



Training at the biennial conference was planned to inspire and inform. The theme of the April 2004 NCCS Biennial Conference was “A Time for New Discovery.” The participants attending the scheduled workshops, regional meetings, and general sessions learned much. The true training, or discovery, comes from networking with people from all over the country who have the same goals for a program. I have been in Scouting since 1980 and am always humbled by the knowledge I gain from other Scouters by interacting at regional and national events. It gives me the strength to participate in this important ministry.

A tremendous benefit of attending a NCCS event is understanding, through those you meet, that Scouting is a Youth Ministry. The biennial conferences are a great opportunity to share ideas.



Philmont Training Center offers the other national experience! The training committee hopes to see the numbers of participants soar in this year’s Scouting in the Catholic Church offered July 11-17, 2004. New this year is the format and syllabus for the course. Your week at Philmont will provide advanced training to share with others back home. Talk to your council today for information on how to be part of the Philmont experience! You may also check out the information at [www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org).



The website has some exciting new offerings. The training committee held workshops of the new material at the biennial. Fast Start and Mentoring and Planning introduced what aids are on the website to help new regional, diocesan, and national Catholic Committee members. Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate Formation for Scouting was heavily

attended and applauded by the participants. The training committee strives to be a



resource to all involved with the NCCS programs.

Programs to meet the training needs of those across the country are needed. Discussions within the training committee included: addressing needs of the regional chairs as they prepare for regional meetings; implementing the adult learning principles for workshops and suggesting same for manuals; researching the types of training methods used across the country for the purpose of

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# Sharing New Discoveries

By Ed Martin



### Also in this issue:

- **Father Tim**
- **Biennial Meeting Update**
- **NCCS National and Regional Leadership**
- **Training Committee Updates**
- **Religious Emblems Committee**
- **Father Randy Cuevas Honored with Armed Services Promotion**
- **2003 Quality Diocese Award Goes to 58 Dioceses**
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understanding the diversity and needs of each region; finding ways to make training available to all; promoting the use of the resources available for training in print and on the website.



Training helps one to understand programs, promotes confidence, and helps to create a standard way of using the programs offered by the NCCS. Please help the training committee by writing or emailing any suggestions, or information about your successful training programs, to Susan Barriball, 919 Fox Point Drive, Chesterton, IN 46304 or barriball72@hotmail.com. SEE YOU AT PHILMONT JULY 11-17, 2004!!

### Biennial Meeting



The NCCS held its 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting in St. Louis from April 19 – 25 with approximately 200 members attending. Attendees heard

keynote speakers Donald York (BSA Relationships), Monsignor Robert Guglielmone (ICCS World Chaplain), Roberto Linn (ICCS Americas Region), and Dr. Kathleen McChesney (USCCB



Office of Child and Youth Protection). Seventeen



training workshops were presented in tracks for diocesan chairs, religious emblems counselors and directors of Scouting youth ministry programs. The meeting also provided an opportunity for all standing committees to meet and the executive board met to transact the business of the national committee.



### Activities of the National Committee

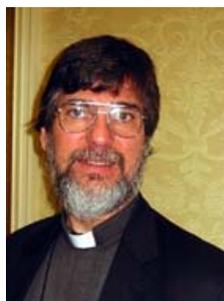
The executive board approved a surplus budget for 2004 with expenses totaling \$341,500. Extraordinary items include funding for the biennial conference, this summer's St. George Leadership Trek, and preparations for the 2005 National Jamboree.



A resolution was adopted authorizing the transfer of investment funds from BSA to Smith-Barney to bring the NCCS in line with the socially responsible investment policy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.



The NCCS endorsed the BSA *Good Turn for America* and will undertake and support a



“Get Out the Vote”



campaign as a call to national community service and renewed commitment to faithful citizenship as Catholics.

The executive board approved the continuation of the Rosary activity with the production of a “Luminous Mysteries” Patch (the second in a series of four). Approximately 20,000 youth and adults have earned the first patch in this series.



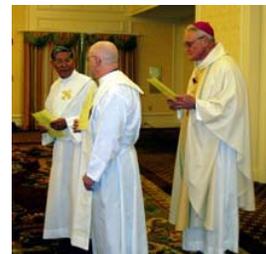
Monsignor Robert Guglielmone (Rockville Center, NY) and Robert Oldowski (Bloomington, MN) have been appointed at-large members of the NCCS executive board.

