



# Instructors Looking Forward to 2004 Philmont Training Course *Scouting in the Catholic Church*

By Ed Martin, NCCS Vice-Chair

This year's Philmont Training Conference, *Scouting in the Catholic Church*, is scheduled for July 11 through 16. The instructors for the course are Susan Barriball, Gordon Stiefel, Father Ray Fecteau (chaplain), and Ed Martin (course director). They are looking forward to meeting you and sharing with you their knowledge and experiences.

**Susan Barriball** is the advisor to the NCCS Training Committee and chairs the Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCS) for the Diocese of Gary, Indiana. Susan has served over 20 years in numerous unit leadership roles while her three sons and daughter were Scouts. She has served as trainer for local and regional events including Wood Badge, Scoutmaster Fundamentals and Basic Training, and has earned a PhD in Commissioner Science. In addition, she has been recognized with the Silver Beaver, Bronze Pelican, and St. George emblems. Susan has worked as an executive recruiter and celebrates 32 years of marriage.



Long active in the Parish of St. John of the Cross, Western Springs, Illinois, **Gordon Stiefel** is a veteran Scout/Scouter with 45 years of service with the BSA and Catholic Scouting.

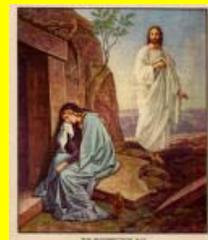


He currently chairs the CCS for the Archdiocese of Chicago and the NCCS Religious Emblems committee. Gordon, a former Assistant Dean of Students/Director of Student Activities at Loyola University, Chicago, has served on BSA National Jamboree staff, BSA National Camp School faculty, BSA Central Region Camp Visitation Specialist staff, and Owasippe Scout Reservation camp staff. He has served in numerous council/district leadership roles including council member-at-large. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Owasippe Staff Association (OSA). Most recently, he retired as founding Scoutmaster of Troop 216 where his son earned his Eagle rank. He now serves as founding crew advisor to Venture Crew 216. Gordon is an Eagle Scout, Vigil OA member, Owasippe Staff Association life

member, and has earned the Scouters Training Award, Scoutmaster Award of Merit, Cubmaster Award, Bronze Pelican and St. George emblems.

**Father Ray Fecteau** serves as pastor of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., where he is the founding charter executive of Venture Crew 2003. He received his STB/D.Min. at the Catholic University of America. Father

Ray has served many years in local



*I am the Resurrection  
and the Life*  
Remember the Reason  
for the Season

*(Continued from page 1)*

adult leadership positions, including Membership Chair, Camp Inspector, Scoutmaster, and Camp Chaplain. He has also served as Archdiocesan Scout Chaplain. He is a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow, and has been presented the Silver Beaver and St. George emblems. Since 1980, Father Ray has served various NCCS standing committees: advisor to the Religious Activities, Eastern Churches, and Training committees, and chairman of the Chaplains and Training committees. He attended the NCCS Philmont course in 1977, served on its faculty in 1986, and was course director in 1988. His 20 years of service to the NCCS were recognized in 2002 with the Silver St. George award. He is the NCCS Associate National Chaplain-elect.

**Ed Martin** is an Eagle Scout, the father of four Scouts, and an active member of St. Francis Xavier Parish in the Diocese of Cleveland, where he is a Scoutmaster. He has served as Cubmaster and chairman of the Diocese of Columbus, CCS. Currently a NCCS Vice-Chair, Ed has also served as chairman of Region VI, the Training Committee, and the Vocations Committee. His contributions to the NCCS were recognized with the Silver St.



George award in 2001. He has taught technical and leadership skills for Ernst & Young and systems integration companies.

The instructors will not only present the mission and programs of the NCCS, but will explore with you adult faith formation and Scouting as youth ministry.

You will also be able to participate in a new feature of the course. Using the information and insight you acquire, you will have the option of developing, carrying out, and reporting on a mission project for your own parish or local

Catholic committee on Scouting.

