

National Catholic Youth Conference

Atlanta, Georgia October, 2005



NCCS Emphasizes Scouting Youth Ministry at National Youth Conference

On October 27, 2005, 16,000 youth and approximately 4,000 adult youth ministers converged on the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta for the four day National Catholic Youth Conference sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

The theme of the conclave was *Winds of Change*. Bishop Gordon D. Bennett of Mandeville, Jamaica set the general theme of the conference in his keynote address. He spoke of the “subtle kinds of slavery” that keep people chained and separated from the freedom God offers.

He observed that, “There are lots of slave traders in this modern age, and they have a callous disregard for your freedom....They enslave you by lying to you, by telling you that alcohol and drugs will make you happy.....They enslave you with insecurity, the lie that physical beauty and social popularity are the only things that matter in life. They enslave you with emptiness of heart and soul and tell you that no one really cares about you. And they enslave you with the lie that there is no God.”

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He assured the teens that they do not have to live that way. "The Holy Spirit calls you tonight to live in truth, not in lies." He further told the teens that there are five tools they should use to retain their freedom - living honestly, believing in one's dignity, embracing the community, taking responsibility, and living with simplicity.

Similar themes were presented at seminars and rallies by clergy, inspirational Catholic youth speakers, musicians, and performers. All urged the teens to critically analyze messages from pop culture (movies, TV shows, music, magazines), offered practical advice for living their faith, and told of the power of God's love - God's love can change your life.

A thematic park, "Peachtree Corners," provided a respite from formal presentations and a place to meet youth from around the country. An area the size of four football fields was divided into quadrants for Mind, Body, Spirit, and Community. This area housed approximately two hundred exhibit booths with games, service opportunities, sports, arts and crafts, schools, and religious articles on display.

George Sparks and Charles Holmes, BSA Relationships and Venturing Divisions, provided a dual booth and professional coverage. NCCS volunteers Mike Kosiba, John Ribar, Ed Gargiulo, and Jack Thompson greeted several thousand youth and youth ministers in this area stressing Scout and Venturing opportunities for youth ministry.

Pictured on front page is Michael Kosiba, NCCS Conference Chair, one of the volunteers from NCCS at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Atlanta.

Friends and Family

- **Congratulations to our National Chair, Bray Barnes who was elected Deputy Secretary General of The International Catholic Conference on Scouting (ICCS) at their meeting in Tunis in September 2005.**
- **Keep our chaplains in your prayers who are serving our country and our troops in the Middle East. Father Dan Mode has been serving since this summer and Father Randy Cuevas will be returning there this December for a short tour. Major Father Jerry Fehn is already on his way to Iraq also, for a long tour as a military chaplain.**
- **John Halloran lost his home in Lake Charles as a result of Hurricane Rita. The family is fine, although John is currently on a tour of duty in Egypt.**
- **The tornado that hit Evansville in November left Bishop Gettelfinger unharmed, but it did severe damage to Jack Thompson's home. We thank our Lord that Jack and his wife are ok.**
- **Please email Jerry Scanlan at gascanlan@hotmail.com if you have any information to include in future issues of this column.**

NCCS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) depends on financial contributions to survive. There are a number of opportunities available for you to support the NCCS. Each calendar year we have an annual appeal. The appeal envelopes are mailed to the entire membership of about 900 persons at the end of each year, giving our membership the opportunity for "year end" giving as well. The NCCS Executive Board has committed 100% participation to this annual appeal, and we look to the general membership for strong support as well. Time and talent are great gifts that we all share with Scout programs, but without the additional gifts of treasure, we could not operate.

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Keep in touch with the NCCS via your annual membership. Yearly memberships can be had with a membership fee of \$35.00, or lifetime membership is available for a one-time fee of \$350.00. Show your support of NCCS by becoming a member each year. Membership fees may not be tax deductible; speak to your tax consultant for information.

