

National
Catholic
Committee
Scouting®



Vocation Committee Handbook

**A Resource for
Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting
Vocation Committee Chair**

■ This Vocation Handbook is offered to present the mission, objectives and role of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® (NCCS) and your (Arch)Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting in the ***Pastoral Plan*** of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) developed following the Third Continental Congress on Vocations in North America, April 2003.

Mission - NCCS

■ Provide timely guidance on diocesan Scout ministry needs and publicize the programs and activities of the national committees to diocesan committees.
(Further information on NCCS is available at web page: <http://www.nccs-bsa.org>)

NCCS Vocations Committee

Chairman: John E. "Jack" Thompson, 5700 Morningside Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630-9218
(812) 853-3273(H) (812) 424-5536(B).

Committee Advisor: Fr. Scott Wood, 6700 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD 20747
(301) 735-5532

Mission - Vocation Committee

■ Develop an awareness of Catholic Church Vocations in Catholic youth through Scouting Programs.

Message from NCCS Vocation Chairman to DCCS Diocesan Chairmen:

All important activities in Scouting and ministries in our Church require dedicated efforts by key individuals. Effective leaders gather knowledge, experience, and resources to focus attention on a particular activity or ministry, then develop ways to accomplish that mission.

Bishop Gerald A. Gettlefinger, Episcopal Advisor to NCCS, has stated, "*The Catholic Church is fortunate to have in the Scouting movement so apt a vehicle for Christian development. It can be noted that many church leaders today, clerical, religious, and lay, have come from the ranks of Scouting.*"

The NCCS Vocation Committee has been given the responsibility to provide support and encouragement for each Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS) to be a part of the USCCB *Pastoral Plan* regarding vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life. The Pastoral Plan was developed following the Third Continental Congress held in Montreal, CA in April 2002.

Chairs of DCCS are asked to appoint an individual to fill the position of DCCS Vocation Chair. The Vocation Chair Handbook is a useful tool giving resources and information to support for this venture.

The mission of the DCCS Vocation Chair is to create a positive environment in which a Scout may hear God's Call and begin their vocation discernment process. With the help of effective Vocation Chairs we will be better prepared to provide "a vehicle for Christian development," as noted by Bishop Gettlefinger. Catholic Scouting is recognized as playing an important role in Diocesan Youth Ministry. By adding this emphasis for Church vocation affirmation and discernment the DCCS and the NCCS will join with other Catholic lay organizations collaborating

with the USCCB Vocation Committee in its mission of identifying and encouraging young men and women to find their greatest joy in service to the Church.

We look forward to receiving information from your DCCS regarding the name, address, phone and e-mail address of the person appointed as your Vocation Chair. Your leadership and support for this new position is appreciated. Your commitment to form an effective Vocation Committee will offer a great service for diocesan vocation office and the NCCS.

As DCCS Chair, provide a letter to introduce your new Chairman to your Bishop and (Arch) Diocesan Vocation Director. This is an important step to establish a link between your DCCS Committee and the coordinated vocations efforts of your diocese.

It is strongly recommended that the DCCS Vocation Chair works closely with your (Arch) Diocesan Vocation Director to coordinate vocation awareness programs. We also suggest that the Vocation Committee contact and work closely with local organizations, such as Serra Clubs, Knights of Columbus, and various Religious Orders to secure Vocational materials for distribution. Members of the NCCS Vocation Committee welcome suggestions to make this Handbook more useful and effective.

Action step: Select DCCS Vocation Chair and send name to NCCS Chair, address above.

Objectives

■ **Promote the establishment of a Vocations Subcommittee within the Diocesan Committee.**

Each (Arch)Diocesan Committee on Scouting (DCCS) uses a committee structure to accomplish its mission. During the mid-1990's while serving as Episcopal Advisor to the NCCS, Bishop Robert Carlson gave a challenge to the NCCS. He included Catholic Scouting in the United States Council of Catholic Bishops Vocation Committee's "National Strategy on Vocations." The challenge to all Catholic Scouts and Scouters to have discernment activities for Scouts. In order to meet this challenge, each DCCS was strongly encouraged to appoint a Chair of Vocations and use the ideas and resources given in the NCCS Vocation Chair Handbook to implement discernment programs and activities. The USCCB *Pastoral Plan* replaced the "National Strategy of Vocations" in 2003.

■ **Provide written materials, audio and video aids to diocesan Scouters, vocations directors and local church leaders to aid them in fostering and encouraging to Church Vocations through Scouting.**

This Vocation Committee Handbook is the first effort to support the work of the Vocation Chair. Other materials will be prepared. There is a list of Vocations resources available through a network of Catholic organizations published in the Appendix.

■ **Provide avenues to materials and resources that spiritually strengthen families and aid them in offering vocation and leadership models within their homes.**

The family is the source of all vocations. Surveys of priests and men and women religious show that the encouragement of parents and other family members played an important part in

their discernment process. Catholic Scouting seeks to involve the family at all levels of its programs. There are opportunities to reinforce the need for service to the Church and a vocation related message in programs already offered to youth using materials from your (Arch)Diocesan Vocation Director and other national vocation support groups.

■ **Provide a forum to share thoughts, methods and programs that can be applied to promote vocations in all dioceses.**

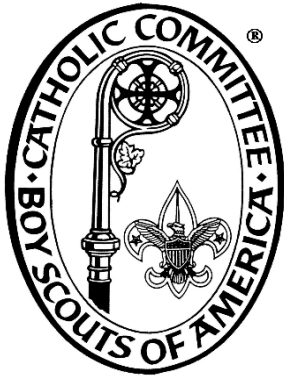
All DCCS Vocation Committees are encouraged to submit information on their successful activities and programs to the NCCS Vocations Committee to be shared to benefit all dioceses. (See the Feedback form at the back of the Handbook.)

