The 45th NCCS Biennial Conference will be held April 12 through 15, 2018 in Minneapolis, Minn. for the first time since the 26th Biennial was held in the Twin Cities in 1980. Hosted by the Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, the conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West, 3131 Campus Drive in Plymouth, Minn.

If you are on the Executive Committee, your first meeting is scheduled for 12:00 noon on Thursday, April 12 and your last meeting is scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. If you serve on the Religious Activities, Religious Emblems, or Training Committees you have meetings scheduled for early afternoon on Thursday, and all other standing committee meeting/activities begin early Friday afternoon.

45th Biennial Conference set for Minneapolis in April

The Regional Chairs and Chaplains will conduct their region meetings on Friday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. and will meet for the rest of the day with the Vice Chair for Regions.

The Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. and the Executive Board meeting is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Sunday. The general membership and business meeting is at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday. On Saturday afternoon, National Evangelization Team (NET) Ministries will be presenting a plenary address, followed by action-focused break outs on effective youth ministry through Scouting in the new evangelization. See the article on page 5 for further details on this exciting program.

The registration process for this NCCS Biennial Conference is being conducted securely online, and you will be able to print a registration confirmation page for your records and will receive an email confirmation/receipt of your on-line registration transaction. You can include your spouse and/or guest in that same transaction. All registrants should be prepared to pay all calculated fees at the time of the registration by credit card.

Participants can go to http://45thNCCSBiennialConference.kintera.org/bsa This link also includes all the registration information. If you are unable to transact your registration online via credit card, please contact the NCCS Program Assistant at 972-580-2114 to request a hard-copy registration form.

Our special NCCS rates at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West hotel in Plymouth will be $99, plus tax for single or double occupancy. If you plan to share a room, please make only one room reservation, and ensure that both names are listed under that same registration. Make a reservation even if you know that you will be on a pre-assigned room list that NCCS will provide to the hotel. The deadline for making reservations at these special group rates is Tuesday, March 20. You can reserve your room by calling 763-559-6600 being sure to mention the group code NCCS, or online at our own NCCS reservation webpage.
Changes in Religious Emblems Programs/Manuals announced

by Bill Guglielmi
Chair, Religious Emblems Committee

These are exciting times in the Religious Emblems program. Significant progress is being made on two areas of concerns.

The first concerns the Pope Pius XII emblem program. The long awaited thorough revision of this emblem program is finally, after many delays, available to the Catholic Scouting community.

The Participant’s Manual is available in one of three methods:
(1) Download from the NCCS Literature Ordering Online Tool (http://nccsliterature.kintera.org/BSA): Participants can download a copy of the manual for $3.00.
(2) Order a Hard Copy via the NCCS Literature Ordering Online Tool (http://nccsliterature.kintera.org/BSA): NCCS will provide a printed copy via mail for $10.00.
(3) Purchase from the BSA Supply Division: This manual will also be available in Scout Shops. The availability and cost are not yet determined.

The new Pope Pius XII Facilitator’s Manual is ONLY available via the NCCS Literature Ordering Online Tool (http://nccsliterature.kintera.org/BSA.) Downloadable copies cost $3.00 and printed copies cost $10.00.

Use of the new manual is strongly encouraged. We recognize, however, that some participants may have already started using the 2002 version and they should finish using that version. All Scouts, Venturers, and Explorers beginning the Pope Pius XII on or after January 1, 2018, should use the new manual. Exceptions should be requested to me via email (wguglielmi@outlook.com)

The second concern involves numerous reports of errors in many of our existing religious emblem publications. This feedback is essential, and we have been exploring the best method of publishing corrections. We have determined that we will publish such corrections online at the NCCS website. Exactly where on the website these corrections will be placed has yet to be determined; however, we will make that information available to all as soon as the first correction is published.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CATHOLIC SCOUTING GO TO http://www.nccs-bsa.org/
When one of the local parish priests contacted the bishop’s office to find his thoughts on the matter he learned the bishop was not happy because he was not informed of the email before it was sent.

During the past five years the Boy Scouts of America has made major changes in their membership standard, but the core values have remained the same. Nationally we have lost nearly 8,000 Scouts each year during the same period.

