



NCCS Biennial Meeting Scheduled for Dallas April 19-22

The 42nd NCCS Biennial Conference will be held at the Dallas Marriott Las Colinas, in Irving, Texas from April 19 - 22, 2012. This is a historic conference because it is our first conference with a schedule compressed to four days and scheduled over a weekend, and because it is the first time for one of our conferences to be hosted in Dallas-Fort Worth, and within 3 miles of the National Council Headquarters and National Scouting Museum of the Boy Scouts of America!

Participation at this biennial conference represents a great investment affording the opportunity to make new friends and contacts from around the nation, renew acquaintances, experience camaraderie and to exchange successful Catholic Scouting programs, activities, and ideas.

The participant registration fee includes five conference meals (Friday Bishop's Luncheon, Friday Dinner Excursion to include motor coach transportation, Mass with Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann & Texas BBQ dinner at St. Francis Church in Grapevine, followed by tour at the National Scouting Museum in Irving; Saturday "Breakfast of Champions," NCCS Annual Banquet; and Sunday Prayer Breakfast. It also includes three refreshment beverage breaks, Saturday evening pre-banquet reception,

conference participant credentials, conference commemorative patch, and program schedule booklet and other welcome packet materials, and administrative services. Meal tickets for the optional Philmont Reunion Luncheon on Saturday and the luncheon on Sunday must be purchased separately.

Registration will begin on Thursday, April 19. The Executive Committee will meet on Thursday afternoon as will the Training, Religious Activities, and Religious

be at Friday noon with the Silver Saint George Awards to be presented. After the luncheon, the afternoon will be dedicated to the Advisory Board meeting and the Diocesan committee training workshop. The day will conclude with celebration of Mass with Most Rev. Kevin Vann, Bishop of Fort Worth as the principal Celebrant & Homilist, and then a Texas BBQ Supper at St. Francis Church in Grapevine. Following Mass and dinner there will be a tour of National Scouting Museum.

Saturday activities will start with the annual "Breakfast of Champions" followed by the general business meeting. The lunch on Saturday will be the Philmont Reunion Luncheon and presentation of the Jerusalem Cross Awards.

Two workshop sessions will conclude the program. The evening Mass will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Douglas Deshotels, Auxiliary Bishop of Dallas. Following Mass will be a reception and the annual NCCS banquet with the key note address by Gary Butler, Assistant Chief Scout Executive for Council Operations, Boy Scouts of America.

Sunday's activities will include the Executive Committee meeting and a Region 10 training session, which is open for all to attend.



Emblems Committees. Mass will be celebrated at 6:15 p.m.

Friday's activities will begin with the Diocesan Showcase 2012, a showcase of ideas from across the country. The 15 regions will meet in the morning to be followed by meetings of all the standing committees. The National Chairman and Chaplain will also meet with the Regional Chairs and Chaplains and the Standing Committee Chairmen and Advisors.

The Bishops Award luncheon will

Ellie Starr 1934— 2012

Eleanore P. Starr, 77, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, at her home in Grapevine, Texas.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Friday, Feb. 10, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Grapevine. Father Randy Cuevas and Father Dennis O'Rourke, were the co-celebrants

Ellie was born Sept. 9, 1934, to Robert and Lena Pacheco in Pagate, N.M. She held several positions during her working years, but perhaps the one closest to her heart was the more than 20 years she spent as a secretary with the National Catholic Committee on Scouting at the National BSA Headquarters in Irving, Texas. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her loving husband of 54 years, Bert Starr; and brother, Gilbert Pacheco of Casa Blanca, N.M.



Chairman's Corner by Colonel (Ret) John Halloran, Jr.



These will be my last comments on Commitment, our theme for the second year. I do appreciate any individual trying to hold together any unit, committee, or organization until someone more committed, or more knowledgeable, comes along. It is not easy being solely responsible for the life or death of any organization. That is why recruiting your replacement is so important. None of us can last forever and if death doesn't claim us, old age or burnout does. The bottom line as I see it is the more you do, the less time we have of your time, talents and treasures. Therefore,

do not decrease your commitment, but get others involved to share the workload.