SCOUTING FORMS CHRISTIAN LEADERS

By Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger

Diocese of Evansville, Episcopal Liaison

National Catholic Committee on Scouting®



The Boy Scouts of America needs little introduction. For over ninety years, Scouting in the United States alone has proven itself, again and again, to be an ideal program for both the Scouts and the adults who work with them. Scouting spans the years from boyhood to young adulthood to which boys and young men commit themselves voluntarily.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting® is the necessary link established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to work hand-in-hand with the Boy Scouts of America. To begin with, the Scout Oath and Law of the Boy Scouts of America embodies values and morals that are solidly Christian, indeed Catholic. Doing one's best; helping others at all times; paying attention to moral, mental and physical well-being; and striving to grow in virtue are all essential parts of Scouting.



In the Catholic Church, there is one particular aspect of Scouting that deserves special attention today. Scouting has tremendous potential for developing Christian leaders from among Catholic youth. It provides a powerful complement to the Church's ministry to Catholic youth. Scouting, under the tutelage of adult Catholic leaders, offers young people a unique opportunity to grow in faith and in leadership in the company of their peers.

In these our times many of our young men and women are struggling with an identity crisis. They sometimes find themselves uncertain and confused. Boys involved in the Scouting experience from boyhood to adulthood, and boys and girls in Venturing, have a real opportunity to come to know self in a safe and wholesome environment. They learn personal ideals that give clarity of purpose to their lives. They are able to attain skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.

Training, challenging, and supporting young men and women to develop responsibility, maturity, and leadership are constant elements of Boy Scouting and Venturing. At the same time, youth involved in Scouting are called on to be independent, to grow in self-reliance, and to learn to interact with others --- to experience interdependence.

Through the religious emblems program, Scouts have an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and to engage in regular service to their parish churches. Through the presence and activity of Scout chaplains, Scouts have an opportunity to develop lasting friendships with priests and religious outside the customary parish and school settings. Frequently called upon to lead religious services, to help out in parish or diocesan activities, to engage in programs directed toward justice and charity, Scouts have an opportunity to experience and be a part of Church in ways that are both vital and personal to them.

I strongly recommend the highly developed, proven program of Scouting under Catholic leadership. Scouting provides adult role models as well as companionship for young people. The

men and women involved in working with Scouts from the Tiger Cub to the Explorer level are an exemplary group of adults. I have seen outstanding Catholic lay leaders devote untold hours of their time and energy to Scouting because they believe that Scouting is vital in today's world. They see it as a unique opportunity for young people to grow in faith, life, and leadership. I share their vision and enthusiasm.

With all of its possibilities the Scouting program as used by Catholic leaders can assist young men and women in becoming outstanding members of their parish and school communities. Through interaction with fellow Scouts, through church-related activities, and through standing in awe of God's creation in natural outdoor surroundings, Scouts can experience in a powerful way the love of God and neighbor. They establish friendship with others. They learn of the interdependence required of one another when each other's life is at stake.

The Catholic Church is fortunate to have in the Scouting movement so apt a vehicle for Christian development. It can be noted that many church leaders today, clerical, religious, and lay, have come from the ranks of Scouting.

I encourage parents, priests, religious leaders, and teachers to support Scouting. If you have a pack, troop, or post in your parish, help in any way you can. If your parish or local church community does not have a Scouting program, please give it serious consideration. Scouting offers a rare opportunity for young people to develop as leaders, to appreciate God's creation, and to experience God's love in and through working with others. I believe in Scouting!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Gerald A. Gettelfinger

Episcopal Liaison

National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

Annual Efforts

■ **Maintain appropriate relationships with other Catholic groups and organizations with vocation focus as directed by the National Chairman.**

The USCCB *Pastoral Plan* regarding vocations in the Church encourages collaboration of all Catholic groups to share resources and focus efforts to increase the number of quality candidates discerning priesthood or consecrated life. Many priests are Eagle Scouts or have had a positive experience through Catholic Scouting. The NCCS and each DCCS have a responsibility to accept the challenge to join in the process to encourage youth in Scouting to listen to God's Call in their life. (See Appendix for list of organizations that support vocations to serve the Church.)

Special Programs and responsibilities of the NCCS Vocations Committee

■ **Develop and maintain a Vocations Handbook for use in diocesan Scouting programs.**

This Handbook is a tool for DCCS Vocation Chairmen to establish programs to encourage discernment through vocation activities under the auspices of Catholic Scouting. The NCCS Vocation Committee is committed to provide continuing resources and training to help Meet the challenges of the USCCB *Pastoral Plan* regarding Church vocations.

■ **Develop and maintain a Catholic Chaplain's Aide Handbook for the development of Catholic youth leaders as a supplement to BSA Manual(s).**

The Chaplain's Aide is a BSA leadership position with a Handbook offering job description and instructions for Scouts. A Catholic Supplement has been prepared to assist Catholic Chaplain's Aides. The DCCS Vocation Chair is to encourage each Catholic Scouting Unit to develop this leadership position and is to provide support and training events to maximize the use of this position at the unit level.

■ **Review effectiveness and suitability of the Ministry Potential Discerner (MPD) for Scouting use and evaluate other established methods of calling forth young people within a diocese.**

Contact your (Arch)Diocesan Director of Vocations to determine the use of MPD as a vocations discernment tool. Some DCCS Vocation Committee Chairs use the **Ministry Potential Discerner** as a follow-up program for Scouts who have completed Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius Religious Emblems. (See Appendix for more information on M P D)

■ **Prepare content to supplement Scouting materials for Catholic use**

The NCCS Vocation Committee is charged with the responsibility of seeking ways to present our mission to offer youth opportunities to discern God's Call while participating in Scouting activities and faith development recognition programs.

