



NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

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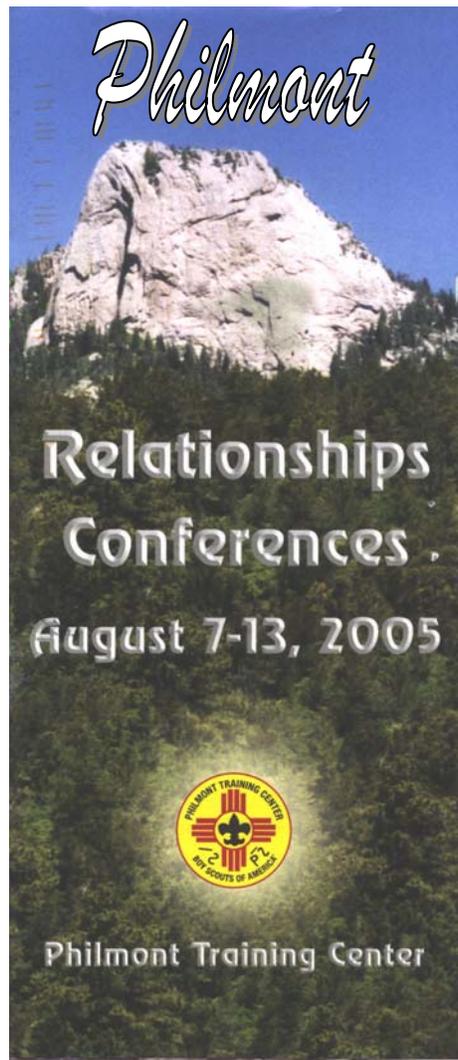
Hear the message of the Holy Father, John Paul II, as he wrote to the youth of the world in anticipation of the 20th World Youth Day in Cologne, August 2005. Hear the Holy Father as if he were speaking to you and your daily work in Scouting as he wrote, *And the star... went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was (Mt 2:9)*. The Magi reached Bethlehem because they had obediently allowed themselves to be guided by the star. Indeed, *When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy (Mt 2:10)*. When we are conscious of being led by Him, our heart experiences *authentic and deep joy* as well as a powerful desire to meet Him and a persevering strength to follow Him obediently.

Why should you make the journey to Philmont this summer? This is the second year of the exciting new *Scouting in the Catholic Church* workshop. It is designed for you to be better prepared for your local leadership role in service to youth.

The conference journey will lead you on the trail of Scouter Development, Catechism, *Renewing the Vision*, Religious Emblems, Religious Activities, Membership, Youth Protection and more!

Here are the biographies of the great staff team the NCCS has appointed to conduct this journey:

Susan Barriball returns for her second year on the NCCS Philmont Training Conference Team. Susan is the chair of the NCCS Training



Committee and chairs the Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCS) for the Diocese of Gary, Ind. 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 33 years of marriage.



Ed Gargiulo returns, too, to serve on the NCCS PTC Team. Ed is the immediate Past-National Chair of the NCCS and a past-Chair of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Wilmington, Del. where he has directed Scouting Coordinator Workshops, Cub Days, and Scout Retreats since 1974. He has served in many Scout unit leadership positions including Scoutmaster, Webelos Leader, Scouting Coordinator and Committee Member. Ed has served the NCCS as a member of the Executive Board, Advisor to the Membership Committee, Vice Chair representing the NCCS Northeast Regions 1-4, and National Chair from 2001 to 2004.

Our 2005 Philmont Course Chaplain 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

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University of America. Father Ray has served many years in local 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, St. George

and Silver St. George emblems. Since 1980, Father Ray has served various NCCS standing committees: advisor to the Religious Activities, Eastern Churches, Training committees, and chair of the Chaplains and Training committees. He attended the NCCS Philmont course in 1977, served on its faculty in 1986 and 2004. He was course director in 1988. Father Ray comes to Philmont directly from the 2005 Jamboree.

Our 2005 Philmont Course Director is long active in St. John of the Cross Parish, Western Springs, Ill. 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 has served on BSA National Jamboree staff, BSA National Camp School faculty, BSA Central Region Camp Visitation



Specialist staff, and Owasppe 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 Owasppe Staff Association (OSA). He was the founding Scoutmaster of Troop 216 where his son earned his Eagle rank. He was the founding crew advisor to Venture Crew 216. Gordon is an Eagle Scout, Vigil OA

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

This is the year to answer the call. Philmont Training Center courses are designed to be a great family experience. While you are hard at work on the course journey, there is plenty for your family to do. Wednesday is your day off, so plan ahead!

Contact your local council office or Barb Nestel at the NCCS National Office for your application today.



USCCB SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY STUDIES YOUTH AND RELIGION by Gordon P. Stiefel

The subcommittee on Youth and Young Adults is under the Committee on the Laity of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting operates under the auspices of USCCB. The subcommittee assists the bishops to respond to the pastoral needs and concerns of youth and young adults and to foster their participation in the community and mission of the Church. It collaborates with other national organizations also dedicated to these purposes in accord with the bishops' documents: *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry* and *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*.