The instructors invite you to be part of this journey. For more information and an application, contact Barb Nestel (bnestel@netbsa.org, 972-580-2114) at the BSA National Office.

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### **NCCS SUPPORTS BOY SCOUTS IN LAW SUITS**

*By Bray Barnes,, NCCS Chair-elect*

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting was recently asked to support the position of the Boy Scouts of America on two laws suits that currently impact the BSA and/or their affiliates and their chartered partners. The Executive Committee has agreed that the NCCS will provide Amicus briefs in both law suits, one in California and one in Connecticut, in support of the Boy Scouts position.

In the first suit, *Evans V. City of Berkeley*, the Sea Scouts in Berkeley have long enjoyed free berth rights at the city marina in return for the service that they have provided to the city over the years including helping to build the marina years ago. The City of Berkeley enacted an ordinance stating that city funds would not be used to subsidize private groups who discriminate. The city has determined that the Sea Scouts are a discriminating organization per their definition and have withdrawn the free berthing rights of the Scouts. Although the Sea Scouts have provided policy language to abide by the city's rule and regulations, Berkeley has singled them out (no other group has been denied free access) in denying access.

The case is now before the California Supreme Court and if allowed to stand, the city's ordinance, as written, could affect the funding of those organizations that support Scouting. The NCCS has collaborated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) in the filing of an Amicus brief in support of the position of the Sea Scouts. It is expected that the case will be heard sometime in the first quarter of 2004.

The second case, *Boy Scouts of America V. Wyman*, the United

States Second Circuit Court of Appeals held that the Connecticut state employee charitable campaign, which includes 900 charities, may exclude the Boy Scouts of America as a group that discriminates against homosexuals in leadership positions. No other organization which receives funds from the drive, including gay and lesbian organizations, was excluded.

NCCS along with numerous other chartered partners, including the American Legion, the LDS Church, and the Salvation Army will be preparing briefs in support of a Writ of Certiorari, asking the United States Supreme Court to hear the case as it presents clear Constitutional issues.

The Executive Committee has authorized Bray Barnes, Esq., National Chair-Elect, to represent the NCCS in both these matters. Bray has agreed to provide legal services on a Pro Bono basis to the NCCS in preparation of the briefs and working with other BSA chartered partners and their legal counsel as well as with the BSA on these cases. As both matters progress, the members of the NCCS will be kept updated on these very important issues.

### **P.R.A.Y. Publishing to Distribute Emblems Books**

P.R.A.Y. Publishing Inc. is now an authorized distributor of Catholic Scouting Religious Emblems activity books and counselor/facilitator guides. The books only may be ordered from their website [www.praypub.org](http://www.praypub.org).

For training dates and information to serve as a Religious Emblems coordinator, counselor, or facilitator, please contact your local (arch) diocese/eparchy pastoral center. The purchase of the actual religious emblem (medal) remains available only through your local (arch) diocesan/eparchy Catholic Committee on Scouting or Scout Chaplain. See the NCCS Website [www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org) for local diocesan contacts.

## Excerpts from Bishop Quinn's Remarks

### NCCS 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting Prayer Breakfast April 11, 2002

- The Catholic Church is not a museum for Saints. . . but a hospital for sinners.
- Those who instruct the young shall shine like stars.
- Beatitudes of Scouting
  - o Blessed is the Scout Troop where the Scouts are loved honestly, they shall succeed.
  - o Blessed is the Scout Troop where the children grow up to be adults and the adults don't act like children
  - o Blessed be the Scout Troop where the Scouts are truly loved, for they shall be strong-
  - o Blessed is the Scout Troop where the leaders listen (and hear) for they shall be good leaders
  - o Blessed is the Scout Troop where the leaders are never shaken, for they will be respected.
  - o Blessed is the Scout Troop where the leaders answer the tough questions simply, for they shall be trusted.
- The Ten Commandments for Scouts
  - o Be patient enough to obey those in charge
  - o Think twice before joining any other gang
  - o Turn away from racial prejudices
  - o Get to Church regularly
  - o Don't show off while driving
  - o Respect God's beautiful gift of sex
  - o Choose a date who would make a good mate
  - o Avoid following the "crowd"
  - o Stop and think before you drink. (Show class and don't do grass)
  - o The greatest thing you will ever experience – to love and be loved.



