



39th Biennial Conference

Chicago/Schaumburg
April 25-29, 2006

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES SCOUT VALUES

It was November in Washington, DC. Congress was in session, the city was being decorated for the holidays, and our church leaders were in town for the annual U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops meeting. Once again, the NCCS hosted an evening at The Kennedy Center, this year honoring the Archdiocese for the Military Service.

The evening of fellowship began with NCCS members National Chaplain Father Roger LaChance, Past National Chaplain Father Donald Hummel, Associate National Chaplain Raymond Fecteau and National Chair Bray Barnes greeting the distinguished guests. Bishop Gettelfinger, Episcopal Liaison to the NCCS and the host of the evening, welcomed many of his fellow bishops as well as members from the Military Archdiocese. BSA Group Director Bob Mazzuca and his wife Nanette, Relationships Director Don York and Associate Relationships Director George Sparks and his wife Sue, joined NCCS members.

A tour of The Kennedy Center art work donated to this national monument by many foreign nations, photo opportunities in the Presidential Box and music provided by members of the National Symphony Orchestra were all part of the evening. Dinner was served in a private dining room especially decorated for the festivities.

After dinner, more than fifty guests enjoyed very special string selections performed by lead members of the orchestra. Special recognition was presented to Rabbi Peter Hyman for his leadership of the 2005 Jamboree Chaplains Corps during some very difficult days.



Rabbi Peter Hyman

Upon his acceptance, Rabbi Hyman spoke of how all chaplains, regardless of religious denomination, came together as a team providing

Chairman's Message by Bray Barnes



A few weeks ago, my wife and I traveled to Houston, Texas to attend the funeral of David Garrison. David was a dear friend of mine and a long time friend and supporter of Catholic Scouting. After the funeral Mass, everyone gathered outside the church and shared memories of David. It truly was a celebration of his life and how he enriched us all.

The following week, I attended the BSA board and committee meetings in Dallas. It was a time for work to be done, but it was also time to spend with Scouting friends and meet new Scouters from across the country. As I looked around the room at one particular meeting, I thought of those good friends whom I have known for years and those with whom I recently became acquainted.

On my return flight home, I reflected on the fact that, because of Scouting, I was fortunate to have known David Garrison. I also thought of the many people at the Dallas meetings who were friends. I looked back on my 46 years in Scouting and all those friendships that I have made over the years, some of whom have become my closest friends. My business partner was someone I met at Scout Camp in 1967 and we have been friends ever since.

I now look forward to the Biennial meeting in April and the many Scouting friends that will be there and the new friends to be made. As usual, there will be a lot of work to do, but there will be time for fellowship. I guess that is what makes being part of Scouting and NCCS so enjoyable. Yes, we are all part of NCCS because we want to make a difference in the lives of our youth, but what makes it so rewarding is not the recognitions that we receive, but the friendships that we make. And I am not talking about passing friendships, I am talking about long lasting friendships, that, when we reflect on our past we will have fond memories of all those whom we have met along the Scouting trail.

So, I hope that you plan on being at the Biennial meeting in April. There will be opportunities to learn new skills, meet those who will be able to support you in your Catholic Scouting role, participate in the celebration of the Mass with Catholic Scouters from around the country, and, to see long time friends and make some new ones. Who knows, the new friend that you meet could be another life long friendship that will enrich your life as the life of David Garrison enriched mine.

Hope to see you in Schaumburg!

support and spiritual guidance during the early days of the Jamboree.

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of the Military Archdiocese. A beautiful crystal eagle was presented to Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien who accepted on behalf of the Archdiocese. The Archbishop spoke of the values of the Church, those taught in the military

and those of Scouting. He went on to say how they were intertwined with one another and how important Scouting values become later on in life.



Bray Barnes, Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, and Father Roger LeChance

The evening concluded with a rooftop view of the city and the sharing of friendship and fellowship by all. Once again, Bishop Gettelfinger provided a very memorable evening in our nation's capitol.

ANOTHER SMOKE SIGNAL FROM MY TEEPEE!

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

Well, it's just about time to start folding your teepee, put out the camp fire and head to the Archdiocese of Chicago and the 39th biennial meeting.

Your National Religious Emblems Committee will hold meetings on Monday and Tuesday of the biennial meeting week. We will start with review of the summary of the National Directory on Catechesis, continue the journey on revision of Ad Altare Dei, and much, much more.