The Most Reverend Dennis Schnurr, Bishop of Duluth, is the chair of the subcommittee; members are Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, Bishop of Norwich, Most Reverend Jaime Soto, Auxiliary Bishop of Orange, Most Reverend Robert Carlson, Bishop of Sioux Falls, and Most Reverend Francis Malooly, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore.

I represented NCCS at the February, 2005 USCCB

Subcommittee on Youth meeting in Washington, DC.

The meeting's agenda was to review and reflect on a long range study begun in 2001, funded by the Eli Lilly Corporation to determine the success of organized religion on impacting youth in America today. NFCYM had extrapolated and has published the data as it pertains to Catholic youth and presented the findings to the subcommittee in collaboration with Ministry Training Source.

While one could argue that the techniques of data collection and interview were not Catholic friendly, the overall outcome reflecting all religions suggests all religions are not doing a good job of faith-sharing with our youth. Catholics and Jews ranked just slightly ahead of non-believers in our ability to reach youth.

One of the roots of organized religion's inability to reach youth seems to be a lack of language of religion amongst their parents. This lack does not permit the parents as first and best catechist to help nurture the youth of today on the faith journey.



40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION CELEBRATED IN HUNGARIAN

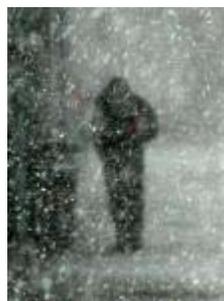
Father Stephen Balint, DCCS Chaplain for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn., recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination. Some church members wore traditional embroidered Hungarian vests and dresses for the special occasion. Father Balint conducts a Hungarian Mass every Sunday at St. Ladislaus Parish in Norwalk.

Father Balint is active in both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and has celebrated full liturgies for many Scout activities. He has also tried to be as active as possible in the local BSA Council.

Congratulations and hope to see you in Chicago next April, Father...



Father Tom Cronin assured us that it was much too late in the year for snow in Reno. However, the folks from Florida got an unexpected surprise on Friday.



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Reno had something for everyone. The cathedral was beautiful beyond description. It was a time of fellowship and the sharing of experiences. It was a time for planning and organizing projects for events in the coming year and beyond.



Some of us even had to go through the casino on our way to meetings or restaurants

The Reno meeting was great fun and adventure. People are already working hard to have the best biennial meeting next year outside of Chicago.

Please become part of the celebration and bring the whole committee with you. There will be plenty of fun, fellowship, and information. And, oh yes, it will assuredly be much too late in the year for snow.

Chris Hoelle, Tampa Fl.

SPOTLIGHT on our SCOUTS

ELEVEN SCOUTS EARN RELIGIOUS EMBLEM

by Father Nicholas Rachford, Eparchial Boy Scout Chaplain

Eleven Scouts of the Eparchy of Parma received the Light is Life religious emblem during vespers at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Parma, on Sunday, March 20. Bishop John Kudrick and the Scouts' pastors led the vesper service. Bishop John blessed and presented the medals to the Scouts.

This presentation ceremony was the first eparchial presentation ever conducted anywhere since the program's inception in 1979. It was also the largest number of Scouts ever to receive the medal at the same time.

The Scouts from the Cathedral and St. Nicholas Parish were counseled by Father Nicholas Rachford. The Scouts from St. Stephen Parish were counseled by Joseph Dula, chairman of the Eparchial Catholic Committee on Scouting. Joseph Cripps was counseled by his father, Robert Cripps.

The Light is Life religious emblem program was developed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to respond to the needs of Eastern-rite Catholic Scouts. The equivalent program for Roman Catholic Scouts is the Ad Altare Dei religious emblem program.

Scouts earning the Light is Life emblem complete activities in five areas. They complete requirements in each of these areas through readings from Scripture, the writings of the church fathers and the documents of the councils; discussion with their counselor and group; and carrying out activities that put what they have learned into action.

HUNDREDS OF SCOUTS FROM ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

More than 500 Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Cub Scouts, Webelos and Scouting leaders were honored for their dedication to the Catholic faith on Feb. 27 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

After those present praised God in song, listened to Scripture readings proclaimed and a homily delivered by Father Thomas Schliessmann, archdiocesan chaplain of Scouts, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein blessed the religious emblems awarded and presented them to the hundreds of Scouts and Scout leaders present for the occasion.

The event was especially meaningful for Archbishop Buechlein, who told the Scouts it was the 50th anniversary of his earning his Eagle Scout award. Assisting the archbishop at the ceremony was Deacon Shaun P. Whittington, a member of St.