## A Letter from the Chair

by Ed Gargiulo — NCCS Chairman

I received two really wonderful pieces of news at the beginning of this year. First, Father Don Hummel, a young friend of Scouting and a dedicated priest will receive the Silver Buffalo Award at the May BSA annual meeting in Chicago. Father Don is nationally known as our chaplain and ubiquitous priest/pastor in the Northeast region, at Jamborees and at Philmont

for more than a dozen years.

Secondly, in 2003 the number of Scouting units chartered to Catholic institutions grew by roughly 100. Now, to some this may not sound like very much, but from June 2002 to 2003, 375 units were dropped and I had feared even larger year-end losses. While in many dioceses, Catholic youth ministry is struggling for existence, Catholic Scouting is holding its own. The largest gains were in the Southern and Western BSA regions. I am convinced these gains are due to the efforts of diocesan committees and BSA councils that have made good use of the Catholic Membership Initiative materials the NCCS provided in the past few years. More than 480 new units were chartered in 2003 showing that more work is to be done to support and maintain existing units.

Finally, I want to encourage your attendance and participation in the NCCS Biennial Conference in April. Here are ten reasons why you need to attend:

1. St. Louis is a cool place to spend a few days.
2. Learn about diocesan safe environment programs and how you can protect the youth of your diocese.
3. Hear about the "Good Turn for Scouting" and where the BSA will be going in 2004-5.
4. Renew your religious emblems program and talk to the authors of new programs.
5. Talk to Bishop Gettelfinger and hear what the Catholic bishops of the United States are thinking about Scouting and youth ministry.
6. Get first-hand information about new and continuing religious activities to enrich your diocesan programs.
7. See how other diocesan committees are handling their problems and share your solutions.
8. Learn how to budget for and manage active diocesan programs.
9. Meet the nation's experts on Catholic Scouting.
10. Worship with other leaders committed to Catholic Youth Ministry in Scouting.

See you all in April!!

## Millennium Patch Program

The NCCS Millennium Patch activity program has been one of the most successful programs in the history of the NCCS. Since its inception in 1997, about 35,000 youth and adults have participated. The millennium program has now been discontinued as a patch program (supplies have been exhausted and are no longer available from the NCCS). A Rosary activity program was started in 2003 and is planned to run for at least four years with a new and different patch for each of the Mysteries of the Rosary. More information is available on the Website [www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org).

## Rosary Patch Program

# Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts Travel a Virginia Scout's "Trail to Sainthood"

By Charles Pyle

The sky darkened and the temperature dropped, prompting the 160-plus Scouts and leaders attending the Diocese of Richmond's Spring 2003 Retreatoree at Camp T. Brady Saunders to pull out ponchos and jackets.

Scoutmaster Jim Carpenter of Boy Scout Troop 828 eyed the approaching squall line and resigned himself to the probability that the outdoor Tridentine Mass planned for the evening would have to be celebrated in the dining hall. Carpenter's troop had hauled a portable altar, candlesticks, linens, and other appointments necessary for the pre-Vatican II liturgy to the campground in the rolling Virginia Piedmont from St. Joseph's, the troop's home parish in Richmond.

Scouts from as far away as Blacksburg and Roanoke in Southwestern Virginia attended the retreat. Catholic Scouts from non-Catholic sponsored units camped in two provisional troops, one for boys and another for girls.

Scouts gathered in the camp's outdoor chapel on the first evening of the retreat for a candlelight rosary. The recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries, which are traditionally prayed on Fridays during Lent, was led by Scouts under the guidance of adult volunteers from the Legion of Mary. Each Scout received a glow-in-the-dark rosary (perfect for a dark tent on a stormy night) and a booklet explaining how to pray the rosary.