Resources - National Organizations offering support for Church Vocations
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)/ Vocations Committee

Chairman: Most Reverend Kevin Britt, Diocese of Detroit

Reverend Edward J. Burns, Executive Director, Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation, 3211 4th ST N E, Washington, DC 20017-1194 Ph: 202 541-3033 FAX: 541-3222.

Web Page: <http://www.usccb.org/vocations/index.htm>

2003 update: Pastoral Plan from the 3rd Continental Congress has been published, and is available on line - <http://www.usccb.org/vocations/summary.pdf>

Episcopal to the NCCS - (National Catholic Committee on Scouting)

Most Reverend Gerald A. Gettelfinger, Bishop of Diocese of Evansville, 4200 North Kentucky Avenue, P.O. Box 4169, Evansville, IN 47724-0169 Phone: 812-424-5536

National Catholic Committee on Scouting® – William Davies, National Chairman. NCCS provides timely guidance on diocesan Scout ministry needs and publicize the programs and activities of the national committees to diocesan committees. (Information on NCCS is available at web page: <http://www.nccs-bsa.org>) or E-mail: wdaviesnccs@hotmail.com

Vocations Committee - John “Jack” Thompson jackt2@gmail.com

Updates to the Vocation Handbook will be distributed as programs are piloted and approved.

Contact the Committee to share projects your Committee has developed to share resources to promote vocations. NCCS Vocation Committee: www.nccs-bsa.org/committees/committees.php

Serra International/USA Council - Edward Verbeck, Executive Director

The Mission of Serra is to promote vocations to priesthood and consecrated life, encourage seminarians and to build the personal spirituality of Serrans. To locate Serra Clubs (Serra International-USA Council) contact the Arch/Diocese Vocation Director or Call or write to: Serra USA Council, Suite 802, 65 E Wacker PL, Chicago, IL 60601-7203, Phone: 888-777-6681 FAX: 777-6803 or Serra on the internet: www.serraus.org

National Coalition of Church Vocations -

Sr. Diane Poplawski, OP, Executive Director, 5420 S. Cornell AVE, #105, Chicago, IL. 60615-5654, Phone: 773-955-5453, 800671-NCCV. The NCCV publishes an annual Catalogue of vocation related materials for various age groups for all church vocations. Printed, audio and video programs are available. E-mail: NCCV400@aol.com Website: www.nccv-vocations.org

National Religious Vocation Conference -

Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director, 5420 S. Cornell AVE., #105, Chicago IL 60615-5604. Phone: 800-671-6228, FAX: 773-363-5454, www.nrv.net. Provides information regarding vocations, religious communities and other ministries related to the discernment process in a person's life.

Vocation Resources (Continued)

National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors -

J. Steven Covington, Executive Director, NCDVD, 450 Hewett Street, Neillsville, WI 54456
Phone: 715-254-0830, FAX: 843-280-0681. E-mail: ncdvd@aol.com, Website: www.ncdvd.org
Provides support for Vocation Directors through the shared knowledge and programs to assist in recruitment and discernment issues in our Church today.

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc.

Robert McCarty, National Director, 415 Michigan AVE N E, Suite 40, Washington, DC 20017
Phone: 202-636-3825, FAX: 202-526-7544. Website: www.nfcym.org
National Catholic Youth Conference (**NCYC**) - A major youth ministry program that includes participation of Scouting, Explorer and Venturing age youth. This program is coordinated through the (Arch)Diocesan Youth Ministry Office. 2003 NCYC will be 11/13-16 in Houston, TX

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus have a long history of supporting vocations and providing manpower for programs and financial resources. Supreme Knight, Carl A. Anderson. Contact local K. of C. Council, Vocation Committee Chairman to obtain assistance or write to: 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT, 06510. Phone: 203-772-2130 ext 574.
Website: <http://www.kofc.org/faith/vocations.cfm>

Parish Vocation Awareness Committees (PVAC)

Many parishes have established PVAC's with a mission to promote in their parish an environment that encourages budding interest in priesthood and professed religious life. Identify parishes with PVAC's and collaborate with these dedicated vocation promoters. The Arch/diocesan Vocation Director in most diocese have data base with information on their parish vocation committees.

Ministry Potential Discerner

Everyone is called to a unique ministry by virtue of Baptism. Literally thousands of potential vocations to the priesthood, religious life and spiritual leadership are simply not identified and called forth. The **MPD Self-Assessment Survey** is a comprehensive spiritual evaluation tool that satisfies the first step in the vocation process -- identification. The MPD is a discernment instrument with age appropriate versions for grade school, high school and college age students. The Assessment identifies the person's values toward self, family, Church, God and Community and the assessment indicates a likelihood of interest in priesthood or religious life. Raymond A Marchi, Assistant Executive Director, MPD
International Headquarters, Located at St. Pius X Campus, 4313 S. Oak Park AVE., Stickney, IL 60402. Website: www.mpdinc.org

Pastores Dabo Vobis

Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Formation of Priests in the Circumstances of the Present Day, by Pope John Paul II - "ORIGINS" - full document is available from Serra International/USA Council. Serra on the internet supplies catalog:
<http://www.serraus.org/catalog> resoruces/vocation-marterials.htm



How to help your Catholic Scouting program become integrated with (Arch)Diocese Vocations effort:

Introduce yourself to the (Arch)Diocesan Vocation Director:

Request the Chair of your DCCS to write a letter to (Arch)Diocesan Vocation Director to introduce the new Vocation Chair, ask for an opportunity to be a DCCS representative on the (Arch)Diocesan Vocation Committee, and ask about discernment activities for Scouting age youth. Collaboration at the diocesan level is critical to the success of the work of this Committee and will add credibility to your vocation efforts. (Sample letter in the Appendix)

(Arch)Diocesan Vocation Awareness Activities

Most Vocation Directors publish a calendar of Vocation events. The events that are presented as discern activities are of particular interest for the DCCS Vocation Committee. Request a copy of the calendar, publish items in DCCS Newsletter and coordinate Catholic Scout involvement. Encourage Troops or Scouts working on Religious Emblems to attend the Ordination of Permanent Deacons, Transitional Deacons, Priests, and the Chrism Mass to introduce them to these celebrations.

Parish Vocation Awareness Committees (PVAC) - Identify and collaborate with existing PVAC's, especially parishes with Scouting Units and PVAC's. Contact the Diocesan Vocation Director's Office for this information. Remember that there are Catholic Scouts in Units sponsored by other organizations who deserve our support.

Catholic Quality Unit Award - Pope Paul VI for Catholic Chartered Scouting Units

The DCCS is highly encouraged to complete the applications for the Catholic Chartered Unit Recognition. Meeting the requirements for this award shows that a Unit has planning and carrying out its mission and responsibilities to Catholic youth. Requirement number six of the Pope Paul VI Award is a Vocation Activity. There are various ways to fulfill this part of the requirements. Consider the age group of youth to whom the program is offered. Download application: web page: <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/pdf/ppvi.pdf>

Youth Ministry/Venture Crew

The DCCS is encouraged to be a Chartered Partner for a Venture Crew. The Crew could participate in planning and presenting the annual retreat for Catholic Chartered Troops. A Venture Crew provides opportunities for service and leadership skills that train future Church leaders. Contact NCCS and your local Council Director for Venture Crews for support in this effort.

Annual Catholic Scouting Retreat

Most DCCS Committees plan and present a retreat annually. This activity can offer youth an opportunity to consider their future state of life and discern God's Call in their life. Youth want to find their special state of life and the work that will give the most joy and service to God and his people. Discovery and discernment activities that are fun can be included as one part of the annual retreat planning.

Appendix:

(Sample letter to Bishop/Voc Dir. to introduce DCCS Vocation Chairman)

Most Rev.....
(Arch)Diocese of
Address.....
City, State Zip.....

Dear

The Vocations Committee of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® has asked our Diocesan Committee on Scouting to appoint a Vocations Committee Chairman to work with the Diocesan Vocation Director to invite youth in our program to consider serving our Church as a priest or professed religious.

The NCCS Vocations Committee pointed out to us that many of the same qualities and core values that make a good Catholic Scout are the same qualities that would make good future lay leaders and priests for our Church. Our Chairman will coordinate activities for our Catholic Scouts that would create an environment in which a young person with a budding interest in priesthood or concremented life would feel nurtured.

Our new Vocation Committee Chair is, who has received information from the NCCS Vocations Committee and would like to share this information with you and your Vocation Director.

We look forward to giving more support to the discernment process for our Catholic Scouts and stand ready to participate in vocation activities that are appropriate for our Scouting age youth.

Thank you for your loving service to Catholic Scouting, our diocese and the universal Church.

Sincerely,

....., Chairman

cc: Diocesan Vocation Director,, President - Serra Club of
Vocation Chair, Knights of Columbus, Council.....
NCCS Regional Representative, NCCS Vocation Chairman, P. O. Box 11526, K.C., MO
64138

Suggested Prayers - additional prayers are available at:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/vocations/prayereng.htm>

Loving and Generous God,
it is You who call us by name
and ask us to follow You.

Help us to grow in the Love
and Service of our Church
as we experience it today.

Give us the energy and courage
of Your Spirit
to shape its future

Grant us faith-filled leaders
who will embrace Christ's Mission
of love and justice.

Bless the Church
by raising up dedicated and generous
leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve Your people as Sisters,
Priests, Brothers, Deacons
and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better
and open our hearts
to hear Your call.

We ask this through our Lord.

A Scouts Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, in baptism You called me by name, and made me a member of our people, the Church. I praise You for Your goodness. I thank You for our gifts. Father bless your Church with love. Raise up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and from our friends who will serve as priests, deacons, brothers, sisters and brothers. Send Your Spirit to guide and strengthen me that I may serve Your people following the example of our son, Jesus Christ, in whose name I offer this prayer. Amen.

Loving God,
Is it I, Lord?

Are you calling me to a vocation
of ministry in the Church as
Priest, Sister, Brother or Deacon?
Or if I am already living out a life's
vocation, are you asking me to help
call others to the ministry of
leadership in the Church?

We do need men and women to help
lead us as Church, Lord. We are your
people of the valley, prairie and pines.
Speak to us Lord.

Open the minds and hearts of many
men and women to live your Word
and build your Kingdom.

Speak to me Lord.

Plant your Word within me so that
whatever you call me to be or do
I may say Yes, Here I Am Lord.

Lord here I am!

What would you like me to
do with my life?

(Pause to listen to God for a moment)

Teach me to do your
will, Lord.

And let your Holy Spirit
guide me!

PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

O Divine Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant to our young people true generosity in following Your Call, and bestow upon them your grace to persevere in overcoming all obstacles to their vocation.

Give parents that faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which shall inspire them to encourage their children to be open to God's service and rejoice when a child of theirs is called to the religious life.

