May 22, 2015

My fellow Catholic Scouters,

During the May 21 General Business Meeting of the National Annual Meeting of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), BSA President Robert Gates reported his concern with the impending need to act on the organization’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 organizations 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)