Catholic chaplaincy under continuous NCCS leadership and support at the Philmont High Adventure Base will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary this summer. Patches and a limited edition brass belt buckle have been produced to commemorate this jubilee event. These items are available through the NCCS Secretary.



### Awards and Recognition

The Brother Barnabas Founders Award was presented to Monsignor Richard LaRocque and Monsignor Robert Guglielmone, past and present world chaplains to the International





The Bridge would like to thank Dave and Ann Moskal for the submission of the majority of the photographs from the conference.



Also supplying photographs were Michael Kosiba and Father Tom Cronin.



Catholic Conference of Scouting. The executive



committee of NCCS established the Brother Barnabas Award in 1992 to be presented periodically to an individual

who has given exceptional service to the programs of Catholic Scouting. Brother Barnabas authored the *Plan of Cooperation* by which the National Catholic Committee on Scouting was founded.



spiritual development of Catholic youth through Scouting.



- Silver St. George emblems were presented to Bray Barnes, William Davies, Joseph DeStefano, Msgr. Anthony Ferrero, and Fr. Roger LaChance. The Silver St. George Emblem was established in 1997 to recognize significant service to Catholic Scouting at the national level.

- The Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George on behalf of the Vatican presented Father Donald Hummel and Edward Gargiulo with Bronze Benemerenti Medals for their service to Catholic youth.

- A St. George Emblem, the Catholic religious award for adult leaders was presented to George Sparks in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the



The Annual Report of the NCCS will be available on the NCCS Website [www.nccs-bsa.com](http://www.nccs-bsa.com) after June 1.



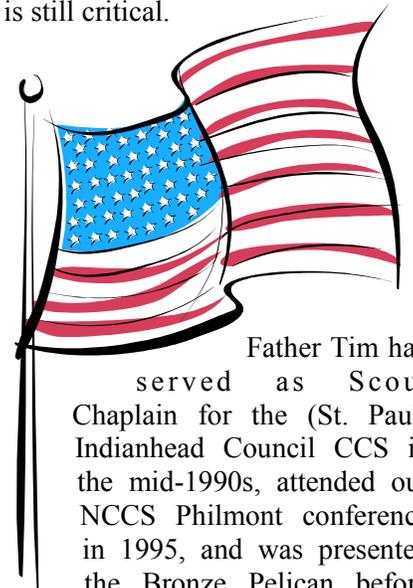
## FATHER TIM VAKOC INJURED IN IRAQ

By Robert Oldowski

Former Scout Chaplain Father Tim Vakoc of the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese was seriously injured by a roadside bomb on Sunday while serving as a military chaplain in Iraq.

Father Tim had said Sunday Mass for the soldiers and began the drive back to his base when a roadside bomb shattered his Humvee. He took the brunt of the blast. The explosion seriously injured Vakoc who was flown to Landstuhl, Germany for surgery at a U.S. Army hospital there. He then was flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. He lost an eye and sustained brain damage and possible paralysis of his right side in the blast, according to his ordinary, Archbishop Harry J. Flynn.

His condition has stabilized but it is still critical.



Father Tim had served as Scout Chaplain for the (St. Paul) Indianhead Council CCS in the mid-1990s, attended our NCCS Philmont conference in 1995, and was presented the Bronze Pelican before joining the military as a Military Chaplain.

His brother reports that Father Tim was 20 minutes away, eating lunch, on the day Saddam Hussein was captured.

Please keep Father Tim Vakoc in your prayers.

In another note, I am pleased to report that Father Jerry Fehn, NCCS Region 8 Chaplain, recently returned from duty as Army Chaplain serving in Bosnia, and has resumed his previous duties as Scout Chaplain and Hospital Chaplain.