Let Your example and that of your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both children and parents, and let your grace sustain them. Amen.

Page 3- Pastoral Plan for the Third Continental Congress on Vocations to the Ordained Ministry and Consecrated Life in North America has replaced the "Future Full of Hope - National Strategy On Vocations." These programs are under the direction of the United States Conference on Catholic Bishops, Bishops' Committee on Vocations and Bishops' Committee on Priestly Formation
More Information on the Pastoral Plan go to the USCCB Vocation Committee webpage:

<http://www.usccb.org/vocations/summary.pdf>



Serra and Scouting

Scouting in the Catholic Church

What is Catholic Scouting?

Boy Scouts of America - Scouting is the world's largest youth organization. Within this organiza-

tion, under the auspices of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® (NCCS), there are more than 490,000 Catholic boys and adults. Scouting through NCCS helps strengthen and extend the Church's work with youth. The three major programs offered as youth ministry by NCCS working through regional and diocesan committees are

- Cub Scouts - serving boys age 7 - 10
- Boy Scouts - serving boys age 11 - 18
- Venture Crews - serving boys and girls age 14 - 21

There are 9,587 units chartered by Catholic organizations in the United States. The youth in these units participate in faith development programs offered by the NCCS. These age appropriate programs, religious emblems and annual retreats, augment the religious instruction that Catholic youths receive through Catholic schools and religious education classes.

These programs draw together the support of the family and the parish community to offer an opportunity for Catholic youth to develop their faith and relationship with God.

What Church Organizations work with Scouting?

Under the authority of the (Arch)bishop, Diocesan Catholic Committees on Scouting (DCCS) are organized and training is provided by the NCCS through a Regional Chairman. Each DCCS is made up of trained volunteers and a Chaplain appointed by the Bishop.

In addition to the programs for youth, the NCCS provides training for Catholic Scouters as youth ministers in their role as Leaders for Catholic Scouts and Scouting units. NCCS Web Page: www.nccs-bsa.org

How the Program Works

What Scouting activities does DCCS offer?

Units which offer a quality program, provide training for youth and adults, and include a vocations awareness program each year earn the Pope Paul VI Unit Award, a National Quality Recognition for Catholic Chartered Units. Serra Foundation has encouraged this recognition by funding this recognition. Faith development activities include

- annual Scout Retreats or vocation camporees
- field trips to a seminary
- community-parish based service projects
- training sessions for spiritual and apostolic formation of the Scout Leaders
- youth and adult vocation workshops
- participation in Bishop's Campaign for Human Development

- Religious Emblems Programs
- Adult Recognition for Catholic Youth Ministry
- St. George Trek - 10 day Hike/Retreat for Scouts with Priests and Seminarians

The Role of Serrans



How can a Serra Club or an individual Serran assist the DCCS and Catholic Scouts?

In 1995 Bishop Robert Carlson promoted the National Vocations Strategy. In that program he challenged all Catholic Organizations to collaborate and become directly involved in raising awareness of the shortage of priests and men and women in religious life. An important aspect of that Strategy is focusing on vocation awareness for youth. To respond to Bishop Carlson's challenge the NCCS developed a standing Vocation Committee. Each DCCS Chairman is encouraged to have a Vocation Committee whose Chairman collaborates with the Diocesan Vocations Director and Serra Clubs to promote discernment activities through Scouting to increase awareness of Church vocations. Serra can

- Invite the DCCS Chaplain and Vocation Committee Chairman to be speakers at your Club meetings
- become trained Religious Emblems Counselors and work with the DCCS Religious Emblems Committee
- work with non-Catholic Units in your parish to assure Religious Emblems are offered these Catholic Scouts
- assist in organizing, provide funding and support for the annual Scout Retreat; encourage a vocation awareness component
- become active on the DCCS; offer to serve on their Vocation Committee
- sponsor a Bishop's Troop Award (Trophy / Flag / Patch) to the Catholic sponsored Unit with the best program of religious activities
- invite Catholic Scouters, members of DCCS, to be Serrans
- provide financial support for a Catholic Chaplain at a BSA/Council Summer Camp
- ask local BSA Council officials to consider employment applications from Seminarians for Summer Camp Staff or canvas their executive board members, business leaders for summer employment for seminarians.
- distribute vocation prayer cards to Units that emphasize being open to God's Call to serve the Church
- offer a scholarship for a youth to attend St. George Trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch

A Theology of Vocations

Go into the whole world and make disciples of all nations.

■ *Matthew 28:19*

VATICAN II TEACHES THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS A PERSONAL CALL (vocation) to holiness and to contribute to the mission of the Church to go into the whole world and make disciples of all nations. This is the common Christian vocation that is rooted in the baptism of each person.

The vast majority of Christians are called to correspond to their vocation in the ordinary circumstances of their daily lives as young people, students, workers, husbands, wives, parents and member of society without any way feeling the need to become involved in organized Church ministry.

The purpose of the dedicated ministry of priests, religious and committed laity is to support all the faithful in living out their Christian vocation, thereby contributing to building up the Church and bringing about a more human way of life in society.

— **From the Consultation Document for a *A Future Full of Hope: A National Strategy for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life*, NCCB Committee on Vocations 1996**

THE CHURCH MUST RECLAIM ITS SENSE OF SACRAMENT. In order to address the vocation concerns of the church, we need to recapture and reclaim a part of our identity; namely, the sacraments are central to what makes us unique. Ordained priesthood is a sacrament that brings a very special and essential gift of life to the community, the church. Priests who feel good about themselves and about their priesthood will, naturally, want to invite others to share in and continue their work. We need to fully embrace that vocation ministry is connected to (the) mission of the church. Ordained and laity must work together. There needs to be serious responsibility of revitalizing the mission of the church.