During the day on Saturday, Scouts hiked the Stations of the Cross along a rugged trail, stopping to kneel and pray at each of 15 wooden crosses mounted on trees along the way. The Scouts took turns carrying a heavy wooden cross beam as they hiked the trail, which plunged in and out of a deep ravine and through the roughest terrain on the reservation. Scouts also sent passages from scripture and traditional Catholic

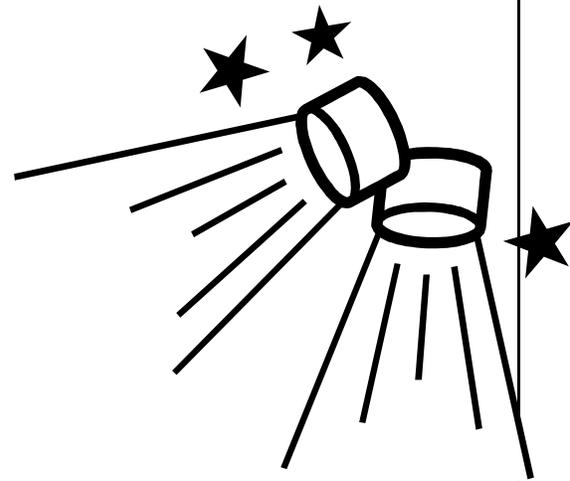
prayers across the camp lake by wagging semaphore flags, learned about famous saints while brushing up on their compass skills, and lashed together flagpoles. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts eagerly competed to see who would be first to raise a flagpole, secure guy-lines, and hoist the colors.

"Our program was designed to blend opportunities for reflection and penance with physical activity," explained Charles Pyle, retreat chairman. "We wanted the retreat to be fun but at the end of the day have the Scouts look back on their experiences and labors as a Lenten offering."

"The key to a successful Scout retreat or camporee is to develop a theme and break the event into manageable parts," said Joe Feher, Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 893. Feher organized the 2002 Diocese of Richmond spring retreatoree, which was built around the presence of Christ in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. "The approach that has worked for us is to involve leaders from as many units as possible and give troops and crews ownership of fine tuning and executing the events."

Members of two Richmond-area Venture crews, Crew 503 and Crew 893, were enlisted to serve as junior staff. "They were indispensable," said Pyle. "They helped inexperienced campers settle in on the first evening of the retreat, they ran activities, and perhaps most important of all, they served as wonderful models for the younger Scouts."

A roaring campfire capped the evening. Each Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and Venture unit performed an original skit based on the life of a saint. "The Scouts will come through with appropriate skits if you give them a theme but allow enough room for them to have fun," said Feher. Skits included sketches about St. George, St. Bernadette, St. Patrick, and how St. Jude (patron of hopeless



## SPOTLIGHTING

### Diocese of Richmond's Retreatoree

causes) aided a young Scout lost in the wilderness.

Sunday morning was kept simple to allow Scouts to break camp and adjust to the advent of Daylight Savings Time. Cadette Allison Kohler of Girl Scout Troop 959 read a "Prayer at the Close of Camp" from the *A Scout is Reverent* prayer book published by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting:

*"...Striking camp and going home reminds us that we have no permanent resting place here on earth and that all our life we are on the move toward eternity. May we be prepared when one day You will call us to our eternal resting place in heaven. Amen."*

# NCCS RECOGNIZES THE CONSTANTINIAN ORDER

by Bray Barnes, NCCS Chair-elect



The National Catholic Committee on Scouting hosted a dinner at The

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C., on Sunday, 9 November 2003 in honor of the Sacred Military

Constantinian Order of St. George. At the invitation of Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger, Episcopal Liaison to NCCS, 30 Knights, Dames and friends of Catholic Scouting enjoyed an evening of fellowship and music performed by the National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship members. Bishop Gettelfinger, along with Ed Gargiulo, National



Chair and Father Don Hummel, National Chaplain, Father Roger LaChance, Associate National Chaplain, Father Dennis O'Rourke, Past National Chaplain; and, Bray Barnes, National Chair-Elect greeted guests as they arrived.