One thing that helps keep tenure is training. What a great opportunity we have with the upcoming Biennial Conference (April 19 – 22 April) in Dallas, Texas. The information is on our website. We will be offering training for the first timers, Diocesan committees and a number of workshops for individuals. If you are a Diocesan Committee Chair and Chaplain, then one of your commitments should be to attend this Biennial Conference. As Diocesan Chairs and Chaplains, you should also encourage your committee members to attend. If you are a committee member reading this, then I extend a personal invitation to you to attend. What an opportunity for all of you to meet face-to-face with your respective diocesan counterparts, to network and share ideas and also to meet with your regional and national counterparts. Don't let this opportunity pass you by because the next chance will be in 2014.

Another great training opportunity is our 'Scouting in the Catholic Church' course at Philmont (5 – 11August). You can register for this course through scouting.org or through the Philmont website. I recommend this course for anyone who has never taken it, especially Diocesan Chairs and Chaplains, or for any member if it has been a number of years since you last attended as the materials may have changed. The Course Director, Margaret Matarese, has a very committed staff willing to share the course curriculum and their expertise with all who can attend. Philmont also makes a wonderful place for a family vacation, since they have activities and events for all ages. Father Stephen and I will also be in attendance.

We thank you for the support you have given to Catholic Scouting. You are the reason why Catholic Scouting at all levels has the reputation it has. We look forward to seeing you at the Biennial and at Philmont. Remember that commitment is good – burnout is bad. Have a blessed Easter season.

Colonel (Ret) John Halloran

Overview of Chartered Organizations (From latest BSA Annual Report)

Civic, faith-based, and educational organizations operate Scouting units to deliver the programs to their youth members, as well as the community at large.

Approximately 115,000 Scouting units are owned and operated by chartered organizations.

Of these:

68.4 percent of all units are chartered to faith-based organizations

26.5 percent of all units are chartered to civic organizations

8.2 percent of all units are chartered to educational organizations

■ *The Bridge* is an authorized publication of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS).
■ It is published quarterly to provide news and information to members of the NCCS, Diocesan Catholic committees, youth ministry personnel and Boy Scout councils.

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■ To submit items for future editions of *The Bridge* please contact Mike Gannon at scoutrain@aol.com Photos are acceptable and should be in a jpeg format. Please ensure all people in photos are identified and the subject matter is fully described.

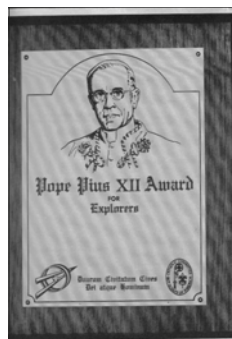


Did You Know . . . ?

By Bob Oldowski

The Pope Pius XII recognition was originally a plaque. The NCCS approved the award for Catholic Explorers at the 1960 meeting in Milwaukee. Two years later the program expanded to include high-school age Scouts who had already earned the Ad Altare Dei. In 1968 the BSA opened the Exploring program to girls, and NCCS allowed girls to earn this award. That year the plaque was replaced by the medal we know now. Beginning in 1987, the Scouts could work on the Pius XII without having previously earned the Ad Altare Dei award.

The original recognition was a 5" x 7" bronze plate on 7" x 9" walnut plaque, almost an inch thick. The plate had an image of the Pope with the words "Pope Pius XII Award for Explorers. On the bottom, between the Exploring and the NCCS logos, was the motto "Duarum Civitatum Cives, Dei atque Hominum" (Citizens of Two Worlds, of God's and Man's). The program was developed in recognition of the need for Catholic lay leaders.



UPCOMING EVENTS

*NCCS Annual Meeting
Dallas, Texas
April 19-22, 2012*

*Scouting in the Catholic Church
Philmont Training Center
August 5-11, 2012*

*St. George Trek
Philmont
July 12-23, 2013*

NCCS Members Urged to Support Annual Appeal

This year's Annual Appeal has begun. Funds from this campaign support the work of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting in promoting Scouting as Catholic youth ministry. A letter has already been sent seeking your participation.

This year, the NCCS is preparing a unique incentive to encourage participation. Donors have the opportunity to receive a special camp shirt embroidered with the logo of the 2012 Biennial Conference.

"When this was done in 2010, it contributed to one of our most productive campaigns in recent memory", reports Ed Martin, Vice Chair-Finance. "The Finance Committee hopes that donors will be similarly motivated with this campaign."

For the latest information go to the NCCS Website <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/>

QUALITY DIOCESE AWARDS 2011 (As of March 20, 2012)

Region 1: Hartford, Conn., Springfield, Mass.