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Have you ever considered significant support in the amount of \$2,500 through the *Golden AAD* or *Spes Mundi O'Connell* funds? The *Golden AAD* Fund is used to support the ministry of our priest chaplains who serve on the Executive Board. The *Spes Mundi O'Connell* monies are used to directly support the International Catholic Conference of Scouting. Both of these contributions are recognized with a beautiful limited edition medallion suspended on a ribbon worn around the neck, as well as a certificate suitable for framing. For information on either of these opportunities, please contact the NCCS office at 972-580-2114, or nccs@netbsa.org.

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Do you have a will? Did you know that only about 25% of Americans have memorialized their last wishes through wills? Did you know that of those wills in the USA, 48% of them remember their animal pets but don't remember religious organizations or their churches? Please, remember the NCCS in your will. The official title is: "The National Catholic Committee on Scouting" with the address: P. O. Box 152079, Irving, Texas 75015-2079. Use these words so there is no confusion.

REFLECTIONS FROM TUNISIA

by Father Don Hummel, Past National Chaplain

You're going where for what kind of meeting? The befuddlement that clouded many faces of otherwise reliable and focused Catholic Scouters was repeated many times as I mentioned where I was headed at the end of August. Over the years the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS) held their meetings in exotic locales but *TUNISIA*? How many Catholics live there (not many as it turns out, especially in recent times) and why meet in northern Africa anyway? Good and fair questions.

The reason that ICCS met in this overwhelmingly Muslim country is that typically ICCS has "piggy-backed" its meetings with those of WOSM (World Organization of the Scouting Movement) and that was the scenario again. In any case this is where the conference was scheduled, so we dutifully arrived in this most secular of Muslim countries. I was informed, for instance, that if we saw women with headscarves of any kind, they were not from Tunisia, but from a number of other Muslim countries. The United States delegation was warmly and efficiently greeted at the Tunis Airport by a contingent of Muslim Scouts and Scouters and at first escorted to a receiving lounge at the airport to await the arrival of other Scouting guests due in. After about an hour of sharing stories and ideas – with some switching and experimenting with my rusty German and almost non-existent French, we climbed aboard a small bus for transport to the Diplomat Hotel (site of the conference). Prior to my arrival several of our NCCS veterans were in attendance for meetings. Our World Chaplain, Monsignor Bob Guglielmone and the Chaplain for the Americas Father Leo Leblanc were among a few familiar faces. We were joined the next day by NCCS chair Bray Barnes and his wife Patty. I have shared time with Fathers Bob and Leo at Philmont, so I wasn't totally adrift. I saw Father John Seddon from the UK, Baldur

Hermans, the ICCS Secretary General and a number of others who have visited with the NCCS at several of our gatherings in the United States. It was a typical Scouting welcome and I quickly felt at ease, and ready to continue my education on this ICCS stage representing all of you as best I could.

During the next several days, I met a wide variety of Catholic Scouters from around the world. Our keynote speaker was Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, President of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, who set the tone for the conference and who had served as a "White Father" in the Tunisian missions early in his priesthood. Although at first we struggled to find a common linguistic ground, it all seemed to fall into place and we considered a variety of topics and challenges to Catholic Scouting across a wide spectrum of settings and circumstances. There were the inevitable "family squabbles" about quorums, voting and membership status (sound familiar?) but business proceeded. We had group discussions and shared concerns for the general role of God in some of the pronouncements of WOSM. There is a real fear that some of the more aggressive movements toward inclusiveness and non-offensive language is watering down the core concept of Duty to God and reverence far more so in other Scouting organizations than in the BSA. I gained a renewed appreciation for what we have and what we are a part of!

There were displays and a kind of IDEAS FAIR and I was especially cognizant of the struggle of some of the Catholic Scouting movements in formerly "Iron Curtain" countries and the struggling governments that have followed. Some of these Catholic Scouting Movements are not recognized since WOSM is moving toward acknowledging only one Scout Organization in any one country. This is an obvious concern for ICCS and an ongoing agenda item for WOSM.