Building a strong relationship between our local dioceses and local councils is the key to building and maintaining a strong program of Catholic Scouting. Remember the diocesan Catholic committee acts to encourage the correlation of the Scouting program with the parish program so that the religious lives of Catholic youths in Scouting will receive adequate attention and that Scouting activities will become an integral part of parish life. In turn, the local BSA Council should cooperate with the diocese in promoting Scouting for Catholics -preferably through the Catholic committee and encourage each parish and Catholic organization to make the full Scouting program available to their youth, and recognize the authority of the bishop in each diocese in determining the conditions under which Scouting units may be organized and administered in the diocese. If you have not met with your local bishop to discuss the recent changes in the BSA’s program, and how it can benefit your Catholic youth, there is no better time than now to act!
Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and American Heritage Girls from Divine Marcy Parish in Faribault Minn. participated in the annual ‘Scout Sunday’ Mass on Sunday Feb 4. 24 Scouts were recognized for earning a religious emblem award in the past year.

The Rockland District, Hudson Valley Council held their annual Scout Sunday Mass and emblem award ceremony at Saint Aedan Church, Pearl River, N.Y. on February 4. Most Rev. Dominick Lagonegro, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New York was the principal celebrant. Fr. Ivan Lovic, associate pastor, concelebrated the 2 pm Mass assisted by Deacon James Maher of St. Aedan. The “Light of Christ” and “Parvuli Dei” religious emblems, were presented to the Cub Scouts and blessed by Bishop Lagonegro.

Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Fairfield, Conn. held a Scout Sunday Mass to recognize local Scouts and adult leaders for their contributions to the community. Scouts from Troop 88, Pack 88, Pack 95 and Pack 197 participated in the Mass. Afterwards, the Scouts assembled at the parish hall for refreshments.
Plenary speaker at Biennial Conference to focus on making the “Call to Evangelization” a reality for Catholic Scouting

By
Mark Kramer

In an effort to make Scouting relevant and relatable to the Holy Father’s call for a New Evangelization, NCCS will be hosting a plenary speaker on Saturday, April 14 at the 45th Biennial Conference in Minneapolis Minnesota. Following our keynote speaker, NCCS will be holding two back-to-back workshop sessions on how to make this call a reality to the Scouting community through actionable methods.

The keynote speaker, Father Chad VanHoose, is a parochial vicar at All Saints Catholic Church in Lakeville Minnesota. Prior to entering the priesthood, Father Chad worked extensively as part of the NET Ministry group in their ministry retreat teams. A West Saint Paul based ministry, NET Ministry challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church through Catholic youth retreats, parish and school discipleship, and youth ministry resources.

Participants have the opportunity to attend two back-to-back workshops following Father Chad’s talk. These workshops will be facilitated sessions that use you, the participant, as the Catholic Scouting subject matter experts.

As Catholic Scouters that work at all levels of the Scouting movement, you have the practical experience to know what works and what engages youth. Combined with Father Chad’s experience engaging youth in discipleship and evangelization, participants will be provided key foundational ideas around which to develop new program ideas to bring back to their diocese and parishes.

Please join us for an afternoon of Catholic Scouting fellowship to help us more effectively spread the word of Christ to the Scouting youth of our faith.

International Awareness Program links Scouts to World Scouting

The International Catholic Conference of Scouting provides an opportunity for its members to meet together as friends in the Catholic Church. The program consists of three levels – grades 1-5, 6-8, and 9-12. There is also an adult program. Pins and patches are available for those completing the requirements in the grades 1-8 programs and a pin, patch and medallion are available for high school youth who complete the requirements.

This program links the Catholic Church and the Scouting Movement all over the world. It also contributes to the complete education of young people through Scouting from the perspective of the Catholic faith. It develops and enhances the spiritual dimension of Scouting in the World Scout Movement.

This is a temporary activity patch that is worn on the right pocket of the scout uniform.