The Religious Emblems Committee hopes to have ready draft copies of the new bilingual Parvuli Dei due out in January of 2007 for review. Special case-lot, pre-release orders will be taken on site in the Trading Post.

We are delighted that our two vendor companions on the emblems journey will be exhibitors at this biennial, namely Eagle Regalia and St.

Mary's Press. Be sure you stop in and talk with our vendors and thank them for their on-going support.

Members of the emblems team will be presenting several workshops as part of the 39th Biennial. Some of the workshops are a result of suggestions made to the committee since the last biennial.

The recently released BSA membership numbers of youth and units in Scouting under Catholic auspices showed a dip in our membership. One of many great NCCS tools to strengthen units and retain kids in Scouting is our emblems programs. Consider...Every parish that already has only one Scout unit is a great place to organize two more to achieve the full family of Scouting in the parish.



What better place to start than your parish or the parish next door?

As of the NCCS Board meeting on April 29, 2006, I will complete three incredible years as your National

Religious Emblems Chair. I am most humbly grateful for the confidence and the opportunity to have been of service under the leadership of two national chairs, Ed Gargiulo and Bray Barnes.

I look forward to being of service now as one of your national vice chairmen. I ask you to please keep me, and all of our leaders, in your prayers as, together, we labor in the vineyard of the Lord in Scouting.

Looking forward to gathering with you at the Lord's table at the Biennial...

NCCS 39th Biennial Conference

WORKSHOPS · IDEAS FAIR · SYMPOSIUM

SPEAKERS:

- Most Rev. Gerald Gettelfinger –
Episcopal Liaison
- Rev. Dan Coughlin – *Chaplain,
U.S. House of Representatives*
- Bob Mazzuca – *BSA National
Director, Development Group*
- Kevin Driscoll – *Coordinator,
Youth Ministry (Gary, IN)*
- Chris Bury – *Eagle Scout and ABC
News Correspondent*

DOERR SCHOLARSHIP IS OFFERED ONCE AGAIN

John and Julie Doerr have once again consented to fund the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarship. This will be the second year that NCCS has been able to offer this unique opportunity to our young men and women who are members of BSA and Catholic high school seniors, registered with a troop or crew.

Those fortunate enough to have known Emmett realize that he was very dedicated and committed to Scouting and NCCS. His big heart was exceeded only by his generosity. He was the first recipient of the Brother Barnabas Founders Award and he was also recognized with the Silver Antelope, Silver Beaver, and the St. George medals. Emmett's love for Scouting, especially Catholic Scouting is the reason why the Doerr family wants to ensure that his legacy continues.

The purpose of the Doerr Scholarship is to reward the three most distinguished Catholic Scouting high school seniors. This can only be done with your help and support. The two key things that will make our efforts successful are spreading the word and follow through. We need to ensure that

not only our local diocesan committees and Catholic sponsored Troops and Crews participate but that the local councils are aware, as well as non-Catholic sponsored units that could have a Catholic senior in their midst. The Doerr Scholarship is being offered on a five year trial basis, and if it is to continue beyond that, we need to ensure that we receive plenty of applications for the remaining four years.

The write-up and application for the Doerr Scholarship can be found online. Once you access the website nccs-bsa.org, you will find three links to it on the home page. One is under NCCS opportunities, another is under NCCS Deadline and the third under new items. You can also have Barb Nestel (N C C S S e c r e t a r y) (bnestel@netbsa.org) send you these documents via e-mail or hard copy. The deadline for the completed packet is April 1. Please send all the requested documentation to Barb at:

NCCS-BSA
ATTN: Barb Nestel
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079.

ASK THE GURU

Dear Guru,

I was wondering if female Venturers could go on the Catholic trek in Philmont, when it will be, and how would I go about trying to participate?
Adele Venturer

Dear Adele Venturer,

Of course, if you are properly prepared and registered as a Venturer you can apply through your Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. You can find your local diocesan contact, as well as more info and application forms at the NCCS website at www.nccs-bsa.org. This high adventure leadership program for older Catholic Boy Scouts and Venture Crew members will be at Philmont Scout Ranch from July 11 to July 26, 2006. The Saint George Trek encourages the integration of morality and values, spirituality and faith, and scripture with the responsibilities of Christian Leadership and Vocation Awareness. Participants will be asked to carry this meaningful experience home with them and become effective peer leaders in their diocese.

Please check out our website and apply as soon as possible, before all the slots are booked.