Deacon Shaun P. Whittington, left, a member of St. Michael Parish in Brookville, and Michael Kubancek, right, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, assist Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, center, as he blesses the religious emblems that he gave to hundreds of Scouts and Scout leaders on Feb. 27 in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Michael Parish in Brookville, who also is an Eagle Scout. Deacon Whittington will be ordained a priest for the archdiocese later this year.

In comments after the event, Archbishop Buechlein spoke about the role that his involvement in Scouting had on his vocational discernment.

"A lot of the Scouts in Jasper at the time were seminarians," he said. "They made a great impression on me. Plus, it was an opportunity to get some leadership experience and also learn how to compete fairly and get along well with other folks, other kids."

Deacon Whittington described experiences in Scouting similar to those of Archbishop Buechlein.

"Well, there was certainly the element of leadership, but also just spending time camping and being outdoors really led me to a deeper understanding of God's presence in the world. Certainly it was a time of a lot of deep prayer and being in the cathedral of nature, as some have called it. That certainly led me to have a much deeper relationship with God early on."

Archbishop Buechlein and Deacon Whittington are two men for whom Scouting

BISHOP OF CHARLESTON PRESENTS RELIGIOUS EMBLEM AWARDS

On Monday, April 18, 2005, the Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, Bishop of Charleston, presented 9 Boy Scouts from the Piedmont Deanery with the religious emblem award, Ad Altare Dei, at a ceremony held at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Taylors, South Carolina with parents, family, friends and Scoutmasters on hand. Father Steve Brovey graciously hosted the ceremony and Deacon Gary Walczak participated in the ceremony.

In his remarks, Bishop Baker encouraged the Scouts to continue to live out their faith as Scouts and Catholics by being a living example. He reflected on his days as a Scout and earning the Ad Altare Dei and what receiving that award meant to him. Bishop Baker called the Scouts to

action as they serve their families, parishes and community.

The Ad Altare Award Program was sponsored by Mr. Keith Kiser (Headmaster of St. Joseph's High School, Greenville, SC) and led by co-counselors Michael McGarry, Paul Herr and Denise Hudson.

The recipients represented five Parishes and three Troops from the Greenville area.



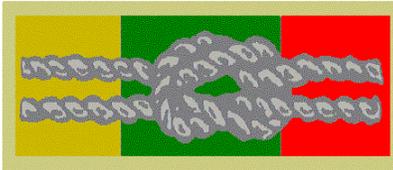
NEW KNOT RECOGNIZES NEW UNIT ORGANIZERS

By Edward P. Martin, NCCS Vice-Chair

The BSA Relationships Division recently announced the availability of a new Scouter square knot award. It is called the William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award and is presented to Scouters who organize one or more traditional Scouting units.

Don York, Director of the BSA Relationships Division, pre-announced the award at the recent NCCS Executive Board meeting in Reno. He describes the award as having three colors, each representing the three phases of our program—Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing.

The award is administered by the Relationships Division and presented by the local council.



Requirements:

1. With the approval of the district committee chair, serve as the organizer and complete the successful organization of one new traditional unit (Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity team or Venturing crew).
2. Organize the unit by following all procedures as published in the *New Unit Organization Process* (#34196), particularly insuring that new unit leadership is trained; program for the new unit is organized and has begun; the new unit committee is functioning; a unit commissioner is assigned to, has completed and processed all paperwork for the new unit; and the unit charter is presented to the chartered organization.
3. Sometimes several individuals help to organize a new unit. However, for this award only one volunteer can be recognized as the organizer for each new unit.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



As the Executive Board and Committees gathered in Reno, Nevada on April 4 2005, we all mourned the loss of Pope John Paul II. I reflected on his life, not only as the Holy Father, but also as a young man growing up in Poland, and, later as a priest. He truly led a life that was full in everyway and was never one to shy away from what needed to be done. Clearly, one aspect that carried throughout his entire life was his love of children, which was demonstrated time and time again. We all remember the World Youth Days when millions of our youth would gather and how touched the Pope was to be with so many young people sharing our universal Catholic faith. How often did he reach out to Catholic Scouts throughout the world encouraging them the follow the Scout Oath and Law. And how many times did we see him reach out and hug those children who were the poorest of the poor.

We now celebrate election of Pope Benedict XVI and are encouraged by his first acts as the Holy Father. A humble man who is now entrusted to lead the Church in most trying times. He has spoken of his fears and asked for our prayers as he now starts his journey as the successor to St. Peter.

We are fortunate as Catholics to see the orderly change in leadership as our values and beliefs as Catholics remain unchanged. Although we may see changes in our Church leadership and other outward signs such as the way in which the Mass is said, our Catholic faith and beliefs continue to survive. This thing that we call Holy Mother the Church continues, uninterrupted, as it has done for more than 2000 years.

As Catholic Scouters, we should follow the example of Pope John Paul II and remember that our most precious resource is the youth that we serve. Pope Benedict XVI has already taught us that we are to be humble in our service and continue to ask for spiritual guidance as we go forward as youth ministers.