— **Archbishop Pio Laghi, Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, at the NCCB National Symposium on Vocations, June 1998**

IT IS HELPFUL TO THINK OF THREE ASPECTS OF VOCATION:

The first is the common Christian vocation in which all members of the Church share by reason of Baptism and Confirmation -- the vocation to love and serve the Lord and proclaim his good news to others.

The second is vocation in the sense of state of life, whether clerical or religious, matrimony or the life of the single person in the world. Each of these involves important, distinct specifications of the common vocation.

The third is vocation in the sense of a unique personal calling, the particular response to

Jesus which each individual, and only he or she, is asked to make in the special circumstances of his/her life as defined by vocational commitment in each of the first two senses.

It is clear in this perspective that every member of the Church lives in a rich and challenging vocation context which define and orient his/her life in all its dimensions.

— **Cardinal Joseph Bernardin**, *Chicago Catholic*, **January 7, 1983**

FROM THE BAPTISMAL PRIVILEGE FLOWS THE ROLE OF INVITER as privilege and responsibility that belongs to each member of the body of Christ in encouraging others to consider their Christian vocations. Each member of the parish has the responsibility for encouraging others in living their Christian Vocation and presenting the options of priesthood and religious life.

— **From the Consultation Document for a *A Future Full of Hope: A National Strategy for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life***, NCCB Committee on Vocations 1996

SINGLE AND MARRIED LAITY, RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR PRIEST live the common Christian vocation in special ways, but each special vocation ways, but each special vocation shares certain elements: It is the Father's choice, it comes from him and in his gift, it derives from the Church, it finds fulfillment in the Church, and it is given as a service to the Church.

— *From Pastores Dabo Vobis, 35*

A Theology of Priesthood

Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins . . . No one takes this honor upon himself, but only when called by God.

--- Hebrews 5:1-4

THE PRIEST HAS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST. "By the sacrament of orders priests are configured to Christ, the Priest, so that as minister of the head and coworkers of the Episcopal order they can build up and establish His Whole Body which is Christ."

--- Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, # 12

THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE PRIESTLY MINISTRY ARE::

- a) to proclaim the Gospel;
- b) to preside over the sacraments and liturgy, and
- c) to build up and serve the community which in turn serves the world.

---The Report of the Bishops Ad Hoc Committee for Priestly Life and Ministry, p.25

THE MINISTERIAL OF HIERARCHICAL PRIESTHOOD of bishops and priests, and the common priesthood of all the faithful participate, "each in its own proper way, in the one priesthood of Christ." While being "ordered one to another," they differ essentially... While the common priesthood of the faithful in exercised by the faithful be the unfolding of baptismal grace --- a life of faith, hope, and charity, a life according to the Spirit, the ministerial priesthood is at the service of the common priesthood. It is directed at the unfolding of baptismal grace of all Christians. The ministerial priesthood is a *means* by which Christ unceasingly builds up and leads his Church. For this reason it is transmitted by its own sacrament, the sacrament of Holy Orders."

--- Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1547

A Theology of Religious Life

*He went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him.
He appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) that they might be with him and
He might send them forth to preach. . . .*

--- Mark 3:13-14

THE CONSECRATED LIFE, DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE EXAMPLE AND TEACHING OF CHRIST the Lord, is a gift of God the Father to his Church through the Holy Spirit. By the profession of the evangelical counsels the characteristic features of Jesus --the chaste, poor and obedient one -- are made constantly "visible" in the midst of the world and the eyes of the faithful are directed toward the mystery of the Kingdom of God already at work in history, even as it awaits its full realization in heaven.

In every age there have been men and women who, obedient to the Father's call and to the prompting of the Spirit, have chosen this special way of following Christ, in order to devote themselves to him with an "undivided" heart. Like the apostles, they too have left everything behind in order to be with Christ and to put themselves, as he did, at the service to God and their brothers and sisters. In this way, through the many charisms of spiritual and apostolic life bestowed on them by the Holy spirit, they have helped to make the mystery and mission of Church shine forth, and in doing so have contributed to the renewal of society.

--- *Vita Conserata*

THE STATE OF CONSECRATED LIFE is thus one way of experiencing a "more intimate" consecration, rooted in Baptism and dedicated totally to God. In the consecrated life, Christ's faithful, moved by the Holy Spirit, proposed to follow Christ more nearly, to give themselves to God who is loved above all and, pursuing the perfection of charity in the service of the Kingdom, to signify and proclaim in the Church the glory of the world to come.

---Catechism of the Catholic Church, #916

THE APPROPRIATE RENEWAL OF RELIGIOUS LIFE involve two simultaneous processes:

- 1) a continuous return to the sources of all Christian life and to the original inspiration behind a given community, and
- 2) an adjustment of the community to the changed conditions of the times.

It is according to the following principles that such renewal should go forward under the influence of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of the Church.

---Decree on the Appropriate Renewal of the Religious Life, #2

BY A "LIFE PERFECTLY AND ENTIRELY CONSECRATED TO [SUCH] SANCTIFICATION," the members of the institutes share in the Church's task of evangelization, "in the world and from within the world," where their presence acts as a "leaven in the world." Their witness of a Christian life aims "to order temporal things according to God and inform the world with the power of the gospel." They commit themselves to the evangelical counsels by sacred bonds and observe among themselves the communion and fellowship appropriate to their "particular secular way of life."

--- Catechism of the Catholic Church, #929

Ministry Potential Discerner

The grade and high school students in Catholic schools during the 30's, 40's and 50's received a good education and experienced the continual presence of men and women religious and priests. Some students received a tap on the shoulder and heard, "You would make a good priest," or "You would make a wonderful sister." That time is gone.