Yours in Venturing,
The Guru

NCCS REUNION LUNCH

Wednesday, April 26, 2006 Woodfield Hyatt

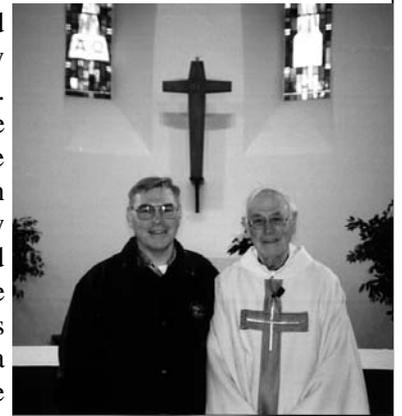
Remember your last trip to God's country, Philmont Scout Ranch? Philmont may have a special place in many Scouters' memories, whether a trek, a class, or just a visit.

You learned a lot during your time at Philmont and made friends you would like to see, gather and sing with, again,Silver on the Sage! Or you may just want to be part of Philmont today. This is your call to be part of Philmont history at the NCCS 39th Biennial Meeting.

Inspired by the Philmont NCCS Class of 2004, you and your friends are cordially invited to join us for the first annual Philmont reunion at NCCS. Featuring the gala Hyatt version of Chicago's Taste of Chicago, our keynote speaker will be Brian Gray, Director of the Philmont Training Center who will update us on happenings at Philmont. For fellowship, food, and fun, order your Philmont luncheon ticket today on the biennial registration form. Download it at www.nccs-bsa.org.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD by LTC John J. Halloran, Jr.

I've been assigned to Heidelberg, Germany since November 2005. Trying to be a good Catholic, I attend mass regularly at Holy Family Catholic Community on Patrick Henry Village. Father (LTC) Neil Buckon is our Pastor. While attending mass one day, I was surprised to see that the celebrant was none other than our own Monsignor James Kolp. It seems that his family and Father Buckon's family are connected through marriage. Father Buckon had invited the good Monsignor to visit him for a week and as fate would have it our paths crossed. We had a nice little visit over lunch and it was great to see a familiar face outside of an NCCS function.



SCOUTING IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TRAINING AT PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER IN JULY

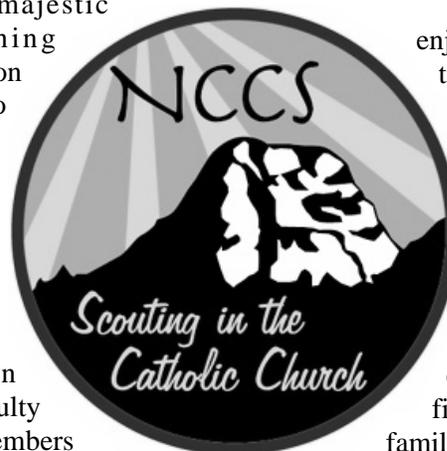
The National Catholic Committee on Scouting proudly presents the advanced training course: *Scouting in the Catholic Church*.

Mark your calendar for July 16-22, 2006. This course is invaluable for Catholic Scouters and all those who adopt "Scouting is Youth Ministry":

- Members of (arch)diocesan Catholic Committees on Scouting
- Scout Chaplains and (arch) diocesan clergy
- Parish youth ministers
- NCCS Standing Committee members and Regional leadership
- BSA council and district executives

Take Catholic Scouting knowledge to the next level by attending the majestic Philmont Training Center in Cimarron New Mexico. Go to nccs-bsa.org for full a schedule, program description, course cost, and registration information. Send in your application today! The 2006 faculty includes NCCS members Father Stephen Salvador as chaplain; Director Susan

Barriball; William Davies, faculty; and Tony Madonia, faculty.



Bring your family to enjoy the excitement of the New Mexico surroundings and family programs at Philmont Training Center. While you are participating in *Scouting in the Catholic Church* your family can be experiencing Philmont first hand. It's a great family vacation! It's a way to network with Catholic Scouters! It's your year to be at PTC!

Davies Elected to Chair NCCS in 2007

William "Bill" Davies was elected by the NCCS membership to the executive position of chair-elect in the December 2005 election, a position he will assume at the executive board meeting in Chicago. As the chair-elect he will assume the position of national chair in 2007. Bill is from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and for more than ten years has served in many NCCS national leadership roles including regional chair, vice-chair, and membership committee chair.

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 Diocese Award. As membership chair, Bill developed the current membership growth plan. He continues to be active with his local diocesan committee having served as Council CCS Chair for two years and Diocesan CCS Chair for four years. Bill has received the Bronze Pelican, St. George and Silver St. George.