Our task is clear! And as we go forward in service as ministers to our youth, let us be ever mindful of how Pope John Paul II led by example teaching us to "be not afraid."

4. A program device can be earned and worn on the new unit organizer knot for each additional new traditional unit organized. The program device would represent the type of unit organized: Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity team, or Venturing crew. The knot and up to three program devices may be worn, representing recognition for organizing the total of four new traditional units. Multiple program devices for the same program may be earned and worn.
5. The new unit organization award recognizes volunteers for organizing traditional units after, and not before, March 1, 2005.

Recognition Items

- New Unit Organizer Award Certificate
- New Unit Organizer Award Uniform Insignia Square Knot
- Program devices to recognize additional new units organized
- Organizer lapel pin for civilian wear

As your diocese promotes the formation of new Catholic-chartered units, let your fellow Scouters know of this new additional incentive. Who will be the first in your council to earn the award?



Conference Internationale Catholique du Scoutisme
 International Catholic Conference of Scouting
 Conferencia Internacional Catolica de Escultismo
 Internazionale Katholische Konferenz des Pfadfindertums

What can/should I do to support ICCS?

Let's start with our own Americas Region!

- 1) A unit could establish an email relationship with a unit in Latin America.
- 2) A Venture Crew could set up a super-activity to work with a unit, or a mission sponsored by a diocese, in an impoverished country.
- 3) An individual could work on his/her International Awareness Award. Check the NCCS website at <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/committees/intl.php>, or even make a major contribution through the Spes Mundi Award.

4) **Any individual, unit, DCCS could make a substantial contribution to the new Endowment fund to support Youth Activities in the Americas Region**

(At the annual NCCS meeting in Reno, a new \$80,000 endowment fund was established to support Youth Activities in the Americas Region of ICCS. It included a challenge to raise an additional \$20,000 by the end of 2005, from our membership and other Catholic Scouts and Scouters). The Quality Diocese Award this year will include a support of ICCS component. **Please send your contributions to: NCCS, Barb Nestel, P.O. Box 152079 Irving, Texas 75015-2079. The check should be made payable to NCCS, designating on the lower left corner of the check that it is for the America ICCS Endowment fund.**

The pictures above show Scouts involved in an ICCS/WOSM meeting in San Salvador and at the XII Pan-American Scout Jamboree. But many Scouts from economically disadvantaged areas have not been able to participate, especially in Americas Region events sponsored by NCCS. We need to help those Scouts however we can, both economically and through personal involvement.

NCCS ENDOWMENT FUND APPROVED FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

by Joseph De Stefano

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) has encouraged American Catholic Scouts to develop relationships with international Scouts through earning the International Awareness Recognition Activity medal, patch, pin and attending Work Youth Day and other international and regional events sponsored by the NCCS and International Catholic Conference of Scouting. (ICCS).

In this regard, the NCCS maintains a close working relationship with the ICCS. We are continuing our efforts to increase international awareness among our Catholic Scouts in order to increase their interest in establishing relationships with Scouts from other nations. Hopefully this relationship will increase the importance of Catholic Scouting in the Americas and other nations.

We all know that finances are a serious concern to all, when the cost of transportation and registration alone prohibits many Scouts from attending international and regional events.

However, the importance of having our clergy present at World Youth Days, international jamborees and international and regional meetings is essential to the growth, understanding and promotion of Catholic Scouting worldwide.

In order to support this participation of our clergy at these important meetings, NCCS has established two programs that provide finances specifically for our clergy and ICCS. (1) Spes Mundi and (2) International Awareness Recognition Activity. Information is available on the NCCS Website www.nccs-bsa.org. The funds accumulated from these two programs are used exclusively to

support our clergy and the ICCS. However, the NCCS recognizes that its attempt to increase international awareness and to increase the ability of international Scouts to be able to participate at international and regional events is costly and unaffordable.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

With the above in mind, Bray Barnes, NCCS Chairman, proposed the formation of an Endowment Fund to assist Scouts of the Americas with funds to enable them to attend regional and international events.

NOTE: The interest from this Endowment Fund will be dedicated exclusively to the International Catholic Conference of Scoutings' YOUTH ACTIVITIES.

At the NCCS meeting in Reno, Nevada the week of April 2, 2005, a resolution to establish the Endowment Fund was presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval as follows:

Resolved: That an endowment Fund be established to support ICCS ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH. This fund will be managed and controlled by NCCS with interest allocated to these activities through authorization of NCCS International and Finance Committees. This fund will be initially set up with a transfer of \$80,000 from NCCS funds and a challenge to raise at least \$20,000 from NCCS members as well as associated diocesan committees and Scout units.

The Executive board unanimously approved this resolution because they also recognized the importance and necessity of providing financial assistance to Catholic Scouts of the Americas so

that these Scouts will have the opportunity to participate in international and regional events.