Full details on the program are available by clicking on the International Activities link on http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/religious-activities

NOT A NCCS MEMBER - JOIN NOW

Any registered Scouter can join the National Catholic Committee on Scouting by going to the NCCS application at www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/about-us

Your membership fees support the efforts of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to provide faith-based programs including religious emblems; activity patches; adult, unit, and diocesan committee recognition awards; and national training conferences. In addition to The Bridge, the NCCS quarterly newsletter, you will also receive invitations to the annual meeting, to participate on Standing Committees, and Scouting in the Catholic Church conference at Philmont Training Center.

Membership term is one year from the date when the application and payment are processed. The cost of membership is $35.00 per year or $350.00 for a Lifetime membership for as long as you are registered with BSA and is non-refundable.

Please remember the following in your prayers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Dean Cuevas</td>
<td>Fr. Randy Cuevas’ mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James W.Y. Wong</td>
<td>Longtime NCCS Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Forner</td>
<td>Chair, Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Committee on Scouting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monsignor R. Donald Kiernan</td>
<td>Longtime member of Archdiocese of Atlanta Catholic Committee on Scouting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Did You Know…?
By Bob Oldowski

Twenty years ago (1998), NCCS adopted its first set of by-laws. Amazing to have gone 60 years without official, organization-approved written guidelines!

The national committee had evolved over the years from a committee of bishops to one that included priests and eventually lay men, and then women, who took the leadership roles. During this time the BSA national office provided a professional who served as Executive Secretary (executive director). In 1992, the BSA reduced that position to only a liaison role. It became time to formally document the structure and organization and consider employing an executive director.

As the writing progressed, it was felt that the by-laws could put off or eliminate the need for a director. So this was put on hold to study further. Ultimately, an Executive Director position appeared difficult to implement in a decentralized organization, and was deemed unnecessary.

As to documentation, there would be two end products: the by-laws themselves which define the overall structure and means of managing it, and an operational handbook that was a collection of best practices which could be easily set up and embellished. Both are available on the NCCS website.

Workshop developed to help Scouts to be involved in Church ministry

Every young person at some time should be challenged to ask, "Am I listening to God's call?" Youth and adults together influence each other, encouraging by word and example, personal invitation, and style of life to accept following God's call as one's life goal. Church and civic leadership is learned by leading.

This principle is embodied in Baden-Powell's conviction that Scouting promotes the leadership of service in a holistic, exciting, and enjoyable way. We, who are part of Scouting, are encouraged to listen to this principle of service, to live it in our own lives and by our example and invitation, to guide others.

Since many Scout troops are chartered by Catholic parishes, there are abundant opportunities for the Scouts themselves to become involved in the ministry of the Church and thus begin to live out Christ's gospel message.

The NCCS has developed a workshop that can be conducted by the local Catholic Committee on Scouting. Contact should also be made with vocation directors from the local diocese, nearby religious orders, and organizations that place an emphasis on promoting responsible involvement in church life such as the Serra Club, Lay Mission Groups, and the Knights of Columbus.

For more information and sample agendas go to: http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/diocesan-training.

Mark Your Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality Diocese Award Deadline</td>
<td>March 15, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCCS Biennial Conference (Minneapolis)</td>
<td>April 12 -15 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Deadline for June issue of The Bridge</td>
<td>June 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scouting in the Catholic Church Training Conference (Philmont)</td>
<td>July 15 - 21, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information on the Scouting and the Catholic Church Training Conference at the Philmont Training Center this summer, please contact the 2018 Course Director, Elizabeth Olivas, at 972-580-2114 or email Elizabeth.Olivas@scouting.org. You can also check out the NCCS website for more information at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/scouting-in-the-catholic-church as well as the Philmont Training Center website at http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx.
New regional leaders and national vice chairs elected

The following individuals were recently elected by the voting members in their respective regions and will be inducted at the end of the Annual Meeting to be held in April in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Vice Chairs are elected by all voting members. Voting members include all diocesan chairs and chaplains, the NCCS Executive Board and Advisory Board.

