh, Penn.; Harrisburg, Penn.; Paterson, N.J.; Erie, Penn.; AD-Newark, N.J.; AD-Philadelphia, Penn.; Allentown, Penn.

Region 4: Pat Berney, Region Chair/Msgr. John B. Brady, Region Chaplain

Region 5: Paul Bell, Region Chair/Rev. Michael Weglicki, Region Chaplain

Region 6: Jim Cordeik, Region Chair/Msgr. James Kolp, Region Chaplain
Columbus, Ohio; Kalamazoo, Mich.; Saginaw, Mich.; Lansing, Mich.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; AD-Cincinnati, Ohio; Youngstown, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Toledo, Ohio; AD-Detroit, Mich.

Region 7: Chris Brandt, Region Chair/Rev. Mark Carr, S. J., Region Chaplain

Region 8: Jim Rice, Region Chair/Rev. Andrew Michels, Region Chaplain
AD-St Paul and Minneapolis, Minn.; St. Cloud, Minn.

Region 9: Kevin Hennessey, Region Chair/Rev. Mark Spring, Region Chaplain
Davenport, Iowa, AD-Dubuque, Iowa, Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo.

Region 10: Charley Raimond, Region Chair/Rev. Pat Garrett, Region Chaplain
Beaumont, Texas; AD-Oklahoma City, Okla.; Corpus Christi, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; AD-Galveston-Houston, Texas; Austin, Texas; Laredo, Texas; Dallas, Texas; AD-San Antonio, Texas; Tulsa, Okla.; Tyler, Texas.

Region 11: Lito de los Reyes, Region Chair/Rev. Norm Supancheck, Region Chaplain
Orange County, Calif.; San Jose, Calif.; Fresno, Calif.; AD-Los Angeles, Calif.; Las Vegas, Nev.; San Bernardino, Calif.; AD-San Francisco, Calif.; Sacramento, Calif.; San Diego, Calif.

Region 12: Deacon Tom Gornick, Region Chair/Rev. Leo McDowell, Region Chaplain
AD-Portland, Ore.

Region 13: Nancy Welton, Region Chair
AD-Santa Fe, N.M.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Tucson, Ariz.; Gallup, N.M.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Phoenix, Ariz.; AD-Denver, Colo.

Region 14: Carroll Brennan, Region Chair/Rev. James Adams, Region Chaplain
AD-Atlanta, Ga.; Charleston, S.C.; St. Augustine, Fla.; Palm Beach, Fla.; Savannah, Ga.; Petersburg, Fla.; Venice, Fla.
Did You Know…?
By Bob Oldowski
NCCS Historian

When the Vatican announced that Rome would be the site of World Youth Day in the Millennium Year 2000, NCCS members questioned how we might encourage U.S. Scouts to participate. Joe O’Brien of Boston suggested and implemented a plan and promoted it through NCCS to form a Scout contingent. He initiated Venturing Crew 2000 chartered to St. Mary Parish in Georgetown Mass. This was a unique Crew, comprised of members from many different states.

On Aug 10, 2000 a group of 45 youths and adults including four priests convened in Boston and took off via Zurich to Rome. After a day of adjustment the group went by bus to Assisi for the day, returning that night to Rome. They had two days to tour Rome and the Vatican before the official start of World Youth Day (actually a five day event).

They joined thousands of young people for religious education experiences, pilgrimages, social events and daily Mass. And yes, finding Scouts from other countries they traded patches. They took part in another pilgrimage on Friday to the Tor Vagarta university site where they and thousands of others kept overnight vigils prior to the visit of Pope John Paul II during the next two days. An estimated two million people attended the Sunday papal Mass. The next day the exhausted crew returned back to Boston and then to their own states across the USA. This was indeed a monumental religious experience.

Don’t miss the Scouting in the Catholic Church conference at Philmont Scout Ranch.

God is calling you! Don't miss this great opportunity!

You are invited to join us July 16-22, 2017 at the Philmont Training Center just outside of Cimarron, N.M. for a wonderful week in which you will have a chance to learn more about our Catholic Scouting programs, our Catholic faith, reflect on your role in Scouting, and discover ways to reinforce that Scouting is youth ministry. Come solo or bring your family and enjoy the wildlife and beauty of "God's Country".