Saturday night after mass at the magnificent cathedral with the local Archbishop, (who informed us that "officially" there are NO native Tunisian Catholics) we had an international food and culture event that allowed the members present to "educate" the palates of attendees and guests. It's a great feat to eat one's way around the world, but in humble service, we all gave it our best effort – and it was delicious! It also allowed many of the tensions of the days' discussions to be pacified.

The next day, as we wrapped up the business at hand, we were able to speak about our \$100,000 Endowment for the advancement of Catholic Scouting in Central and South America where the need is palpable. We then moved to the elections portion of the meeting wherein Baldur Hermans was re-elected as Secretary General. The next order of business was a highlight for NCCS because our own Bray Barnes was elected Deputy Secretary General – a first for NCCS and the USA: a fitting conclusion to the conference. Congratulations Bray !

For those who could stay after the meeting was over, we piled into a mini-bus on Sunday afternoon and took a tour to the ruins of Carthage and its museum. We also visited a former Catholic cathedral built by the White Fathers which is now a public cultural center. We continued up the coast to the extensive ruins of a roman bath and then to Sidi abu Said, a resort area with a magnificent view of the Mediterranean which was enjoyed with a relaxing glass of mint tea. We ended the evening with a fine dinner followed by a performance of local entertainers – including a genuine Tunisian belly dancer!

The next morning we left for a brief Rome visit before returning home. As I recap the few short days with the ICCS, I am grateful for the opportunity to learn on this wider scale how Catholic Scouting is such a blessing and how it holds out hope to so many in very different and difficult circumstances ...and how truly blessed we are to live where and how we do.

Philmont 2006 – Scouting in the Catholic Church, July 16 through July 22, 2006

When His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, spoke to youth at Cologne – Marienfeld on Saturday, 20 August 2005, he shared the words, "In our pilgrimage with the mysterious Magi from the East, we have arrived at the moment which St Matthew describes in his Gospel with these words: "Going into the house (over which the star had halted), they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him" (Mt 2: 11). Outwardly, their journey was now over. They had reached their goal. But at this point a new journey began for them, an inner pilgrimage which changed their whole lives."

This summer you can renew or begin a new journey with your companions in Scouting as Youth Ministry as you travel to the Philmont Training Center to participate in the NCCS Course, Scouting in the Catholic Church!

Why should you make the journey? This is the third year of the exciting new Scouting in the Catholic Church course. It is designed to challenge and prepare you to grow in your local leadership role as you serve youth!

The course is designed to improve your understanding, participation and share in the mission and programs of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® as you minister at your local level to our youth!!

Its easier this year as the dates of our course are July 16 to July 22! No challenge with either choosing between Philmont, BSA National Jamboree or World Youth Day.

Our course title "Scouting in the Catholic Church" continues as it was chosen for repositioning to meet the needs of all who labor in the field of Scouting as Youth Ministry. Laity, clergy, religious, youth ministers, Scout Execs, members of the Council/District Key 3, Council Membership chairs, vocation directors, youth ministry directors, CYO Directors, pastors, COR -- all

who seek to better serve our youth through Scouting as Youth Ministry are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

NCCS National Chaplain, Father Roger LaChance has announced an outstanding faculty for the 2006 course at the Philmont Training Center.

Susan Barriball is the director for the course. Susan is the Chair for the Gary Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Chair for NCCS Training Committee. Susan has been a counselor for religious emblems since 1982 and holds position of Relationship Chair for LaSalle Council B.S.A. Susan has been a registered leader, in numerous capacities, with the Boy Scouts of America since 1980 and involved in every district and council training, including Woodbadge trained and staff for a Woodbadge course held in Ohio. She has been honored with many BSA awards including the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver and is the recipient of the Bronze Pelican, St Elizabeth Seton, St. Ann, and St. George Award. Susan has served as faculty at Philmont. Susan, has been married to Charlie for 34 years, is the mother of four, and grandmother to two. Susan resides in Chesterton IN.