Bill began Scouting 20 years ago with Career Awareness Exploring, served in various unit leadership positions, then as District Chair, Assistant Council Commissioner, Dean of the Commissioner College, council Vice-President, and currently chairs the Religious Relations Committee for new Northern Star Council. He is Wood Badge trained, an Order of the Arrow Vigil member and James E. West Fellow, and has been presented the District

Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, and the Silver Antelope.

Stiefel and Moskal Elected National Vice-Chairs

Gordon Stiefel, Archdiocese of Chicago, and David Moskal, Diocese of Hartford, have been elected to two year terms as national vice-chairs. They join John Ribar, Ed Martin, and John Halloran as vice-chairs and members of the executive committee.

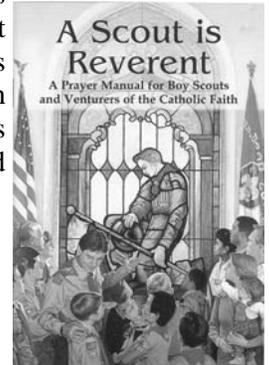
NCCS Regional Chaplains and Vice Chairs Elected

Michael Morgan from the Diocese of Helena has been elected to serve as the chairman of NCCS region 12. Incumbent chairmen Mike Gannon (4), Al Tarlo (6), and Don Ellefsen (13) and chaplains Reverend Joseph B. Powers (9) and Monsignor James Anderson (10) were all re-elected. These officers began their three year terms in January. Father Jerry Fehn (8) and Father Gregory Fay (14) decided not to continue as regional chaplains and these positions are vacant pending new appointments or elections and are now staffed as shown below.

Region	Chair	Chaplain
1	Art Keegan	Father Stephen Salvador
2	Ed Winterkorn	Father Kevin Smith
3	Frank Koller	Father John Wendrychowicz
4	Mike Gannon	Father Dan Mode
5	George LeCrone	Father Charles Morgan
6	Al Tarlo	Monsignor James Kolp
7	Robert Freville	Father Roger Strebel
8	Bill Davies	--vacant--
9	Homer Radford	Father Joseph Powers
10	Charles Raimond	Monsignor James Anderson
11	Marie Simons	Monsignor Anthony Ferrero
12	Michael Morgan	Father Leo McDowell
13	Don Ellefsen	Father James Blaine
14	Michael Murphy	--vacant--
15	Marge Dillenburg	Father Nicholas Rachford

A SCOUT IS REVERENT PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

The new *A Scout Is Reverent* is thinner than the previous one, but also only costs a dollar. This collection of prayers for use in Scout activities is available at local Scout shops and the BSA catalog. There are many Scoutmasters in Catholic-sponsored units who do not know that this publication exists, so let's get the word out.



THE BRIDGE IS GETTING A NEW EDITOR

After eight years at the helm, Chris Hoelle is stepping down as editor of *The Bridge*. Starting with the June issue, Mike Gannon will assume the editorial duties.

Mike is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from South Dakota State and a Masters of Arts in Communication from the University of Oklahoma. He is a 24-year veteran in the military, serving as a public affairs officer. He is currently the Assistant Commandant at the Defense Information School and an adjunct professor of journalism at the University of Maryland, University College. Gannon is the Chair of NCCS Region 4.

In the "what-goes-around-comes-around" department: When Mike was transferred out of Tampa by the military many years ago, it was Chris Hoelle who took over the editorial and publishing duties for the St. Petersburg diocesan committee newsletter from him.

Spotlight on our Scouts

EAGLE PROJECT STRESSES NON-MATERIAL THINGS

by Rose Llauguet, Committee Chair, Troop 339, Tampa, Fla.

What an experience! My eyes filled with scenes of those in need and those who came to fill that need. James Mullady's *Family Blessings* Eagle project was truly a day of blessings. James Mullady is in Troop 339, chartered by St. Timothy Church in Tampa, Fla.

Many of us have worked on Eagle projects, but this was one of the best I have ever participated in. I believe the Scouts, Scouters and others who attended came away with so much more than they could have imagined. Some took home life changing memories and experiences.

The day was not about material things. It was a day of giving of one's self; giving the feeling, to our less fortunate brothers and sisters, that someone cares enough to spend time and talents interacting with them, eating with them and just having a good time playing with them. No big toys, no candy, just love and attention!

