



VOCATIONAL WORKSHOP

For Catholic Leaders in Scouting



SCOUTING AND VOCATION:

Every young person at some time should be challenged to ask, "Am I listening to God's call?" All Christians are called by God to follow Christ. All Christians are called to serve God's people. 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. The leadership inspired by Jesus is that of service. 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.

Scouting is a proven program of personal development. Not only do the Scouts begin to appreciate their own talents and gifts, but their vision is broadened to see how they can serve the community at large. 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.

PURPOSE:

The vocational workshop for Catholic leaders in Scouting is held:

- To inform Scouters about religious vocations and to make them aware of a deep Christian commitment which can thrive within a unit.
- To reveal to Scouters the influential role they are privileged to exercise in assisting unit members to pursue fruitful careers motivated by ideals of service.
- To encourage Scouters themselves to accept the church related vocations being offered to them, as baptized Christians and active Catholic adults.

WHO CONDUCTS:

This workshop should be conducted by the 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.

WHO ATTENDS:

Scouters of Catholic faith should participate, with emphasis placed on unit leaders and assistants, den leaders, religious emblems counselors, chartered organization representatives, and members of the Catholic committee.

Parents of unit members and other interested adults should be invited, in order that they may become better informed on this phase of Scouting and the need for active support on their part.

MOTIVATION TO VOCATION:

Here are some simple norms that might help one to recognize God's call:

1. A strong desire to serve others.
2. The presence of or appetite for a healthy spiritual life (which may include an abiding awareness of God's presence; a personal relationship with Jesus; an honest searching for a solid spiritual foundation).
3. A combination of physical and mental health which can deal with personal limitations in a balanced and wholesome way while enduring the rigors of a life dedicated to the service of others.

VOCATIONAL WORKSHOP

SUGGESTED AGENDA:

Following is an agenda to cover a period of 1 hour, 1 day, or a weekend. Select what is appropriate for your group to cover in the time allotted for the workshop. Presenters may wish to get a discussion going – involving all participants. Select one or several topics to motivate a commitment from each participant.

- Registration – get acquainted
- Opening prayer
- Welcome – why are we here and introduction of program
- Keynote presentation – from the following topics
 1. Scouting-a leadership force for Catholic youth and adults.
 2. The parish and Scouting – a partnership in the spiritual development of Scouts and Scouters.
 3. The chaplain aide – how peer leadership (among youth and adults) can help the spiritual development of the Scouting unit.
 4. The realities of local church-related vocational opportunities for men and women, Scouts and Scouters.
 5. Fears and frustrations, hopes and joys related to the personal experiences of spiritual leadership or the lack thereof among local clergy and/or laity.
 6. The local need for priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, married couples and single volunteers (male and female) in the area of church ministry.
- Discussion workshops to suit local needs and workshop timing (suggested list below)
- Provide breaks/meals as needed.
- Closing – gathering and commitment.
- Appreciation for attendance; vocational prayer; adjournment.

WORKSHOP TOPICS:

The following topics are recommended:

The BSA program; units; the chartered organization concept – Scouting to serve the mission of the chartered organization

A Scouter's relationship with the parish.

Opportunities to form a Christian conscience in one's Scouting unit.

The Scout Oath and Law – applicable to adult and youth members.

The religious emblems program (especially Pope Pius XII emblem)

Give a brief synopsis on *To Teach As Jesus Did* and/or *Basic Teaching for Catholic Religious Education* (USCC pamphlets); discuss need for leaders of Catholic faith in Scouting to be well informed in this matter.

The nature and basis of a vocation; the full spectrum of church-related vocations; the need for spiritual leadership and maturity among clergy and laity; the need for ordained and volunteered, appointed and elected, married and single, male and female roles in the life of the church.

Show a vocation oriented film and conduct a discussion on the filmstrip.

The role of the laity in fostering clerical vocations; the role of the clergy in fostering lay vocations.