Father Stephen Salvadore has accepted the position of Chaplain for the course. In scouting 30 years, Father Steve has served as district chaplain, council chaplain and presently serving as Diocesan Chaplain for Boy and Girl Scouts and Region 1 Chaplain. He is the Advisor to the NCCS Conference Committee. Father Steve has served as National Jamboree Chaplain and Chaplain at Philmont. Father Steve has served previously as chaplain for Scouting in the Catholic Church. He is the recipient of St. George, Silver St. George, Silver Beaver and the District Award of Merit.

Joining Father Steve and Susan as faculty are William Davies and Tony Madonia.

Bill has served in a variety of leadership positions with the NCCS and has been on the Executive Board for about ten years now. He has served as Region 8 Chair, Resource Development Chair, National Vice-Chair coordinating the Regional Chairs and currently National Membership Chair. While Region 8 chair he structured the program now used where all the regional chairs report to one national vice-chair. As Vice-Chair overseeing the 14 Regions, Bill implemented a new communication system and helped develop the Quality Diocesan Award. As Membership Chair, Bill developed the current Membership Growth Plan. He continues to be active with local diocesan committee having served as Council CCS Chair for two years and Diocesan CCS Chair for four year. Bill has received the Bronze Pelican, St. George, Silver St. George and Silver Antelope.

Tony Madonia has been an NCCS member since 1993. He is currently serving on the NCCS Advisory committee and Marketing and Public Relations committee where he was chair for three years. He developed and has maintained the NCCS website since 1997 and in 2005 he was awarded the Silver St. George for this work. Tony has facilitated several NCCS Biennial conference workshops and has been on staff at the Scouting in the Catholic Church conference at Philmont Training Center.

Tony is currently the chair and webmaster of the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting. In the past, he has been vice-chair, newsletter editor, retreat coordinator, and religious emblems counselor trainer. He has been awarded the Bronze Pelican and St. George awards by his diocese.

Tony is BSA registered as COR at St. Timothy Catholic Community in Mesa, AZ for Pack 555 and Troop

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565. He is a past Grand Knight and is currently the Assembly Pilot. He has been Mesa District Cub Training Chair, Grand Canyon Council Pow Wow book editor and staff of Pow Wow, and has earned his Cub Scout Leader Wood badge beads.

Mark your calendar today to make the pilgrimage to Philmont in 06! More information will be in our next Bridge as well as available at the Biennial Meeting! The stars of Philmont welcome you to enter into this new journey this summer!

IN MEMORIAM Eternal rest grant to them, oh Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them!

- John Hammerschmidt returned home to the Lord and Savior on November 20, a few days after heart surgery. John was a recipient of the Silver St. George for all the great work he did for Catholic Scouting, especially in the area of Religious Emblems. Please pray for his family that the Good Lord bring them comfort during this holiday season.
- Father Donald Isenbarger returned home to the Lord and Savior on October 31. Many of the "old-timers" on the NCCS will remember Father Don and his promotional work on the executive board. He was also the Course Director of the 3rd Philmont Training Course in 1976.

Chairman's Message by Bray Barnes



Upon returning from the World Council meeting for the International Catholic Conference of Scouting, I reflected on my trip and the dedicated Scouters that I had the opportunity to meet. It was a wonderful experience to be able to share that common bond of Catholic Scouting with Scouters from around the world. We worked through language barriers, mostly those from other countries working with me and my very limited foreign language skills, to address the many issues that face Catholic Scouting worldwide. How do we better serve those most in need such as the Central Americas and African nations? What are the challenges that the new Eastern European countries now face and how can we assist? These are some of the issues with which we now must deal. By the time you are reading this, I will have attended my first executive council meeting of the ICCS.

The thing that struck me while in Tunisia was the difference in the Scouting programs around the world. Many countries have several Scouting groups organized along religious beliefs. Although we all share the common bonds of Scouting and our Catholic teachings, the methods in which programs are delivered are different. In some countries this presents a struggle to deliver quality Scouting.