Region 2: Albany, N.Y., Buffalo, N.Y., New York, N.Y., Ogdensburg, N.Y., Rochester, N.Y., Rockville Centre, N.Y., Brooklyn, N.Y., San Juan Puerto Rico; Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Region 3: Newark, N.J., Patterson, N.J., Camden, N.J.

Region 4: Arlington, Va., Wilmington, Del., Baltimore, Md., Washington, D.C., Wheeling-Charleston, W.V.

Region 5: Memphis, Tenn., Owensboro, Ky., Baton Rouge, La., Knoxville, Tenn., Birmingham, Ala., Lexington, Ky., Houma-Thibodaux, La., New Orleans, La., Louisville, Ky., Jackson, Miss.

Region 6: Detroit, Mich., Toledo, Ohio, Saginaw, Mich., Youngstown, Ohio, Grand Rapids, Mich., Cleveland, Ohio.

Region 8: St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minn.

Region 9: Kansas City - St. Joseph, Mo., Saint Louis, Mo., Jefferson City, Mo., Sioux City, Iowa, Springfield/Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Region 10: Galveston-Houston, Texas, Corpus Christi, Texas, Ft. Worth, Texas, Oklahoma City, Okla., Dallas, Texas, San Antonio, Texas, Tyler, Texas.

Region 11: Orange, Calif., Fresno, Calif., Sacramento, Calif., San Diego, Calif., San Jose, Calif., Los Angeles, Calif., San Bernadino, Calif.

Region 12: Portland, Or., Seattle, Wash.

Region 13: Phoenix, Az., Tucson, Az., Denver, Co., Colorado Springs, Co., Salt Lake City, Utah.

Region 14: St. Petersburg, Fla., Charleston, S.C., Raleigh N.C., Atlanta, Georgia, Venice, Fla.

Scout Day at Blessed John Paul II Seminary - Washington, D.C.



On Saturday, Feb 4th, 24 young men - Boy Scouts and Venturers - and their leaders and some parents, participated in Scout Day at Blessed John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. The seminary was formally established by Cardinal Donald Wuerl on October 22, 2011. The day included: Holy Mass with the seminarians; a tour of the seminary (including the dorms); lunch with the seminarians; discussion of seminary life and the priesthood; opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and a tour of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Several Boy Scouts were able to complete almost all of the requirements for the Holy Orders Chapter of the Ad Altare Dei workbook. While the Boy Scouts and Venturers were meeting with the seminarians and the priests, the leaders and parents met with the Seminary Vice Rector.

The seminary activities were led by Rev. Scott Woods, Chaplain of the Catholic Committee on Boy Scouting, Archdiocese of Washington, and Assistant Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Washington; Rev. Carter Griffin, Vice-Rector of the Seminary and Director of Priestly Vocations for the Archdiocese of Washington; and four seminarians, including two Eagle Scouts: Joseph Salser and Kevin Kayser. Prior to applying to the priestly formation program, both Joseph and Kevin had participated in Scout Day at the Mount, a similar activity sponsored by the Catholic Committee on Boy Scouting for the Archdiocese of Washington at Mount St. Mary's University and Seminary.





Bishop Bob Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston, S.C. and NCCS Episcopal Liaison to the NCCB, was the Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Charleston, and he requested that the Scouts be his honor guard. Crew 115 won the Gold Medallion Award for Region 14 in 2009 and 2010 and wanted to show their love of the Bishop, so they made a banner (shown above) to announce to the crowd that he has been awarded the Silver Buffalo award this year. Other units followed in behind them with the Bishop's Coat of Arms, the Diocese of Charleston Creston, as well as the ICCS flags. The day started with Mass at historic St. Patrick's in Charleston celebrating 175 years as a parish. There the Bishop took the opportunity to explain to the scouts who St. Patrick was and some of the history of the Irish in South Carolina. More than 250 Scouts took part in the parade.



Three generations of Catholic Scouting were represented in February when Samuel Bagley received his Light of Christ Religious Emblem, with his father Craig and his grandfather Paul present at the ceremony at the Sacred Heart Church in Sidney, N.Y. Samuel was one of nearly 21,000 Catholic Scouts who received their religious emblems last year. His father and grandfather are among the thousands of volunteers in the more than 9,000 Scout units chartered under Catholic auspices – helping reinforce the importance of family in the Scouting program.