This is a great opportunity for the NCCS and ICCS working together to make a most important contribution to the Catholic Scouts in the Americas Region that will finally afford the 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.

We all know what Scouting does for young people and this endowment fund is an opportunity to really make a major contribution to reaching the goals of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the International Catholic Conference of Scouting.

Finally, the International Committee of NCCS has been entrusted to organize, promote and sell this program to our NCCS members, our supporters, our associated diocesan committees and Scout units in order to raise \$20,000 to supplement the \$80,000 from the NCCS fund to reach a total of \$100,000.

Your support is crucial. Please seriously consider making a contribution to this most important challenge.

Make checks payable to 'NCCS' and note in lower left hand corner of check FOR ENDOWMENT FUND. Mail to:

NCCS
BARB NESTEL
PO Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Thank you for your generosity and support!

ANOTHER SMOKE SIGNAL FROM MY TEEPEE!

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

God calling Pope John Paul II home to heaven just as people were beginning their travels to the April Reno NCCS meeting cast an unusual pall over the meeting. A pall of thanksgiving for God's gift of Pope John Paul II as well as a certain sense of renewal and rededication to continue the important work of ministering and serving youth.

The NCCS Religious Emblems Committee (REC), with the help of the Holy Spirit, had an awesome mountain of work that we were able to complete in Reno! Thanks to Bob Jones and his motion creation skills we were able to record our actions on the agenda in written form.

First and foremost, it is my pleasure to share with you the good news that the REC has completed editing the Religious Emblems Reference Guide. This guide will soon be available at no charge for (arch) diocese/eparchy use on the web at www.nccs-bsa.org. Eleanor Johnson led this project.

Thanks to the pre-Reno work of Diana Beatty, the REC had loads of information from many of you as (arch) diocese/eparchy leaders completed and submitted your views on the Bronze Pelican to the committee by completing the survey sent to you by the Membership Committee. It's truly a great day when the survey results unanimously reaffirm the position of the REC to maintain the Bronze Pelican as a local (arch) diocese/eparchy emblem.

We also reviewed a proposal to create another adult emblem, the Silver Pelican. This emblem was proposed to recognize adults at the regional level. The REC rejected this proposal citing recognition of regional leadership excellence is already included in the Silver St. George.

Due to the efforts of Harvey Carter in assembling the data from program evaluations from adults, REC is working on changes. Under

the leadership of John Hammerschidt, the REC is exploring creation of a DVD to be included in the various religious emblems publications. The committee hopes to have a draft ready by the 2006 meeting in Chicago. Based on input from the surveys, too, the REC has begun the process of updating and editing Ad Altare Dei. This revision journey, under the leadership of Harvey Carter, will take at least 18 months. Gerry Quinlan is the new guru of data compilation, taking over adult data collection as well as youth. PLEASE, have your adults and youth continue to share with us the evaluations at NCCS, Attn: Emblems Evaluation Forms, PO BOX 152079, Irving, Texas, 75015-2079.

We welcomed in Reno the following new REC members, Jan Hill, John Hughes, Father Mike Hanafin, and Gary Weaver. Gary is a member of the Training Committee, but serves as liaison between our REC team and the Training Committee. Faith Strickland has rejoined our team.

We are most grateful for the continuous and ongoing sage counsel and participation of Jim Johncox and Jim Strohecker on our team.

I also want to recognize and thank our committee advisor, Father Roger Strebel. It is a joy to have his time and talent to support me and our entire team.

The next Biennial meeting in Schaumburg, IL, 2006 (just outside Chicago), at the Woodfield Hyatt will be loaded with great sessions presented by the REC. Start making your plans today to attend and bring your entire (arch) diocese/eparchy local team to companion with you on the journey to "Sweet Home" Archdiocese of Chicago, April 2006.

While in Reno, we began development of our own session offerings as well as collaborating with the Activities Committee,



Vocations Committee, Membership Committee, and Training Committee on sharing the needs we heard from you in the submitted evaluations. Keep those forms coming.

A simple challenge as we enter the summer season of outing that is Scouting... try to reach one more youth to answer yes to the call to begin the journey on the appropriate religious emblem trail. Together, we can continue to live the gospel message of service to our youth – just one kid at a time, and have a great time doing it. Have a great outing season.

Friends and Family

We are informing you of items of interest of those we work with. This will make everyone aware of those with sickness and need for our concern and prayers, those who have been given awards, promotions, retired, those who have passed away and other information needing to be passed along. Please send your comments and/or items of interest to John Ribar, ribarr@aol.com or mail to 9328 Springbrooke Circle, Louisville, KY 40241.

Please keep in your prayers and thoughts:

- **Jack Thompson** who is recovering from illness at home.
- **Father Don Hummel** and his family at the recent passing of his mother.