NCCS hosted the Bishops dinner and breakfast in Washington, D.C. This year NCCS honored the Archdiocese for the Military Services. Catholic Bishops, professional Scouters from the national office, military leaders, and NCCS members came together at The Kennedy Center to recognize the Military Archdiocese and the 1.4 million Catholics that serve in our military. Also in attendance were the national chair and chaplain for the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. I marveled that we all could come together in the name of Scouting.

Here in this country we have the good fortune of being able to be one unified organization known as the Boy Scouts of America, all working together regardless of our religious beliefs. This has been true time and time again, especially evident during the Jamboree.

NCCS is committed to our continued work with the BSA, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the International Catholic Conference of Scouting as well as many other organizations such as the Constantinian Order of St. George, The Knights of Columbus and the Military Archdiocese to assure that we can deliver a quality youth ministry program to all that we serve. I call upon all members of Catholic Scouting to work within your parishes, dioceses and local Scout councils to deliver the best youth ministry program through the Boy Scouts of America that we can. It's up to each of us. I know that I can count on you to **Do Your Best.**

Time to Review the Quality Catholic Unit Award

Now is the time to review and complete the paperwork for the Catholic Quality Unit recognition award called the Pope Paul VI. Units that serve as youth ministry will have no trouble earning the award.

In addition, please keep in mind that the completed application for the Gold Medallion Award is due to your respective Diocesan Chair by the end of the year. Application forms are available from your Diocesan Chair or on the NCCS web site: www.nccs-bsa.org

REGION 3 MEETING

by Claudia Reed

NCCS Region 3 (Pennsylvania & New Jersey) held its annual meeting in Carlisle, Pennsylvania on September 11 and 12. Guest speaker for the event was Thomas R. Palchak, from State College. Mr. Palchak is an active member of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. Additionally he is active at Troop 83 and council level for Juniata Valley Council of BSA, as well as his parish, Our Lady of Victory in State College.

Over the years Thomas has developed and refined his own training program on "Emblems of Faith" for all faiths and covers both Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts. His active role as an emblem counselor for the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII for over ten years has given him a knowledgeable background for the development of this program. He has made numerous presentations at roundtables for his councils.

Additionally he has done several for the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. His very informative power point presentation and discussion on the "Emblems of Faith" was well received from the participants of the various dioceses at our meeting. His presentation tied into the theme of the

conference, which was "Train-The-Trainer." After the presentation, attendees broke into small groups and listed proper dos and don'ts that presenters should be made aware of. The goal is quality and consistency in educating Emblem counselors.

Frank Koller of Fairless Hills and Father John Wendrychowicz of Ardmore, Pennsylvania are the Region 3 Chairman and Chaplain respectively. Both are members of the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

AREA I HOLDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Diocese of Springfield hosted the Area I Conference on Oct. 15 at St. Michael's Cathedral with more than sixty participants from throughout New England and New York. Among the several speakers were the president of Catholic Communications and the director of youth ministry for the diocese, a recently ordained Eagle Scout, and Bishop Emeritus Joseph F. Maguire. All had messages that were well received by those attending. Included in the program was a regional business meeting conducted by Art Keegan, Region I Chair. The conference concluded with a TV broadcasted Mass for the weekly diocesan program, Chalice of Salvation.

ICCS ENDOWMENT FUND STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP

by Joe DeStefano

Thank you to all who have made a contribution to the ICCS Endowment Fund established by the NCCS to support the YOUTH ACTIVITIES of the Catholic Scouts in the Americas region. Contributions are still needed to reach our goal of \$20,000 to supplement the \$80,000 allocated from NCCS funds.

This is a great opportunity for the NCCS and ICCS working together to make a most important contribution to the Catholic Scouts in the Central Americas region. Hopefully, the contribution will finally afford some Scouts the opportunity to become an integral part of international Scouting and receive exposure to different cultures, to meet new friends and to learn more about Scouting in the Catholic Church.

Your support is crucial. Please seriously consider making a contribution to this most important challenge. Any individual, unit or DCCS may make a contribution to the ICCS Endowment Fund to support the "Youth Activities" in the Central Americas region.

TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION:
Make checks payable to 'NCCS' and note in lower left hand corner of check 'FOR ICCS ENDOWMENT FUND'

Mail to:

NCCS
BARB NESTEL
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
PO Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Chicago

39th NCCS Biennial Conference

Join us for the conference "Companions on the Journey" from April 25 through 29, 2006. What a great opportunity to see old Scouting friends, make new Scouting friends, and learn more about NCCS.

*This conference is not just for NCCS members.
It is for diocesan committee members and troop leaders.
Get ready, get new ideas, get re-charged.
Scouting IS Youth Ministry.*

Registration packet and more information will soon be available on the web at www.nccs-bsa.org

*Thank you, in advance,
for your generosity and
support!*

2005 PRIESTHOOD Sunday Catholic Scouting Feedback/Survey

by Homer Radford, NCCS Vocations Committee Chair

Thank you for supporting the Priesthood Sunday event this year. This is the third year of participation in the priesthood appreciation event on a nationwide basis.

The NCCS Vocations Committee plans to promote this again in 2006 and wants to increase the number of Catholic Scouts and Scouters who make a special effort to acknowledge their pastors, Catholic Chaplains and their bishops.

The "Duty to God" aspects of Scouting and emphasis on Catholic Units encouraging faith development through religious emblems and annual retreat participation. It should be a natural part of our annual programs to lead in our parishes in programs like Priesthood Sunday.

The Vocations Committee needs your feedback to make the 2006 event better and more widely supported. Please complete this survey and mail it to: NCCS Vocations Committee, Homer Radford, Chairman, 9601 E. 82nd TER, Raytown, MO 64138 or e-mail hradford2@comcast.net

Please take time to ask yourself:

What did I do personally during this time to affirm a priest?

Please respond:

1) Did the diocesan Catholic Committee promote Priesthood

Sunday using the materials from the NCCS or Priesthood Sunday webpage? If yes, share some ideas or communication used.

2) Did Priesthood Sunday have an impact on your Scouts/Scouters and parishes? (give examples)?

3) Did your Pack/Troop/Venture Crew promote PS 2005 in your parish?

4) What did you/your Scouts/Scouters learn from this activity that will help make our service to PS 2006 better?

5) What did you learn from this activity that should be done differently next year?

6) Do you have photos taken during a parish event to honor your priests? (Please send copies)

Your feedback will be compiled with others being surveyed and reviewed at the next Committee meeting in April 2006 at the NCCS Biennial Conference. No names or direct connection to Parish, Scout Unit or diocese will be made unless you give permission to cite your experience specifically as an example for others to consider in 2006.

Again Thank you for all you have done to make this appreciation event successful.

ASK the GURU

Candy, a Cub Scout leader, asks "How might I earn an adult religious knot?"

The Guru replies, "Sorry, Candy, but NCCS does not offer an "earnable" religious emblem for adults at the national level. The St. George Religious Emblem and Silver St. George Religious Emblem are presented to those adults, upon recommendation by his/her peers, selected as a recognition of outstanding service to Catholic Scouting.

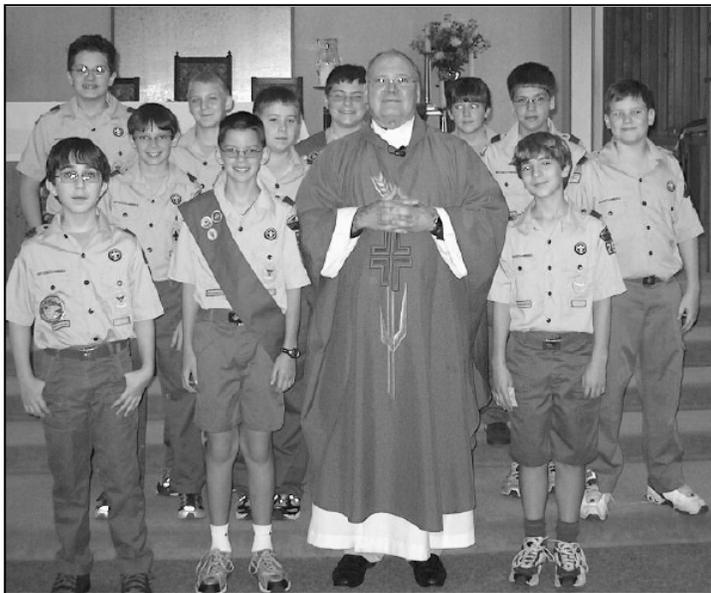
The universal BSA adult knot is the only knot approved for use for St. George or Silver St. George. We encourage all recipients of either emblem to wear the appropriate knot on their uniform. We also encourage all of our adults to wear the appropriate universal BSA youth knot, if as a youth, the adult earned a religious emblem either as a Cub, Boy Scout or Venture member. Great way to start a conversation about youth starting on the religious emblems trail when they see it on your uniform"