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

National Chairman	Bray B. Barnes	Toms River, NJ
National Chaplain	Father Roger LaChance	Coeur d'Alene, ID
Past National Chairman	Edward P. Gargiulo	Wilmington, DE
Past National Chaplain	Father Donald K. Hummel	Scotch Plains, NJ
Associate National Chaplain	Father Ray Fecteau	Darnestown, MD
Vice-Chairman - Finance	John J. Halloran, Jr.	Lake Charles, LA
Vice-Chairman	Gerard A. Scanlan	New City, NY
Vice-Chairman	Sam Bridgeman	Reedville, VA
Vice-Chairman	Dave Moskal	New Britain, CT
Vice-Chairman	Edward P. Martin	Medina, OH

The national chair and chaplain each serve three-year terms. The Most Reverend Gerald Gettelfinger, Bishop of Evansville, IN, continues to be the Episcopal Liaison to the NCCS from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## REGIONAL LEADERS

	Chair	Chaplain
Region 1	Arthur Keegan	Father Steve Salvador
Region 2	Edward Winterkorn	Father Kevin Smith
Region 3	Frank Koller	—vacant—
Region 4	Michael Gannon	Father Daniel Mode
Region 5	George LeCrone	Father Charles Morgan
Region 6	Alan Tarlo, Sr.	Monsignor James Kolp
Region 7	Robert Freville	Father Roger Strebel
Region 8	—vacant—	Father Jerry Fehn
Region 9	Robert H. Nelson	Father Joseph B. Powers
Region 10	Charley Raimond, Sr.	Monsignor James Anderson
Region 11	Marie Simons	Monsignor Tony Ferrero
Region 12	James Burgen	Father Leo McDowell
Region 13	Don Ellefsen	Father Jim Blaine
Region 14	Bert Johnson	—vacant—

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Standing Committees	Chair	Advisor
Chaplains	Father Joe Weber	Betty Bridgeman
Conference	Mike Kosiba	
Eastern Churches	Marge Dillenburg	Father Nick Rachford
Finance	John Halloran	Father Dennis O'Rourke
International	Joseph DeStafano	Father Donald K. Hummel
ICCS Region	Father Leo LeBlanc	
ICCS World	Monsignor Robert Guglielmo	
Marketing PR	John Ribar	Father Thomas J. Cronin
BRIDGE Editor	Chris Hoelle	
Membership	William Davies	Monsignor John k. Dermond
Religious Activities	Cecile Greene	Father Ron Walters
Religious Emblems	Gordon Stiefel	Father Rober Strebel
Training	Susan Barriball	Father Michael Santangelo
Vocations	Homer Radford	Father Jim Oberle
Nominating	Ed Gargiulo	Father Randy M. Cuevas
Advisory Board	Carol Oldowski	Monsignor John K. Demond

### Ad Hoc Committees

Philmont Training Conf.	Edward Martin (Dir.), Father Ray Fecteau, Susan Barriball, and Gordon Stiefel
St. George Trek	Father Kevin Smith and Austin Cannon
Membership Initiative	John Ribar
ByLaws	Ron Turo

## Training Committee Updates

by Susan A. Barriball  
NCCS Training Committee Chair

The NCCS training committee offers training as a resource directly to you. One fast growing source for training is the NCCS website. You can access the NCCS website at [www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org), select *Member Information*, then *Training*, to learn about:

- 1 Fast Start**—designed as a guide for new national, regional, or diocesan chairs and chaplains
- 2 Mentoring and Action Planning**—an integral part of the new leader orientation
- 3 Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate Formation for Scouting**—prepares Scouters to see and use Scouting as youth ministry. This resource can be found by clicking the *National Activities* link on the NCCS homepage.

Training resources available through the website provide a means to offer standardized training in your area and help give your committee confidence working with Scouters and youth.

Take time to explore the various resources available to you on the NCCS website. Many of the NCCS committees list new programs and updates on committee actions.

The Training Committee is striving to be a resource to all involved in NCCS programs. Goals of the committee were discussed at the April 2004 Biennial Conference in St. Louis. Future plans of the committee include:

- 1** Address needs of regional chairs for regional meetings
- 2** Implement the use of adult learning principles for workshops at biennial conferences
- 3** Research methods of training for the purpose of understanding the diversity and needs of each region
- 4** Promote the use of resources available for training

Also at the biennial conference,  
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the training committee offered workshops on the Fast Start program (including mentoring and action planning) and *Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate Formation for Scouting* program. Participants attended with the anticipation of gaining resources and I believe that goal was attained.