Please be aware that:

- **Father Dennis O'Rourke** will celebrate his 25th Anniversary of Ordination on June 28 in Chandler, Arizona with a Mass at his parish.
- **Marvin Smith** of Houston was honored by the American Society of Petroleum Geologists for his long, outstanding service to his profession. He has served the NCCS in so many ways, as well.

**SIX NAMED RECIPIENTS OF
2005 NCCS SILVER SAINT
GEORGE AWARD** by Mike Gannon

Six Catholic Scouters were awarded the Silver Saint George Emblem at the recent Executive Board meeting of the National Catholic Committee (NCCS) on Scouting in Reno, Nev. They were recognized for their significant service to Scouting in the Catholic Church at the national level. The award was first presented in 1997 and only 53 individuals have received the award. Recipients of this award for 2005 were:

Reverend Kevin Smith of Patchogue, N.Y. and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Father Smith serves as the Chaplain for Region 2 of the NCCS, a position he was elected to after serving seven years as Chaplain for the Rockville Centre Diocesan Catholic Committee. He was cited for his leadership to the St. George Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico since its inception in 1992. He has been the course director for the past four treks responsible for recruitment of priests and seminarians to serve as advisors to the Scouts making the trek. He was ordained a priest in 1988.

Mrs. Judy Kosiba of Christ the King Parish in Tampa, Fl. She was recognized for her work with the NCCS Conference Committee, where she has served since 1994. She was cited in particular for her management of the on-site registration, office management and direction of off-site tours for the past ten Executive Board meetings and Biennial Conferences.

Mr. Chris Hoelle of St. Timothy Parish in Tampa, Fl. Chris was cited for his outstanding service as editor of the Bridge, the NCCS newsletter for the past seven years. He also advises the Marketing and Public Relations committee on website organization issues and has been a presenter at biennial workshops. He was named a charter member of the NCCS Advisory Board in April 2000 and has been reappointed for a second five-year term on that board.

Mr. Tony Madonia, Chair, Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting. Tony was recognized for his creation and design of the NCCS website as an official entity of the national committee. The citation accompanying the award cited his expertise on website development and for serving as the Webmaster for



the NCCS site for the past five years. He is a past chairman of the NCCS Marketing and Public Relations Committee.

Mr. Jack Thompson, of Newburgh, Ind. and the Diocese of Evansville. He has been a member of the NCCS Executive Board for more than 12 years and served as a regional chairman from 1989-1993. During that time he also served on the membership committee, the Cabrini Project committee, as National Vice-Chairman and was director of the Philmont Training Conference "Scouting the Catholic Church" in 1996. His most recent position was chair of the NCCS Vocations Committee, where he developed a close working relationship with the National Serra organization.

Reverend Joseph Weber, Pastor of St. Justin Martyr Parish in the Diocese of Saint Louis. Father Weber has been a distinguished member of the Executive Board for more than 15 years. He served as the chaplain for Region 9 of the NCCS for 12 years as well as serving as chair of both the Membership and Chaplains Committee. He served as Philmont Catholic chaplain in 1990 and 1992, was a chaplain at the 1993 national Boy Scout Jamboree and an assistant Scoutmaster for the United States contingent troop to the 1983 World Jamboree.

The award is named in honor of the Patron Saint of Scouting and is awarded to recognize exemplary service to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.



RECEIPIENTS OF THE 2005 SILVER SAINT GEORGE AWARD: (l-r) Reverend Kevin Smith of Patchogue, N.Y. and the Diocese of Rockville Centre; Chris Hoelle and Judy Kosiba of Tampa, Fl. and the Diocese of St. Petersburg; and Tony Madonia of Mesa, Ariz. and the Diocese of Phoenix. Not pictured are Jack Thompson of Newburgh, Ind. and the Diocese of Evansville, and Reverend Joe Weber, Pastor of St. Justin Martyr Parish in the Diocese of St. Louis.