The evening started with a reception held in the private Chinese Lounge at The Kennedy Center. Guests were each given the opportunity to have their photo taken in front of the Presidential Box along with a tour and the opportunity to sit in the president's seat. Prior to dinner, the National Capital Area Council



presented the Silver Beaver Award to His Eminence, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick. Incoming Council President Bill Haggerty, Scout Executive Ron Carroll, and the Chaplain and Chair of the Archdiocesan Catholic Committee, Father Ed Filardi and Robert H. Kammer, commended His Eminence on his support of Catholic Scouting as they convened the National Court of Honor and read the citation in support of the award. Cardinal McCarrick,

upon accepting the award, told those gathered how important Scouting was today and thanked everyone for all they do for Catholic youth. The Cardinal went on to say how truly honored he was to be a Silver Beaver Recipient. The next morning, His Eminence proudly displayed his "new" Silver Beaver lapel pin to his brother bishops.

Following dinner which was held in the beautiful Israeli Lounge, Bishop Gettelfinger along with Ed Gargiulo, and Father Don Hummel,



recognized the long standing contributions and support of the Constantinian Order to Catholic Scouting, particularly, the St. George Trek held at Philmont Scout Ranch since 1992. Each Knight and Dame of the Order was presented with a special token of appreciation by the NCCS.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the Brother Barnabas Founders Award to David L. Garrison, Jr. Delegate, Sacred

Military Constantinian Order of St. George, United States Delegation, and long time member of the NCCS for all his service to Scouting and the Church. Mr. Garrison, who did not know of the presentation of the award, received a standing ovation for



his outstanding service and joining the ranks of a very select few who have received this honor. Fellow recipient, Frank Rossomondo, Past National NCCS Chair, and his wife Jeanne were also in attendance and offered their personal congratulations to David.

The guests were then escorted to the observation deck of The Kennedy Center, where they were treated to a breathtaking view of Washington at night. Despite the chill in the air, everyone enjoyed the sites of our nation's capital and an evening that brought together the NCCS and the Constantinian Order in the service of our youth as ministers through Scouting.

The Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George is an Order of Chivalry which, from its earliest origins, has supported the glorification of the Cross, the propaganda of the Faith and the defense of the Holy Roman Church, its special legacy through service in the Orient fighting the infidel and the many proofs of the recognition and regard of the Supreme Pontiffs.



It is not only required that the Knights should lead the lives of perfect Christians but that they must participate in every manifestation which contributes to the development of the principles of religion among people and co-operate with all who are promoting the practice of Christianity.

# ANOTHER SMOKE SIGNAL FROM MY TEEPEE

By Gordon P. Stiefel, Chairman, NCCS Religious Emblems Committee

In this edition of the Bridge, I would like to begin by sharing a story with you. A short time ago, I was asked my opinion at a Cub Pack Blue and Gold about a Boy Scout wearing a T-shirt to a Scout Sunday Mass with the words, "Jesus is my homeboy" written on the front of the shirt with a picture of Christ on the back. The picture of Christ was taken from some Catholic artwork somewhere, and he had bought it at a Catholic teen youth rally.

Before answering the question, I asked the parent of another Scout what they thought of the shirt. The parent, as I suspected, was in shock. The parent began muttering some words to the effect God is not a homeboy; he is God! I then began sharing the success of our religious emblems program to have reached the boy to better companion with Christ to think of God as companion or homeboy. I reminded the parents that we are all God's children and have to meet the kids where the kids are in order to get them to be closer to God.

After the Blue and Gold meal, the Cubmaster asked me if a kid in the Pack, who was not going to crossover to Boy Scouting, could he now start the trail to complete Parvuli Dei and complete the program next fall when he was in sixth grade.