Conferences are also great places to network and meet people with whom you may be able to share ideas and concerns later. Networking gave me the time to meet old friends, make new friends, and learn how people around the country are using the NCCS programs to emphasize, "Scouting is Youth Ministry." I loved the general sessions, regional meetings, workshops, and appreciate the lively meal conversations.

An advanced course, *Scouting in the Catholic Church*, held at the Philmont Training Center, also serves as an excellent development tool. The redesigned course addresses the mission and programs of the NCCS and offers adult faith formation. Participants have the opportunity to develop, carry out, and report on a mission project in their home diocese. Applications may still be available. Contact Barb Nestel at 972-580-2114 for more information.

If you have suggestions on how we can better use the website and the internet to bring training to you, I would like to hear from you. I can be reached at [barrball72@hotmail.com](mailto:barrball72@hotmail.com) or 219-926-3028.



**NCCS Website:**  
[www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org)

**Bridge editor:**  
[cdhoelle@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cdhoelle@tampabay.rr.com)

## Updates from the Religious Emblems Committee

By Gordon P. Stiefel, Chair

Awesome...is the only word that comes to mind to have been able to be at home with my NCCS colleagues in St. Louis for our 2004 Biennial meeting in April! The passion and energy for Scouting as Youth Ministry we all share is truly a great gift from a good and gracious God! Alleulia!

I thought I should share some of the work of your religious emblems committee at the biennial meeting for those of you who were unable to be with us. Our committee began its work on Monday of the meeting week.

We reviewed and recommended changes on the Silver St. George nomination form, Pope Pius XII adult facilitator application, and Ad Altare Dei adult counselor application that all have been approved by action of the executive committee. The change in Pius XII and AAD forms is only to add a section to further support dioceses by addressing the diocesan requirement. No action was taken by the religious emblems committee on the St. George nomination form.

We continued our work of updating the religious emblems reference manual. The current 1996 edition does not reflect the improvements in the Pope Pius XII program and the Dallas Bishop's Charter. This work will be completed at our next meeting in Reno, 2005. The executive board has approved our committee proposal for this publication, once the revisions are complete, to be available free on line or for a single copy fee from NCCS.

We deferred any action on the Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII programs at this time. The committee needs more information and time to review and reflect on the evaluations submitted by youth from around the country.

The committee simply

reaffirmed the Bronze Pelican as a **local** diocesan adult religious emblem program; a proposal for a new Silver Pelican adult recognition regional program will be introduced to the full committee for review and consideration at our Reno meeting.

The committee heard from many folks from around the country that the exciting newly revised Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei activity books are not yet available in many Scout Shops. The ninth point of the Scout Law is Thrifty. As good financial stewards, your local scout shop distributor may simply want to sell the on hand inventory first! The new reprint and previous edition do have the same requirements. Patience is a virtue. The good news is Eagle Regalia is shipping the revised Cub level bilingual pocket cards now with all orders.

I am pleased to announce the addition of the following members of our committee:

Anne Marie Ellingham, Diocese of Rockville Center; Michael Morgan, Diocese of Helena; Cherie McCurdy, Diocese of St. Louis; Father Wayne Arnold, Diocese of Memphis; and Father Anthony Fontenot, Diocese of Lake Charles. Welcome!!!

Our work continues...here are a few reminders... Summer camps, Cub, Boy or Venture, are great places to promote religious emblems! Order your free religious emblems poster for all faiths from your local Scout Shop today! If you have not already heard the call to come to Philmont this summer for NCCS PTC, this is it!! Psalm 121:8... "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forever more."

Until we meet again at the Lord's table at Philmont or Reno... thanks for all you do every day to share the good news of Scouting as Youth Ministry. Peace!

## Where do all those badges go?

You can imagine that Secretary General Jacques Moreillon, retiring from the World Scout Bureau, was presented with many badges and other memorabilia during his extensive travels. A collector's dream! They've all gone to the Las Vegas International Scouting Museum. Read more: [www.scout.org/front/0403LV\\_e.shtml](http://www.scout.org/front/0403LV_e.shtml)

## NCCS reminds everyone to Vote in 2004 *By Greg White*

In the Catholic tradition, participation in the political process is a moral obligation.

Every four years voters head to the polls to select our nation's president. The process begins with a series of primaries and caucuses in the winter and spring and culminates in the general election in November.