We need to find a way to "tap" our future church leaders. The Ministry Potential Discerner (MPD) has been used by many vocation directors through diocesan schools to help identify those who have what it takes to be a priest or religious. For some this might be a first invitation to consider a church vocation. For others it might be an affirmation that they need to follow a path of discernment regarding priesthood or religious life.

What is the M P D?

The MPD, developed by Reverend James Lauerman of Fargo, North Dakota, introduced a self-assessment questionnaire to identify qualities that indicate a potential for success and happiness in ministry related careers. Once identified, these individuals are good candidates for additional follow-up by high school counselors, youth ministry directors, and vocation directors. The MPD has three versions: Catholic, Catholic Hispanic and non-denominational. There are age appropriate questionnaires for grade school, high school and college age youth. The Assessment identifies the person's values toward self, family, Church, God and community and the assessment indicates a likelihood of interest in priesthood or religious life.

What about MPD and Catholic Scouting?

MPD has been used during Philmont Treks. Young men and women selected for the St. George Trek are some of the best Catholic Scouts. Attending Scouts scored the highest level of aptitude for Church vocations of all groups of young people surveyed with self-assessment vocation survey. CCS Vocation Committees can follow-up with these youth when they return to their home diocese and encourage their continued development as young leaders in the Church.

Why should NCCS and Diocesan CCS have an active Vocation Committee?

Many of the Priests now serving the Church have a Scouting background. MPD, Inc. with NCCS Vocation Committee in 1998, used a four question survey of 9100 priests and brothers, ordained/vowed since 1983, to learn 1) if they had been Scouts, 2) what effect Scouting had on their decision to become Religious and 3) if the earning a Religious Emblem, etc, increased their potential to become ordained or vowed Religious. 51% of non-diocesan and 48 % of diocesan priests had been Scouts, representing the second largest majority, after altar boys, of producers of vocations. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) published these results from the Survey made by MPD/NCCS.

Identifying Catholic youth in Scouting who have an aptitude to be Church leaders deserve our best efforts. Invite them to discern, encourage them in their journey, and affirm them with programs that will help them to hear God's Call. MPD Survey is now available online for completion. The results of the survey are available in a few days from the processing center. Check the website: www.mpdinc.org

MPD as a resource:

Raymond A Marchi, Assistant Executive Director, MPD International Headquarters, Located at St. Pius X Campus, 4313 S. Oak Park AVE., Stickney, IL 60402. Website: www.mpdinc.org

Phone: 708-795-1221, FAX: 708-795-1226. E-mail: mwick91607@aol.com

Page 10 - Vocation Resource Catalogue - NCCV - Free copy of this annual publication available. Contact: National Coalition for Church Vocations, 800-671-6228, SR. Diane Poplawski OP, EX. DIR

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Welcome!

The National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV) promotes Catholic Church vocations by providing quality resources for vocation ministry, awareness, education and discernment.

We are your one-stop vocation shopping center for Catholic Church vocation materials in the United States and beyond.

The NCCV offices are located on the campus of Catholic Theological Union in Margaret Paluch Hall.

"There is an urgent need, for a more widespread and deeply felt conviction that all the members of the Church have the grace and responsibility to look after vocations."

~ Pope John Paul II

Vocation

5420 South Cornell Avenue, #105 | Chicago, Illinois 60615-5604
(773) 955-5453 | (800) 671-NCCV
info@nccv-vocations.org

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| National Coalition for Church Vocations
5420 S. Cornell Ave., Suite 105 | Chicago, IL 60615-5604

Phone: 800.671.NCCV / 773.955.5453 | Fax: 773.363.5530
info@nccv-vocations.org

Page11 – Additional resources to download from NCCS Web Page or order:

	16-162	Vocational Workshop for Adults - How can Scouting Leaders be more aware of the vocational aspect of Scouting? Learn how to conduct a short workshop on this topic. Print from the web page: http://www.nccs-bsa.org/pdf/n16-162.pdf or order:	\$0.10
	16-149	Vocational Promotion through Youth Ministry - Scouting has been the field where vocations have been both planted and nourished, only to be harvested later. This resource gives dioceses some suggestions on how Scouting can promote vocations. . Print from the NCCS Web page: http://www.nccs-bsa.org/pdf/n16-149.pdf or order:	\$0.10
	16-166	Field Trip to a Selected Seminary - Catholic Scouting offers many opportunities to Catholic boys. Among them is a day at a local seminary. This resource provides information on how to conduct such a trip for Scouts. To locate a Catholic Seminary consult your Diocesan Vocation Office or the USCCB Web page: http://www.usccb.org/vocations/index.htm and click on "United States Seminaries."	\$0.10



Scouting for Catholic Youth

The Roman Catholic Church has used the Scouting program since the early days of the Boy Scouts of America. It is one of the most extensive users of the BSA program. There are more than 351,000 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers in more than 9,600 packs, troops, and crews under Catholic auspices, and an equal number of youth members in other Scouting units. Scouting is used in about one-third of the parishes in the United States.

National Committee (William Davies, National Chairman. NCCS. NCCS is available at web page: <http://www.nccs-bsa.org>) or E-mail: wdaviesnccs@hotmail.com

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting® has had the responsibility for more than 57 years to promote and guide cooperative contacts between the authorities of the Catholic Church and the Boy Scouts of America in the United States. The Scouting program is recognized as an integral part of the total youth ministry at the diocesan level. As such, Scouting becomes part of the parish youth ministry as units are operated by the parishes, parent-teacher organizations, Holy Name Societies, and schools. The Knights of Columbus and other Church-related organizations also operate units.