"God's Country". How did the Philmont Scout Ranch get that nickname? I don't know who first coined the saying, but for me it is an accurate reference. Something special happens the minute I arrive at Philmont. The beauty of God's handiwork can be seen everywhere—in delicate wildflowers, in the new rays of sun rising above the eastern prairie at dawn or in the pink, orange and purple hues fading over Mt. Phillips at sunset. A fawn scampering about the Villa lawn under the watchful eye of a nearby doe or the funny scene when wild turkeys are startled and try to "fly" away to safety are memorable. There is a sense of peace that comes with the mild breeze rustling the leaves of the aspen or upon seeing a rainbow in the dark sky after a cloud-burst. For many of us, the outdoors is where we first discovered God and at Philmont it is certainly a place to enjoy that discovery.

In the Scouting in the Catholic Church conference, participants will get to know each other and share moments of insight and fellowship. Making a new friend is certainly a blessing from God. Sharing in the Sacrament of the Eucharist at daily Mass with fellow Catholic Scouters and trek participants from around the country and observing a reverence and love for God reflected on their faces is moving.

"The mountains are calling and I must go" is a popular saying on mugs and other souvenirs. This can be changed a bit to more accurately express my thoughts..."GOD is calling and I must go." Philmont. Scouting in the Catholic Church 2017. Please join us for a week in God's Country and see what kind of special memories God has in store for you!

For more information, please visit our website at nccs-bsa.org and click on the Diocesan CCS button on the home page. Then click on Training and the link for Scouting in the Catholic Church will take you to the webpage with more details and links for registering. Please contact Kathy at 480-244-6806 or email kpolo55@gmail.com with questions.
New Religious Activities and Patches Are Released
by
Chuck Lamb

The Religious Activities Committee of NCCS is introducing seven new Religious Activities on July 1st. Our Lady of Fatima, in the Marian Series, is being introduced to coincide with this year’s 100th Anniversary.

The Modern Saint Series adds three popular and well-known saints: Faustina Kowalska, John Paul II and Mother Teresa. These are among the best known of the Modern Saints and are expected to be among the most popular Religious Activities. Every Saint has a story to tell. The less-known Saints often have the most fascinating stories to share.

The Faith Series will also introduce three anticipated Religious Activities with rich teachings of our Faith: Divine Mercy, Eucharistic Adoration and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Many Diocesan Departments of Education have indicated interest in using these Religious Activities to enhance what they are teaching, while making it more interesting.

Future, additional release dates will be determined by tracking the use of all of the current Religious Activities. Facebook is responsible for increased awareness, as a result of the growing number of “hits” on Facebook. The important role of parents, Scouting Leaders, group Leaders and teachers in Religious Education is as evident today as it ever has been. Youth may be more aware of what is out there, but they still need the adult parents and leaders to bring them together to “Learn and Earn”.

We are asking our readers to help by sending success stories from their dioceses and parishes. We want to start listing the successful ideas that units, dioceses and parishes are developing for “Learning and Earning” Religious Activities and Patches. For example, Catholic Radio, using “Saint of the Month” (In what ways?), and Religious Education Classes (What are you doing?).

This just keeps getting more and more interesting and fun. Please send your ideas, suggestions and success stories to: Religious Activities Committee/NCCS.

Six Awarded $2,000 Emmett Doerr Scholarships
By
Nancy Watts

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is pleased to announce the winners of the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarships for 2017. The recipients are: Mr. Gabriel Calvo, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Archdiocese of Santa Fe; Mr. Anthony Michael Han Castrodale, Galena, Ohio, Diocese of Columbus; Mr. Jeremy Crist, Sarasota, Florida, Diocese of Venice; Mr. Patrick McMonagle, Davenport, Iowa, Diocese of Davenport; Mr. Patrick Martin Sprigler, Upper Arlington, Ohio, Diocese of Columbus; Mr. Ryan Traynor, Emerald Hills, California, Archdiocese of San Francisco.

The Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarship program was established thirteen years ago by the family of the late Emmett J. Doerr, who was an active member of the NCCS.

Each of the six $2,000 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 more than 100 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.
2014-17 Membership Initiative ends — new efforts to begin in the Fall

The current Membership Initiative started in the Fall of 2014 and ends this year. The new initiative will be launched in January 2018 with a incentive program for local dioceses. More information will be available this Fall.

Totals for the recently completed campaign are as follows:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Units</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dropped</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net</td>
<td>-248</td>
<td>-216</td>
<td>-241</td>
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