NCCS National 2004 Gold Medallion Winners

REGION	CHAIR	CUB SCOUT PACK	BOY SCOUT TROOP	VENTURE CREW
1 ME,MA,VT RI,CT,NH	Art Keegan	NONE	Dio. Providence Troop 6 St. Ann Catholic Church Cranston, RI	NONE
2 NY,PR	Edward Winterkorn	None	Dio. Rochester Troop 163 St. Rita Church Webster, NY	Arch. Dio. New York Crew 22079 St. Augustine Church New City, NY
3 PA,NJ	Frank Koller	NONE	Dio. Altoona Troop 83 Our Lady of Victory Altoona/Johnstown, PA	NONE
4 DE,VA,DC, WV,MD	Michael Gannon	Dio. Wilmington Pack 283 St. Margaret of Scotland Newark, DE	Dio. Wilmington Troop 72 St. Peters Church New Castle, DE	Dio. Fredericksburg Venture Crew 165 St. Mary Church Fredericksburg, VA
5 KY,TN,LA, MS,AL	George LeCrone Sr.	Dio. Nashville Pack 80 St. Henry Church Nashville, TN	Dio. Memphis Troop 341 St. Louis Church Memphis TN	Dio. Biloxi Venture Crew 351 K of C Council 6872 Picayune, MS
6 MI,OH	Alan Tario, Sr.	Dio. Toledo Pack 38 Ladyfield Catholic School Toldeo, OH	Dio. Cleveland Troop 506 St. Francis Xavier Medina, OH	NONE
7 WI,IL,IN	Robert Freville	Dio. Evansville Pack 331 Resurrection Church Evansville, IN	Dio. Rockford Troop 21 Holy Cross Church Batavia, IL	Dio. Evansville Crew & Ship 312 Nativity Catholic Evansville, IL
8 ND,SD,MN	William Davies	Arch Dio. St. Paul/Mpls Pack 454 K of C Council Brooklyn Park, MN	Arch Dio. Of St. Paul/Mpls Troop 96 St. Peter Claver Church St. Paul, MN	Arch Dio. St. Paul/Mpls Venture Crew 651 St. Joseph the Worker Maple Grove, MN
9 NE,IA,KS,MO	Robert Nelson	Arch Dio. Kansas City Pack 11 Christ the King Church Topeka, KS	Arch. Dio. St. Louis Troop 777 St. Paul Church Florissant, MO	NONE
10 OK,AR, TX	Charles Raimond	Arch Dio. Galveston/Hou Pack 366 Our Lady Queen of Peace Lake Jackson, TX	Arch. Dio. Galveston/Hou Troop 673 St. Cecilia Church San Antonio, TX	NONE
11 CA,NV,HI	Marie Simons	Dio. Orange Pack 13 Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano, CA	Dio. San Bernardino Troop 11 Sacred Heart Parish San Bernadino, CA	Dio. Las Vegas Crew 453 Catholic Com on Scouting Las Vegas, NV
12 AK,WA,OR, MT,ID	James Burgen	NONE	Arch Dio. Seattle Troop 159 St Patricks K of C Council 1620 Pasco, WA	NONE
13 WY,CO,UT, AZ,NM	Donald Ellefsen	NONE	NONE	Arch Dio. Denver Crew 435 Our Lady of Pines Conifer, CO
14 FL,GA, NC,SC	Bert Johnson	Diocese of St. Petersburg Pack 339 St. Timothy Church Tampa, FL	NONE	Arch Dio. Atlanta Ship 12, SSS Pursuit St. Oliver Plunkett Snellville, GA
Eastern Churches	Marge Dillenburg	NONE	NONE	NONE

**NATIONAL GOLD MEDALLION
AWARD HONORS TOP
CATHOLIC UNITS**

The Gold Medallion Award program is established to identify and recognize the outstanding Catholic Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop and Venture Crew in each of the 14 Episcopal regions of the United States and the Eastern Churches as a group. See 2004 award winners listed on the left.

The award is intended to promote the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) growth initiative to increase Scouting units, youth members and adult leaders.

National Gold Medallion winners are those units that excel at providing youth with quality programs including religious activities, religious emblem participation, and outdoor activities along with educational aspects of Scouting under Catholic auspices. Regional chairmen and chaplains select the outstanding units in their region from the applications received.

Recognition includes a certificate for each of the national winners and a 3x5 foot Gold Medallion flag. All units chartered by a Catholic organization (parish, school, Knights of Columbus Council, men's club, etc.) are eligible and encouraged to apply for consideration as Gold Medallion Award winners. Applications are available on the NCCS web site (www.nccs-bsa.org) or through your (arch)diocesan chairman.

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**Region 1 Conference held at
Immaculata House in
Willimantic.**

The conference was hosted by the Norwich Diocesan Committee on Catholic Scouting, chaired by Isabel Greenhalgh and Pamela Plasse. The DCCS is pictured with the Most Reverend Bishop Michael Cote.



**NEW PRICES FOR EMBLEMS
AND PUBLICATIONS ON
HORIZON**

by Gordon P. Stiefel

For many years, Ed Gargiulo, immediate past NCCS chair, has been the NCCS Contract Administrator. In this role, Ed managed our relationships with all the various suppliers and retailers of our NCCS emblems supply chain.

Early in 2005 Gordon Stiefel was appointed by Bray Barnes, NCCS Chair, as the new NCCS Contract Administrator.

He has lead the search for a new publishing company to assume the role of printer for all of our religious emblems publications. As you may not be aware, our publications are currently printed by two different companies, and warehoused in two different states.

A Scout is Thrifty. On or about June 1, 2005, St. Mary's Press, Winona, Minnesota, will be the printer as well as warehouse facility for religious emblems print materials. This new relationship between St. Mary's Press and NCCS has created

the opportunity for NCCS to keep our increase on the retail price of publications as low as possible.

St. Mary's Press is nationally known as one of the printers and publishers of Catholic youth ministry materials in the United States today.