The NCCS is hoping to raise awareness about our responsibility to vote, through the "Faithful Citizenship" program as promoted by the USCCB and the BSA Good Turn for America initiative, 2004.

This is a great opportunity for us, as Scouts, to get involved with "BSA,

Good Turn for America." Every unit in every council has a unit ID and password. Contact your local council or DE to find out how you can get on line and share your " Good Turn for America" with other Scouts around the country. It may be simply helping an elderly person get to a polling place or reminding your mom, dad, friends, neighbors and parish community to vote.

The USCCB is also a great source of information to explore and expand your faith through the "Faithful Citizenship" program.

In 1952 - More than 1 million Scouts went house to house and placed 30 million Liberty Doorbell

hangers and a million posters (in businesses) to remind citizens to vote in the presidential election.

In 1956 - The second national "get out the vote" campaign was launched with 36 million doorknob hangers and 1.4 million posters distributed nationally by Scouts .

Visit the NCCS web site, <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/>, for more information on resources to help carry the message to your parish or community.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting encourages everyone to actively pursue their freedom to vote. Vote your conscience. A high price was paid to give us all the right to vote. Voting lets us honor those that have defended that freedom.

Look for more information at these websites:  
[www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org)  
[www.goodturnforamerica.org](http://www.goodturnforamerica.org)  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

## 2003 Quality Diocese Award Goes to 58 Dioceses *by John Ribar*



### 2003 Quality Diocese Award Goes to 58 Dioceses *by John Ribar*

The results are in and the Quality Diocese Award program seems to have been a great success. The year 2003 campaign showed 58 dioceses which met the necessary standards for qualification. These dioceses are the "Best of the Best." Congratulations to all those diocesan chairs who submitted applications and thanks to all the regional chairs who followed up on this worthy project. A special congratulations to the Diocese of Youngstown who was the first to apply. From all reports, there were many dioceses who did not qualify for certain reasons and who vowed to attain the award for 2004. We welcome that!

Region	2003 Quality Diocese Award Diocese(s)
1	Boston, Fall River, Hartford, Manchester, Norwich, Portland, Providence, Springfield
2	New York, Rochester, Rockville Center
3	Altoona-Johnstown, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Metuchen, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh
4	Arlington, Baltimore, Wilmington
5	Alexandria, Biloxi, Birmingham, Knoxville, Lafayette, Lexington, Louisville, Memphis, New Orleans, Owensboro, Shreveport
6	Columbus, Youngstown
7	Chicago, Evansville, Gary, Green, Peoria
8	St. Paul/Minneapolis
9	Omaha, Sioux City, Wichita
10	Houston, Tulsa, Tyler
11	Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento
12	None
13	Colorado Springs, Denver, Gallup, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Tucson
14	Atlanta

# Chairman's Message

by Bray Barnes



It is with mixed emotions that I start my tenure as your chair. First, there is the pride that I have being able to work with so many devoted

Scouters committed to providing Catholic youth ministry through the Boy Scouting program. As I talk with our members, I am always amazed at what is being done throughout the country. Activities, programs, and retreats, are constantly being offered, often in new and innovative ways that attract others to join. Our emblems program outpaces all other religious Scouting emblems. And, of course, the training that we offer at all levels is to be emulated. I also have the pride to be part of an organization that has a long and distinguished history working with both Catholic and Scouting leadership to assure that our mission is consistently accomplished. We all have to be proud of those, both laity and clergy alike, who have gone before us and given so much of their time, talent and treasure to make the NCCS the outstanding organization that it is today.

We are now being called upon to share what we do so well with the rest of the Catholic Scouting world. We, as Christians, have a mandate to serve those most in need. Catholic Scouting in many parts of the world can grow if only they had the resources. It is my sincere hope that we can help provide some of those resources by way of visible leadership, active participation, and program support so

many more of our international brothers, especially those in third world countries, can come to better know their faith through Scouting.

I am also very cognizant of the awesome responsibility that has been entrusted to me. Specifically, to assure that we continue to fulfill our roles as Catholic youth ministers:

- That we provide the training, support, program and guidance to our members in order that they may do their jobs to the best of their abilities.
- That we never forget that our role is to serve our youth to bring them closer to God utilizing those time tested values of the Boy Scouts of America.