A Scouter's opportunity to assist and counsel unit members to pursue fruitful careers of service.

A Scouter's responsibility to deepen his or her own commitment to a life of service.

Conduct a brainstorming session on ways to foster new vocations and support existing ones.

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VOCATIONAL WORKSHOP

COMMITMENT TO ACTION:

The following ongoing actions may be suggested as commitments to foster vocations:

1. Encourage each Scouting unit to have a chaplain aide
2. Have each unit pray together (i.e., opening and closing the unit meeting with a prayer, a bible service or evening prayer, prayer form *A Scout is Reverent*) asking God to help Scouts and Scouters discover, accept, and live lives of service in the church.
3. Encourage Scouts and Scouters to get involved in religious emblems programs.
4. Form a youth ministry Venture crew and encourage Scouts age 14-20 to join and participate in the Venturing program
5. Encourage units to fulfill requirements leading to the Pope Paul VI National Unit Recognition
6. Establish a working relationship with diocesan and religious, vocation directors and local groups (such as Serra, Knights of Columbus, etc.) that promote the study and acceptance of church-related vocations.
7. Encourage unit leaders and committee members to participate in the Scouter development program and/or other programs (i.e., Christ Renews, RENEW, etc.) designed to enhance one's understanding of and appreciation for our Catholic Christian faith and its traditions and continued development.
8. Gather Scouts and Scouters to study the vast and rich spectrum of church-related vocations including the Ordained Ministries of Priesthood and Diaconate, the Vowed Religious Life, the Sacramental Ministry of Marriage, the appointed ministries of Eucharistic Minister, parish administrator, and home visitors; the volunteered ministries of lector, singer, usher, acolyte, etc.; the elected ministries of parish council member, school board, etc; and other ministries such as youth director, Scout leader, religion teacher, single volunteer, etc. Interviewing people in such positions will do much to encourage others to consider similar service.

References:

Vocational Promotion through Scouting Youth Ministry: Consider Your Call, No. 16-149
Religious Emblems for Catholics, No. 16-436
Scouter Development, Call to Leadership Section, No. 16-164
Seminary Field Trip, No. 16-166
To Teach As Jesus Did, Publication No. B-63, U.S.C.C.
Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry, Publication No.5-004, U.S.C.C.
Basic Teachings for Catholic Religious Education (USCC pamphlet)

Order USCC pamphlets from:
Publishing Service
U.S. Catholic Conference
3211 4th Street NE
Washington, DC 20017-1194

VOCATIONAL WORKSHOP

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

“Lord Jesus, just as one day you called the first disciples and sent them to the ends of the Earth, so too, today continue to make resound your invitation: ‘Come, follow me.’ Give to young men and women grace to respond readily to your voice.

“Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are realizing an ideal of life dedicated to your service. Sustain our lay ministers, ordained clergy, and those called to religious life, in their apostolic labors.

“Awaken in our communities the missionary endeavor. Lord, send laborers into your harvest and do not allow humanity to lose its way for lack of pastors, missionaries, and people dedicated to the cause of the gospel.

“Mary, Mother of the church, model of every vocation, help us to respond by saying yes to the Lord who calls us to collaborate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen.”

A SCOUT'S PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

“Lord, through our baptism you have called us all into a life of service. As Scouts, we learn that the best leadership is the leadership that serves eagerly and happily! You yourself came to show us how to live a life of serving others rather than seeking to be served by others. May you find among us those willing to become prayerful priests and dedicated deacons, faithful parents and enthusiastic single volunteers. Through our lives may you become better known and loved. Grant that whatever state of life we come to we may be faithful to your command to love and to serve.”

SERRA PRAYER

“O God who wills not the death of a sinner but rather conversion and life, grant we pray you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.”

PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE OF VOCATIONS

“O God, you have constituted our only begotten Son supreme and eternal priest for the glory of your majesty and the salvation of mankind: Grant that those whom he has chosen ministers and dispensers of his mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received.”