Our publications will continue to be available at your local Scout Shop, BSA National Supply Service, or P.R.A.Y.

As with the publications, the cost of obtaining medals as well as the production costs associated with our religious emblems has risen, but nowhere near the dramatic rate of printing cost hikes. NCCS has held the price on the actual emblem for 4 years with no change! Eagle Regalia remains our emblems manufacturer and distributor. Please remember, only those authorized by your Scout Chaplain can order from Eagle.

The NCCS board has approved an increase in your cost of religious emblems. This price increase will be effective as of January 1, 2006.

NEW Emblem Prices as of 01/01/06

	Current	Effective 01/01/06
Light of Christ Emblem	6.50	7.00
Light of Christ Mini	3.25	3.50
Parvuli Dei Emblem	6.50	7.00
Parvuli Dei Mini	3.25	3.50
Ad Altare Dei Emblem	8.00	8.25
Ad Altare Dei Mini	3.25	3.75
Pope Pius XII Emblem	8.50	8.75
Pope Pius XII Mini	3.25	3.50
Light is Life (Eastern Church)	8.50	8.75
St. George Emblem	15.00	16.50
St. George Emblem Mini	3.25	3.50
Bronze Pelican	15.00	16.50
Bronze Pelican Mini	3.25	3.50

A Scout is Thrifty! Order your 2005 - 2006 emblems before December 30, 2005 to avoid the price increase.

Together, we can achieve great things to create opportunities for kids to learn and grow in their faith.

Please remember, these prices only reflect the actual cost of just the emblems. Shipping from NCCS to the local diocese is an additional charge paid by the local diocese. Local (arch)diocesan/eparchy committees establish their own schedule of fees reflective of local costs, challenges and concerns. The local Scout chaplain and/or his designees are the only folks authorized to purchase emblems on behalf of (arch)diocesan/eparchy.

Gordon Stiefel can be reached at Taggroup@sbcglobal.net.

QUALITY DIOCESE AWARDS

FOR 70 DIOCESES by Dave Moskal

The Dioceses that have earned the Quality Diocese Award for 2004 are listed below. I wish to thank our Region Chairs for their diligent work. We achieved an increase of 23% to a total of 70 dioceses:

REGION 1: FallRiver, Hartford, Norwich, Portland, Providence, Springfield

REGION 2: Brooklyn, Buffalo, Ogdensburg, New York, Rochester, Rockville Center, Syracuse

REGION 3: Altoona-Johnstown, Erie, Greensburg, Newark, Patterson, Pittsburgh, Scranton

REGION 4: Arlington, Baltimore, Wilmington

REGION 5: Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Biloxi, Birmingham, Knoxville, Lafayette, Lexington, Louisville, Memphis, Nashville, New Orleans, Owensboro, Shreveport

REGION 6: Detroit

REGION 7: Chicago, Evansville, Ft. Wayne-South Bend, Gary, Green Bay, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Superior

REGION 8: St. Paul-Minneapolis

REGION 9: Kansas City, Kansas City-St. Joseph, Omaha, Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Wichita

REGION 10: Austin, Ft. Worth, Galveston-Houston, Oklahoma City, Tulsa

REGION 11: Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Jose

REGION 12: Spokane

REGION 13: Colorado Springs, Gallup, Phoenix, Pueblo, Salt Lake City, Tucson

REGION 14: Atlanta, St. Petersburg

REGION 15: Eastern Rite programs in organization stages only

We offer congratulations to all the qualifiers above and we are reassured by the Leadership that they will be joined by several more next year.

Calendar of Events

2005

July	Jamboree 2005	Fort A.P. Hill, Va.
August 7-13	Philmont Training Conference	Philmont Scout Ranch
August 16-21	World Youth Day	Cologne, Germany

2006

April 25-29	39th NCCS Biennial Conference	Schaumburg, IL
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SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the 39th NCCS Biennial Conference "Companions on the Journey" from April 25 through 29, 2006. It will be a great opportunity to see old Scouting friends, make new Scouting friends, and learn more about NCCS.

Location: Hyatt Regency Woodfield
1800 East Golf Road
Schaumburg, IL 60173



Room Rate for Conference:

Single/Double/Triple/Quadruple Occupancy: \$115.00 per night plus tax

Registration Packet and Information:

Available mid to late December 2005 - Watch *The Bridge* for updates.

Airport Options:

1. Chicago O'Hare - 9 miles to and from the hotel.
2. Chicago Midway - 45 minutes to an hour from the hotel.

Transportation to the hotel:

1. Rental Car
2. NCCS is negotiating airport transportation

Host Committee:

Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Committee on Scouting



Website Links:

Hyatt Regency Woodfield:
<http://woodfield.hyatt.com/property/index.jhtml>

Greater Woodfield Convention and Visitors Bureau:
<http://www.chicagonorthwest.com/>

Questions or comments
for the Bridge Editor?

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Questions or comments for
the NCCS Webmaster?

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