Nominations Sought for Silver Saint George Emblem

The Silver St. George emblem is presented annually to persons who have provided significant service to Catholic Scouting at the national level.

The national committee is permitted, but not obligated, to present one emblem for every 1,500 units under Catholic auspices (six/year).

Nomination forms have been mailed to all NCCS voting members and are also posted on the NCCS Website. Nominations for 2006 must be received by the National Secretary no later than February 24, 2006.



Father Ken Harney of St Christopher parish in Metairie, LA surrounded by some of the scouts from Troop 269 on October 20th, Priesthood Sunday.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME PILGRIMAGE SET FOR 2007

by Father Dennis O'Rourke

Plan now. Our own Bishop Gettelfinger has agreed to lead a pilgrimage to Rome during early Lent of 2007 – just a year and a half away. Plans are now underway for this trip of a lifetime. (Just think: Bishops can get to places in Rome a lot easier than priests and laity can.) We'll price the trip to include airfare from NYC area, as well as "meet us in Rome" pricing.

Expect it to be 10 days in length to include one weekend, giving the priests among us a chance to go with only one weekend away from their parishes. Although the cost has not yet been determined, it will include hotel accommodations in twin rooms, breakfast each day, and some lunches and evening meals, as well as sightseeing beyond compare. We'll have a chance to catch up with the ICCS offices in Rome, as well as the headquarters of the Constantinian Order of St. George. Keep an eye on [The Bridge](#) for updates and other information. There should be a brochure prepared before we meet in Chicago during April, 2006.



Calendar of Events

2006

April 25-29	39th NCCS Biennial Conference	Schaumburg, Ill. (Chicago)
July 11-26	St. George Trek	Philmont Scout Ranch
July 16-22	Scouting in the Catholic Church	Philmont Scout Ranch

2007

Lent	Pilgrimage with Bishop Gettelfinger	Rome, Italy
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THE JOYS OF ONE PILGRIM'S JOURNEY TO ROME IN 2005

by Irene Herring

Pope John II elevated the Diocese of Galveston-Houston to an archdiocese on December 29, 2004. At that same time, our bishop, Joseph A. Fiorenza, was made an archbishop. A large contingent of 600 pilgrims from Texas accompanied the archbishop to Rome in June to witness his receiving the pallium from Pope Benedict XVI.

Before a standing room only crowd in St. Peter's Basilica, and several thousand more watching on video monitors in St. Peter's Square, Archbishop Fiorenza joined 31 other archbishops from around the world to receive the circular band of wool which marks the office holder as a metropolitan archbishop.

The trip was so wonderful in so many ways even beyond the Pallium Mass. The sightseeing of the historic and holy sites was almost beyond description. Mass the day after the Pallium Mass, called our Thanksgiving Mass, was celebrated by Archbishop Fiorenza and con-celebrated by seven bishops and 19 priests (reminded me of our liturgies during NCCS conferences). If at all possible, please take advantage of the opportunity for you to see Rome with Bishop Gettelfinger in 2007. The trip can produce a faith experience stronger than you can imagine! See me in Chicago at the biennial conference and I'll tell you all about it!