Vice Chairs (2-year term):
John Anthony
Ben Feril

Regional Chairmen and Chaplains (3-year term):
Region 4 Chair          Patrick Berney
Region 6 Chair          James Cordek
Region 9 Chaplain       Fr. Mark Spring
Region 10 Chaplain      Fr. Pat Garrett
Region 11 Chaplain      Fr. Norman Supanchek
Region 12 Chair         Scott West
Region 13 Chair         Michael Forner *
Region 14 Chaplain      Fr. Jason Adams
Region 15 Chair         Diana Kullman

* Due to the unexpected death of Michael Forner, Nancy Welton will continue in the position until the situation is resolved. In addition, we also welcome the following new Executive Board members appointed to fill terms of the following vacated positions.

Region 2 Chair
Ron Derway
term expires April 2020

Region 7 Chaplain
Fr. Mark Augustine
term expires April 2019

Region 8 Chair
Michael J. Fratto
term expires April 2019

The NCCS has been actively involved in the preparation of suggested Youth Day Activities which have been published in the 1998 World Youth Day Resource Manual. All Diocesan Leaders and Committees are urged to actively promote unit involvement. The Manual, which includes a special section dedicated to Boy Scouts is available for purchase from National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers (NFCYM). The U.S. Catholic Bishops, in recognizing Scouting as a Youth Ministry within the Church, reaches out to our Catholic Scouts through the NCCS to offer the unique opportunity to partner with NFCYM.

Pope John Paul II announced the institution of World Youth Day in December 1985, as an annual gathering of youth and young adults for prayer, worship and celebration of the Catholic faith. The event is observed annually in dioceses and every two to three years at

The 2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference Religious Services Committee is looking for a youth staff member to join the team as a Religious Services Assistant. If you know of a youth interested in this job, please encourage them to apply!

If you have any additional questions, please contact Aidan Firman, Youth Lead for the Religious Services Committee: aidandfirman@gmail.com

US Bishops designate World Youth Day urging reflection on “many gifts of youth”

The U.S. Catholic Bishops have declared the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time as World Youth Day in the United States (not to be confused with the International Celebration of WYD, which is held every 2-3 years). The National Catholic Committee on Scouting encourages Scout Leaders to join parishes across the nation in acknowledging the many gifts of our youth during Sunday liturgies on that weekend. The National Celebration of Youth Day offers all those involved in youth ministry an opportunity to highlight the gifts and joys that young people bring to faith communities.

The annual event, directed by the Holy Father, will take place in October of each year. (This will be October 28 in 2018). The U.S. Catholic Bishops, through the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), are urging all Catholics, especially young people, to prayerfully reflect on the Gifts of the Spirit.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops designate World Youth Day urging reflection on “many gifts of youth”
National Catholic Committee on Scouting’s Contribution Opportunities

NCCS Annual Appeal
Funds from this campaign support the work of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® in promoting Scouting as a Catholic youth ministry.

You can now donate online at http://nccsannualfund.kintera.org/bsa.

NCCS Golden Ad Altare Dei Endowment Fund
Money contributed to Endowment Fund is invested permanently with the interest/dividends used to support the ministry of our priest chaplains. The Golden Ad Altare Dei Award is given to any adult who financially supports, in a significant way the Fund. For each award, a minimum donation of $2,500 must be made to the NCCS-operated Golden AAD Fund.

Donate online at http://nccsAdAltareDeiFund.kintera.org/bsa

The St. George Memorial Fund
The St. George Memorial Fund was established to honor the memory of those who have passed who had an impact in Scouting. Gifts to the St. George Memorial Fund are used to support the St. George Trek. The minimum gift of $1,000.00 can be funded over a period of time. Names of the honorees are engraved on a plaque that hangs in the chapel at Philmont Scout Ranch.

Donate online at http://StGeorgeMemorialFund.kintera.org/bsa

The Miter Society
The Miter Society was established to recognize financial supporters of the St. George Trek, NCCS’s premier youth leadership program. The St. George Trek is held every two years at Philmont Scout Ranch. Youth are divided into crews usually with a priest and seminarian as crew advisors. The female crew (Venturers) are led by women religious. This Miter Society recognition consists of a black and gold polished medal suspended from a dark green ribbon. A donation of $1,000 must be made to the NCCS-operated St. George Trek Fund.

Donate online at http://nccsmitersociety.kintera.org/bsa

Thank you for your support in helping youth and volunteers live their Catholic faith in Scouting.