As the Membership Initiative continues and each of us is called upon to better serve the Catholic community as youth ministers, I do not think that our responsibilities to the more than 330,000 young people have ever been clearer, more important and more needed than it is today!

This awesome responsibility grows even stronger when we consider that we are not reflective of the Catholic Church in the United States today. There is a generation of minority youth that, oftentimes, are not being reached. Although we have responded to many of the needs in our emblems program by publishing some of our materials in Spanish, I look at this as a good beginning. Our leadership has to be more reflective and responsive to the cultural

diversity of the Catholic Church in this country. They, too, will be our next generation and what a better opportunity than to share those values that shaped so many of us when we were young Scouts.

Communication has always been a major factor in any relationship. Whether it is with our own children, our spouse, co-worker, superior, subordinate or neighbor, strong communication is the cornerstone of a good relationship. NCCS has made great strides in communicating with those we serve, as well as to those in both the Church and Scouting community. It is one of my goals to break that bottleneck of information flow that sometimes exists. We have the structure to provide information to our dioceses, it's leadership, and even to our units, therefore there should be no reason why we can not achieve a smooth flow of communications from the national to the unit level. Additionally, we will continue to work in cooperation with the USCCB and the BSA, maintaining those long time alliances that have existed for more than 70 years, in order that we may best respond our Mission.

In closing, I ask that each of you keep our national chaplain, Father Roger La Chance, and me in your prayers; that the Holy Spirit gives us the inspiration to meet and respond to the challenges we face and better serve the young people of Catholic Scouting. I am truly honored to have this opportunity to work with each and everyone of you. Thank you so very much for your confidence. **I will do my best!**

## Father Randy Cuevas honored with armed services promotion

On April 1, 2004, the NCCS was well represented when Father Randy Cuevas was promoted to full Colonel at U.S. Air Force Headquarters in Washington D.C. Present were Ed Gargiulo, Associate National Chaplain Father Ray Fecteau, and Regional Chaplain (and Navy Reserve Chaplain Lieutenant) Father Dan Mode. For his reserve duty Father Randy is attached to the Office of the Chief of the Air Force Chaplain Service.

Our congratulations to (Colonel) Father Randy Cuevas on this exceptional achievement.

*Editor's Note: Father Randy is the second-youngest (by 3.5 months) colonel in the entire USAF Chaplaincy corps, including both active-duty and reserve!*



## NCCS Vocations Committee Seeks Priests with Scouting Backgrounds

*By Homer Radford*

The best way to show that Catholic Scouting can provide opportunities for young men to hear God's Call to priesthood is for our priests who are Eagle Scouts, or who had a positive experience in Catholic Scouting, to tell their stories and show their photos.

Father Nick Rachford is the first priest to participate in the program launched at the April 2004 Biennial by the vocations committee. The photo of Eagle Scout Nicholas Rachford shows that he proudly wears his Ad Altre Dei Religious Emblem next to his Eagle pin; and Father Nick at Summer Camp shows dramatically how Catholic Scouting can be a source of future Church Vocations during summer camp.

At least 50 Surveys were distributed during the biennial to priests and deacons. The stories and photos will be posted on the NCCS website and will be part of the NCCS display at the Jamboree in 2005.

Additional surveys are available

# Calendar of Events

## 2004

July 4-18	St. George Trek	Philmont Scout Ranch
July 11-16	Philmont Training Course	Philmont Scout Ranch

## 2005

April 5-9	Board/Committee Meeting	Reno, Nev.
July	Philmont Training Conference	Philmont Scout Ranch
August 16-21	World Youth Day	Cologne, Germany

from Homer Radford at hradford2@comcast.net or call 816-356-1760. **Please return all Surveys and photos as soon as possible to: Homer Radford, NCCS Vocation Committee Chair, 9601 E. 82<sup>nd</sup> TER, Raytown, MO 64138.** We need your support to make this program, *Catholic Scouting provides*

*opportunities to hear God's Call..., successful.*

**National Catholic Committee on Scouting®**  
c/o Barbara Nestel  
**Boy Scouts of America**  
**P.O. Box 152079**  
**Irving, Texas 75015-2079**