A solemn Religious Emblem Mass was celebrated in February at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in the Diocese of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, by their Bishop, Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada, who for the moment serves also as Bishop of Tyler, Texas. Rev. Father Gerardo Caraballo, Diocesan Chaplain, and Prof. Americo López, Diocesan Chairman of the Catholic Committee of Scouting were also on hand for the Mass.

National and Regional Leaders Selected in 2012 Elections

Ed Martin Elected as NCCS Chairman Elect

Ed. Martin, of the Diocese of Cleveland, has been elected as the NCCS Chairman Elect following the 2012 NCCS elections. He will spend one year in this position and assume the position of Chairman at the biennial meeting in the spring of 2013. Mike Gannon, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was re-elected to a second term as Vice Chairman, and George LeCrone, of the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn., was elected to a first term as a Vice Chairman.

William Davies, Past National Chairman and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced the results and thanked Chris Manning and Austin Cannon for being candidates and their service to NCCS.

Regional leaders chosen in this election cycle included:

Ben Feril	Chairman Region 4
Alan Tarlo, Jr.	Reelected Chairman, Region 6
Rev. Joseph Powers	Reelected Chaplain, Region 9
Deacon Roy Harrington	Reelected Chairman, Region 12
Nancy Welton	Chairman Region 13
Rev. Jeff Kirby	Chaplain Region 14

Five Scouters to Receive Silver Saint George Award

Five Catholic Scouters have been selected to receive the Silver Saint George Award at this year's biennial conference of the National Catholic Committee (NCCS) on Scouting in Dallas, Texas. The Silver Saint George is the highest national recognition for hard work and significant support of the Catholic Youth Ministry at the national level. Recipients of this year's award are:

Chris Manning, of the Diocese of San Bernadino, has been a registered Scouter since 1983 and a member of the NCCS since 1985. He joined the NCCS after becoming a Religious Emblems Counselor for the Diocese of San Bernardino, California. He served as the Diocesan Committee Chair from 1988 through 1992 and continues to serve on the Diocesan Committee. He has attended two (1989 and 1993) World Youth Day celebrations. Chris is currently the Region 11 Chair for the NCCS. Concurrently, he serves as the Logistics Director for the bi-annual St. George Trek at Philmont.

Reverend Jerry Fehn, of the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis, has worked with the NCCS for 30 years, since he was a key organizer with the host committee for the 1980 NCCS Biennial meeting in St. Paul. Father Jerry was a Life Scout earning his Ad Altare Dei and the Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor. He was presented the St. George in 1977 while still a Seminarian. He served as council Scout Chaplain for eight years, and as a council summer camp chaplain. He also served as a Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster. He helped organize his council's first Scout retreat camp-o-ree. He served as a counselor for both Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII. He has been a solid contributor to the Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. He became NCCS Region 8 Chaplain in 1995 and served significantly in that position with several chairmen for ten years.

Joseph Benamadi, of the Diocese of Greensburg, Penn., is cited for his many years of service to the promotion of the Catholic religious emblems. A Scouter since 1959, he served as the Diocesan Chairman from 2000 to 2006 and has been a member of the Religious Emblems Committee since 1997.

Monsignor John Wendrychowicz, a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, was first involved in Catholic Scouting by making liturgical arrangements for the NCCS Biennial meeting in 1976. He joined the activities committee in 1993 as an advisor and was instrumental in the development of the Millennium Patch program. He attended the Philmont training program in 1994 as both Chaplain and instructor. He became the Regional Chaplain in 2000 and continues in that position

(continued in next column)



NCCS Chaplain Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in Army

Congratulations to Rev. Jerome Fehn on a well deserved promotion. In February, Father Fehn, a long time member and supporter of the NCCS, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Chaplains Corps by Chaplain (Colonel) John Morris, Minnesota State Joint Forces Chaplain and Sheila Kozar, a life long friend, Father Fehn, when not wearing his scouting uniform can be found wearing a military one. He has been deployed to a number of hotspots over the years including Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq. He is tentatively scheduled to be deployed again later this year. Please keep him, and all our military members, in your

Silver St. George Recipients (continued)

today. He also serves as the Chaplain for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Joe Simon, of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, has been a registered member of the Scouting program for 70 years. Following years of service at the unit level, Joe worked on the first Catholic Scouting retreat for the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 1956 and has served at every retreat since then. He served as the Baltimore Area Catholic Committee Chairman and then, as the Archdiocesan Chairman. Following his service in those positions he served as Region 4A Chairman for five years. For the past seven years, Joe has served on the Advisory Board of the NCCS.