The national committee carries out the official Plan of Organization, which was first approved in 1934 and was revised in 1989. Each archdiocese and diocese has a Catholic committee on Scouting, and more than 300 BSA local councils have their own committees.

Every two years, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® holds a national conference for all members of the diocesan and local Catholic committees. At this conference, new programs are introduced, planned, and developed. Ultimate approval for the new programs comes from the vote of the membership. Thus, ideas, comments, and experience from every part of the country can be heard and shared.

In addition, the national committee sponsors a weeklong training course at the Philmont Training Center each year for those diocesan personnel entrusted with the responsibilities of operating the committee.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting also promotes and coordinates Scouting in the Eastern Catholic Church, creating new programs or modifying current ones as needed.

National Membership Initiative

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting® and the BSA launched a membership initiative in April 1995. The goal of the initiative is to bring a quality Scouting program to more Catholic youth than ever before. Emphasis is being placed on organizing more units, holding membership roundups, ensuring quality training for existing units, and securing more volunteer leaders. Dioceses are encouraged to conduct a bishop's luncheon or dinner to promote Scouting. Promotional materials—including a brochure that features endorsements from the Pope and nine United States cardinals—are available to support the initiative.

Responsibilities (Scouting for Catholic Youth-continued - page 2)

Through each level of organization, subcommittees carry out the responsibilities established in the Plan of Organization, No. 16-151. These include:

Membership. Create and promote national programs that diocesan Scouting committees can use to further membership and the relationship between the Catholic Church and the BSA.

Training. Provide training for laypeople of the Catholic faith, training for people who serve as religious emblems counselors, and assistance in recruiting for parishes.

Religious Emblems. Promote the spiritual phase of Scouting, provide for a religious emblems program, provide a board of review to examine all candidates for religious emblems, and develop ways and means to communicate with Scouts of the Catholic faith in units of other chartered organizations in order to help them qualify for Catholic religious emblems. These religious emblems are:

Light of Christ This emblem is given to Tiger Cub and Cub Scouts (through Wolf rank) for advancement in spiritual growth and religious knowledge. It is the first of five religious emblems available to Catholic youth involved with Scouting.

Parvuli Dei This is a Christian family emblem to recognize Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts for advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation. With the help of parents or guardians, the boy becomes more aware of God's presence in his daily life, especially within his home and community.

Ad Altare Dei The purpose of earning the Ad Altare Dei emblem is to equip the Scout to take his place in the world as a maturing Catholic and a maturing American. With a religious emblems counselor, the boy meets requirements in eight steps covering the sacraments of initiation and the sacraments of maturity.

Light Is Life This recognition is designed for Boy Scouts of the Eastern-Rite Catholic Churches. The content is based on the "God With Us" series of the Eastern Christian Formation Program to prepare the Scout to be an active member of his faith community, as well as his civic community. With the help of an emblems counselor, catechist, or priest, the Scout meets requirements in five steps covering the Holy Mysteries and Eastern Christian spirituality. The Light Is Life respects the cultural and ritual differences among the various rites.

Pope Pius XII Scouts of high-school age and young men and women who are Venturers are eligible for this award. The requirements cover five units: We As Christians, Today's Vocation, Awareness of Responsibility to Self and Society, Citizenship—Home and Community, and Our Response to Faith.

Saint George This national recognition is presented to any adult who is working with the Scouting program under Catholic auspices, to Catholics in Scouting units not operated by the church, and to those who have made a significant contribution to Scouting in the field of Catholic relationships. It may be given to men, women, priests, religious, and non-Catholics.

Religious Activities. Promote regular and meaningful Catholic religious activities and programs for youth at the unit and diocesan levels throughout the country.

Catholic Quality Unit Award - Pope Paul VI This national recognition for Catholic Chartered Units. The program requirements encourage cooperation, development, of Catholic programs are key words in the recognition of Catholic chartered units in earning the Pope Paul VI unit award.

Communication. Keep Scouters informed on Scouting activities, promote the program and activities of the Catholic committee, create a better understanding of the aims and ideals of Scouting by both clergy and laity, and make known the many advantages of Scouting under Catholic auspices to the parish as part of its Catholic youth program. **Web site: www.nccs-bsa.org**

NCCS VOCATIONS AND SCOUTING HANDBOOK

(EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK REPORT)

This Handbook is a new resource for Catholic Scouters who have accepted the responsibility as Vocation Committee Chairman. The NCCS Vocation Committee mission is to provide you with support for your work of introducing vocation promoting ideas, programs and support for Scouts discerning a vocation to serve the Church.

It is a workbook in progress. The Handbook is our first step in supporting the National Strategy on Vocation challenge to NCCS and Catholic Scouting. Your commitment to use this Workbook to create a more positive view of vocations is essential. You can make a difference through consistent programs to provide a nurturing environment for a budding vocation interest.

The Vocations Committee invites your views and additions to be included in future updates to the Workbook.

Tell us about your success and new ideas:

Tell us your frustrations:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ (day or night) FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

Region: _____ Arch/Diocese: _____

Current Position in Catholic Scouting: _____

This program needs and deserves your help. Consider joining the NCCS Vocations Committee or volunteer to work at the Regional level to help train Diocesan/Council Catholic Committees on Scouting Vocation Committee Chairmen.

To share your concerns or for more information on how you can support this effort:

Committee Chairman: John E. "Jack" Thompson, 5700 Morningside Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630-9218 or call (812) 853-3273(H) (812) 424-5536(B) E-mail: jackt2@gmail.com