Lucky for me, our wise and sage NCCS religious emblems committee saw this question coming! To be supportive of all unit leaders in the new reprint editions, we clearly reaffirm the Parvuli Dei program must be completed before sixth grade. The BSA Cub Scout program is designed to have the youth graduate in February or March of the second year Webelos program year.

As we all share Lent and the Easter season, it is time for us to reflect and renew our efforts to promote religious emblems at the many diverse summer resident camp opportunities this year. Has your diocese or archdiocese promoted the

Cub religious emblem programs at Cub Day camp, or Cub resident camp? It is a great opportunity to share the good news of the religious emblems program of all the religions as well as plant the seeds for a Pack religious emblems coordinator. Did you know you could order the religious emblems brochure for all faiths through your local Council shop at no charge? Maybe it is time for your local Council leadership to consider a chaplain at Cub Resident Camp this year. It is such a powerful message and gift opportunity for our Cubs to interact with a Priest or Deacon at day camp. Given the demands on our parish priests and deacons, it is also a challenge to achieve.

Let us reflect and renew in the opportunities at Philmont as well as our local council Boy Scout and Venture camps to share the good news of Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII. I hope every local diocesan committee has a plan in place to strive to minister to our kids this summer at local Council camps. A great start is to work with your local council on chaplain service for your council camps.. Who better than the Summer

Camp Chaplain to deliver the good news of religious emblems opportunities as part of Scout Law 12 while all the kids are at summer camp this summer? Religious emblems are available for most faiths!

When you are at our NCCS biennial meeting in St. Louis, please be sure to check out with our host diocese folks the great Swift Venture Scout base operated by this St. Louis Area Council. Stop by the religious emblems committee table for information on how to better utilize the NCCS religious emblems program in your local diocese.

One way to help your team reach its membership goals for new Catholic units is to share our emblems program with new pastors while trying to organize new packs, troops, or crews! Combining the tools of our great NCCS membership team and our NCCS religious emblems team will help you deliver on the promise of Scouting is Youth Ministry in your diocese

Evening comes, morning follows, and before long, it will be time for us all to gather around the Lord's Table in St. Louis. I look forward to seeing you then!

## Region 10 Loses Two Leaders

**Raymond Daniel Broussard**, 74, died on December 29, 2003 at his residence in Vidor, Texas. Ray was a loyal member of the NCCS and served for three years on the executive board as the chairman of Region 10. He retired from Gulf States Utilities as an electrical engineer. Raymond served in the United States Air Force and was a 4th degree in the Knights of Columbus. He was the first Grand Knight in Vidor and was one of the charter members that started the Vidor Council. He also was a Scoutmaster

for 40 years with Troop 155 in Vidor. He, and his wife of 49 years, Luella, will be missed at our meetings.

**Alfred (Fred) Wuensch** passed away January 15, 2004 in Houston. He was born in the Czeck Republic. Fred preceded Ray Broussard as the chair of NCCS Region 10 for several years and held several leadership positions with the Catholic Committee on Scouting. Fred was a computer physicist for Shell Oil and is survived by his wife Monique Wuensch.

# Rest in Peace

## Is the NCCS Membership Initiative a "Numbers Game?"

When you really think about it and reread the purpose of the Initiative, you will see that the REAL goals of it are not only to "increase the number of Catholic Organizations as Chartered Partners" but, more importantly, to "reaffirm Scouting as Catholic Youth Ministry" and "build Diocesan Committees to strengthen and support Catholic Scouting." Too many leaders are not using the REAL purposes. Assuredly, if you do the last two goals, the first one will happen almost automatically. Just look around at all the successful programs and you will see that their membership flourishes because of strong leadership, organization, trained leaders and quality participation in NCCS programs.

As of the end of December, 2003, Catholic Scouting grew by over a 100 units from the prior year. This in the face of the toughest recruiting year the BSA experienced in recent years when virtually all BSA Regions had a deep drop in membership. Success came, partially, from our push from the Initiative for "quality" units and dioceses. The number of Pope Paul VI Awards was way up and the Quality Diocesan Award almost tripled. We had the largest number of awards ever presented.