The project was held at the Family Blessings foster care facility and

involved 27 children. James divided the children into age groups, then assigned adults and leaders to the groups. Games were set up and each group took turns playing the games at various times. Scouts ran the games and participants competed against one another.

Scouts and others shared their talents by providing entertainment: drums, keyboard, singing and dancing. The musicians entertained the kids while other Scouts served lunch and dessert.

Free McDonalds ice cream coupons were handed out making sure each child received a small remembrance of the day. Each and every one shared in the success of their efforts.

The project involved more than 200 man hours. It was risky and innovative but turned out to be a great "Scouts for Others" Eagle Project — one that will live in the hearts of the kids and all of us for a very long time.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE LIGHT PRESENTED TO POPE

Boy Scout buddies Brian Voyer and James Markovich stood side by side as they received the International Peace Light from Bethlehem, a global symbol of friendship and harmony, on the altar of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church, Forest Hills, N.Y.

These sixth-graders from Boy Scout Troop 119, based at St. Margaret, Middle Village, attended an evening prayer service and reception ceremony with their mothers, Scoutmaster William Scharbach and Charles Krzweski, a committee chairperson for Troop 119.

children in Austria and abroad.

Each year, Austrian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have traveled to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem a few weeks before Christmas to fetch a light from an eternal flame in the grotto of Christ's birth to bring back to Austria. Then Boy and Girl Scouts go to Austria and carry the Peace Light back to their home countries throughout Europe and the Holy Land with a message of peace. Pope Benedict XVI is among the 2005 recipients of the Peace Light.

See additional Spotlights on page 8.



ICCS ENDOWMENT FUND STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP

by Joseph DeStefano
Chair, International Committee

Thank you to all who have made a contribution to the ICCS Endowment Fund established by the NCCS to support 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 Americas Region. Hopefully, your contribution will finally allow 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 to reaching our goal. Please, seriously consider making your contribution to this most important challenge, NOW!

Any individual, unit or DCCS may make a contribution to the ICCS Endowment Fund to support the "Youth Activities of Catholic Scouts" in the Americas Region.

TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION:

Please make checks payable to 'NCCS' and note in the left hand corner of the check, 'FOR ICCS ENDOWMENT FUND'.

Mail to:

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

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

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN CHICAGO

by Gordon P. Stiefel, Chair, Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Committee on Scouting

For the last 10 months, the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Committee on Scouting, and the National Catholic Committee on Scouting Conference Committee have teamed together to produce the BIG EVENT for Scouting as Youth Ministry in 2006!

This 2006 biennial meeting offers 24 breakout sessions on a variety of topics in just two days produced by our NCCS Training Committee.

We journey to the Archdiocese of Chicago seminary community for liturgy, a tour, and dinner as a celebration of vocations. This is a hosted event – there is NO charge for this event to conference attendees.

Our opening general session speaker is Robert J. Mazzuca, National Director, Development Group, Boy Scouts of America; the prayer breakfast speaker is Father Daniel Coughlin, Chaplain, US House of Representatives; our Thursday luncheon speaker is Most Rev. Gerald Gettelfinger, Episcopal Liaison to the NCCS; and the celebrant for the liturgy is Most Rev. George Rassas, Vicar General, Archdiocese of Chicago. At Friday's banquet, Raymond L. Blackwell, Director, Central Region, BSA, will greet us and the keynote speaker will be Chris Bury, ABC News.

Add to this awesome agenda -- a week within walking distance of the world's largest indoor retail space mall – yes, more stores than Mall of America, Minnesota!

There are more than 100 restaurants within a mile of the hotel. Spouse events include nationally known Eli's Cheesecake Factory, Frank Lloyd Wright tour and Peterson's Ice Cream – Oak Park.

Speaking of hotels...this is the first year of the NCCS's new agreement with Hyatt Corporation. The touch of Hyatt in terms of excellent service and accommodations will shine throughout this meeting. Wait until you taste the food.

The Philmont lunch on Wednesday is a new special extra ticket event with

a mini taste of Chicago extravagant buffet. This Philmont event features Brian Gray, Director, Philmont Training Center. Father Don Hummel will report on Philmont chaplaincy; Father Kevin Smith will update everyone on the St. George Trek; and we will introduce the 2006 NCCS course team.

The Archdiocese of Chicago is easy to reach by air, rail, bus or car. Diocesan committees who have never attended before – hear the call and come at least for a day or two! This is your opportunity to companion with your fellow co-workers in the vineyard of Scouting as Youth Ministry.