Even though we had over a 100 unit increase, the bad news was that to achieve this we had to make up for all the lapsed units which amounted to over 375 (you do the numbers!). To help in this area of raising our retention rate we are having a special workshop on this subject in St. Louis to help all dioceses understand this problem and learn how to avoid it. It will be a course well worth the time to attend. Look for it in the program.

Also, a session you will not want to miss is entitled, "The Reality of the Membership Initiative." In a frank, down to earth discussion we will cover what the "real" purpose of the Initiative is and how to use it to strengthen your diocesan committee and make it function more fruitfully. Make a point to attend both of these sessions if you are in ANY position with an NCCS leadership role. Increasing the "quality" of Catholic Scouting will, in the long run, assure "Scouting as Youth Ministry" will flourish as never before.

## NCCA Conference Survey

1. Current Scouting position(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female
3. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_ Single/Widowed
5. If married, did spouse travel with you? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
6. How many children under 18 do you have living at home? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How far would you travel to attend a conference?  
\_\_\_\_\_ less than 120 miles \_\_\_\_\_ 121 to 250 miles  
\_\_\_\_\_ more than 250 miles
8. Which (Arch)diocese or Eparchy are you located in?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why would you register to attend a conference (please rank in order of importance with 1 being the most important)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ to learn what's new  
\_\_\_\_\_ to learn how to conduct programs/activities  
\_\_\_\_\_ to develop contacts with other Scouters  
\_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy a change of pace  
\_\_\_\_\_ other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
10. What, if anything, makes it difficult to attend a conference (please rank in order of difficulty with 1 being the most difficult)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ registration fee  
\_\_\_\_\_ hotel cost  
\_\_\_\_\_ distance to travel  
\_\_\_\_\_ amount of time away from home or work  
\_\_\_\_\_ other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
11. In what month should Future Biennial Conferences be held?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this survey by  
April 10, 2004 and mail / fax to:

NCCS Conference Survey  
PO Box 320636  
Tampa, FL 33679-2636

Fax to: (813) .839.3474

*Thank you for completing this survey!*



## What is the World Day for Consecrated Life?

by Homer Radford, CCS Vocations Chair

World Day for Consecrated Life is an annual celebration to highlight persons who have made a special consecration in the Catholic Church.

This year World Day for Consecrated Life in the USA was celebrated on Sunday, February 8. The purpose of World Day for Consecrated Life is to show appreciation to men and women who have given their lives in service to God and the Church. We have all been touched by nuns, brothers, monks and priests who teach, provide caring service in our hospitals and parishes and have helped our Scouts with Religious Emblems.

Scout Troops and Packs can participate in the spirit of the event by identifying a member of a religious community, making or buying a Thank You card or Appreciation Card, and asking all members of the unit to sign the card. Mail or deliver the card.

# Calendar of Events

## 2004

April 20-24	NCCS Biennial Conference	St. Louis
May 19-21	BSA National Meeting	Chicago
July 4-18	St. George Trek	Philmont Scout Ranch
July 11-16	Philmont Training Course	Philmont Scout Ranch

## 2005

August 15-21	World Youth Day Celebration	Cologne, Germany
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**NCCS Website: [www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org)**  
**Bridge editor: [cdhoelle@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cdhoelle@tampabay.rr.com)**

Another way to celebrate the World Day for Consecrated Life is by beginning or closing your meeting with a prayer for men and women religious in your diocese. The Chaplain's Aide can lead the prayer.

As leaders of a Catholic Chartered Scout Unit we are given opportunities

to create a positive environment for Church vocations within our parish community and make a difference in the lives of the Catholic youth in our Troop, Pack, Crew or Post. More information is available on the following website: [www.usccb.org/consecratedlife](http://www.usccb.org/consecratedlife).

## National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

c/o Barbara Nestel

Boy Scouts of America

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