Great workshops and speakers, Archdiocese of Chicago location, national committee meetings, regional meetings, fellowship, food, and gathering to grow Scouting as Youth Ministry -- Awesome! Log onto www.nccs-bsa.org and make plans to be at the 2006 BIG EVENT – 39th Biennial Meeting! See you as we gather around the Lord's table in Archdiocese of Chicago.



Friends and Family

Please keep in your prayers and thoughts:

- **Our chaplains** who are serving our country and **our troops** in the Middle East. **Father Dan Mode** has been serving in Afghanistan since last summer and **Father Randy Cuevas** served a short tour in Afghanistan at Christmas time.
- After several months of preparatory training, **Major Father Jerry Fehn** has been deployed to Iraq as a military chaplain for an extended tour.

If you have news of friends or family of NCCS members please email Jerry Scanlan at gascanlan@hotmail.com

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

David Garrison passed on recently. David was a long time member of the NCCS board and US Delegate for the Constantinian Order of St. George. He was instrumental in starting and funding the St. George Trek. Please remember David and his family in your prayers.



Evelyn Sparks, mother of George Sparks, has passed on. Please keep the Sparks family in your prayers.



Mary Jane Conlon, mother of Michael Conlon, Grand Knight of Father McGivney Council #7025 has passed on. She was 81. Her husband, Jim Conlon, a former Knight of Maryland Council #370 preceded her in death by 14 years.

The family wishes to express its thanks for the prayers already offered. Prayers for the response of the soul of Mary Jane Conlon will be greatly appreciated.



Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe passed on January 9, 2006. Bishop McAuliffe served as our Bishop Advisor/Episcopal Liaison from 1970 to 1978. He was the bishop of Jefferson City, Missouri. He was very active with the NCCS and its executive board.

Among other things he set up the Catholic Scouting program at Philmont. Bishop McAuliffe was presented the St. George, and in 1979 the Silver Antelope. Let us remember him in our prayers and in our NCCS history.



Eugene Savage, father-in-law of Bray Barnes, passed on recently.

Spotlight on our Scouts



SCOUTS CELEBRATE AT THE SAN DIEGO DIOCESE CCS 2006 ANNUAL CATHOLIC BOY SCOUT RETREAT

As is widely known, Scouting is recognized as an organization that welcomes and provides membership to all boys, from all walks of life. We provide adult leadership, strive to provide strong ethical, and moral leadership to all Scouts. We model positive moral values, promote physical fitness, and educate and build skills in young boys that are of life-long benefit. Ideally, they learn to choose right from wrong, to challenge themselves to learn and make good decisions while maturing into young men, and to selflessly do for others.

In consideration of the twelfth point of the Scout Law—"A Scout is Reverent"—Boys Scouts have ample opportunity to participate in their respective faith community's program that provides information about their faith. The San Diego Diocese's Catholic Committee on Scouting is very active throughout the year in planning and staging many events, including the Scout religious emblems program for the Catholic faith.

One such event was held the weekend of January 27-29, 2006 when Boy Scouts and adult Scouters from throughout the San Diego Imperial Council participated in the Annual Catholic Boy Scout Retreat held at Flying A Ranch in Campo. Beginning with a welcome from Catholic Scout Chaplain, Father Joe Carroll, approximately 80 Scouts and

40 Scouters participated in a learning experience led by a youth-oriented retreat team which engaged the Scouts in group activities that immediately created a cohesive team effort. On Saturday, the Scouts were energized through a series of dynamic, purposeful, and inclusive 'games' that the "REACH" team employed. Using the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary as the basis of these many activities, working within newly formed friendships, the

results achieved revealed greater understanding for each Scout of his role in his Catholic faith.

Many of the adult Scouters participated in "scouter development," a time for adult interaction on scripture, reflection, and discussion of the meaning of the word to understand their vital role as a believer and as a member of the Catholic faith community's youth ministry.

The weekend was concluded with Mass celebrated by Father Joe Carroll. He spoke about the Mass, what Jesus actually did for all of us and how we, as believers, can joyfully participate in the most Catholic of all participations, the Eucharist. For all, the weekend featured outdoor fun and activities promoting prayer, reflection, and fellowship in the tradition of the Catholic Church and the Scouting movement.



Sacramento Diocese Catholic Committee on Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire USA held its annual religious emblems recognition ceremony on February 4th at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Chaplain Father Mark Richards, Bishop Joseph Medera, and Chairman Bob Shumate stand with this past year's awardees.