Grand Rapids Catholic Committee Assists Catholic Scouting Programs in Uganda

By Janette Maring

Uganda, where the countryside is lush and green with its dense jungles, and vast with its brown savannas, contradicts the Uganda with its sewage-filled urban landscape, dotted with many tin-roofed huts of the very poor among the palaces of the very rich. Just outside the capitol city of Kampala is the Shrine of the African Martyrs. This holy place has been visited by tens of millions of faithful Catholic and non-Catholic Christians over the decades. Many Ugandans have dedicated their lives to the Catholic Church through a religious vocation. One of these is Father Caesar Matuvo, a parish priest in the Diocese of Kampala, who has given his life to God and the poor children he serves.

Father Caesar survived the horrors of the despotic regime of Idi Amin Dada. Estimates of as many as 500,000 citizens of Uganda were killed by actions of this corrupt government. Prior to this period, the Boy and Girl Scout programs were very much part of the lives of the youth in a country known then as Buganda. Father Caesar was a Scout as a boy. He once was asked, "Did the Scouts have to go underground during the reign of Idi Amin?" His answer: "No, they just threw the bodies on the ground of the Scout Camp. We had to bury them."

Father Caesar works with the children in the ghettos and slums of Kampala. He hopes that his strong emphasis on Scouting will eventually lead these children from the horrible living conditions they are forced to live in, by teaching them life-long scouting skills. There is no running water, sewage flows in the ditches along the main roads, black soot pours out of the tailpipes of almost all vehicles, kerosene lamps burn at night for those who can afford this luxury, they are forced to use charcoal to cook with, as wood is too expensive and difficult to transport. This creates air pollution that burns your lungs and eyes.

But Father Caesar remembers a better time, and wants to make this possible for all children in Uganda.

Working with the Uganda Scout Association, Father Caesar was able to promote the idea of establishing an organization of Catholic Scouts so that boys and girls would be able to experience scouting at the parish level.

Through his efforts, the Diocese of Kampala has provided a tract of land on Lake Victoria, about 35 kilometers from Kampala. The drive to the camp takes you away from the squalor of the city and into the beauty of the lush landscape that makes one think of Paradise. Upon arrival at the camp, there is a small sign attached to a wire fence that reads Chiro Camp. Father Caesar proudly points out that he used that name because that is the name he saw on a Scout camp when he attended the 100th Anniversary Scout Jamboree in England in 2007.

The Grand Rapids Catholic Committee on Scouting (GRCCS) has been working with Father Caesar since 2008 to help him make Scouting a way of ministering to the children of Uganda. There was an attempt by GRCCS to get used computers and equipment to the Diocese of Kampala. This project was halted after it was found the current government in Uganda had been seizing and burning computers and networking equipment. The only way Father could gain access to email was to walk 5 miles to an internet café. The GRCCS had a new laptop delivered to Father Caesar by Father Leo LeBlanc, the World Chaplain of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS), including the necessary funds to enable access for wireless Internet from his parish residence.

In 2010, The GRCCS Treasurer, Scott Harvey, and his grandson Nathan Christensen, visited Uganda to assist Father Caesar in forming what is now the Uganda Catholic Scout Fraternity (UCSF). Many of the methods used to organize Diocesan Catholic Committees on Scouting in the United States were presented at the inaugural meeting and have been beneficial in the continued formation of the UCSF. The UCSF

adopted the Rosary Hike program founded by the Boy Scout Troop 283 and Cub Scout Pack 3283 in Belmont Mich. This is a monthly event for Boy and Girl Scouts, as well as anyone who wants to go on these prayerful hikes along the White Pine Trail in Belmont.

Father Caesar was recently appointed the Catholic Scout Chaplain for the ICCS for the African region. He has been working with an agency in the Ugandan government to begin a sustainable nutritional source of food for the children in Kampala. Camp Chi-Rho is located on the shores of Lake Victoria, the second largest fresh water lake in the world. The plan is to create a fish pond to become a source of nutrition that is non-existent for these children today. After the pond is productive there will be a year-round garden planted to add to the variety of food made available to the scouts. Once the pond is producing enough to meet the needs of the campers, there will be additional fish available to sell and make this project sustainable.

The Grand Rapids Catholic Committee on Scouting is helping raise funds for this extraordinary project. The cost of the pond will be just over 22 million Ugandan schillings (\$9,100). With the help of a fundraiser as part of the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for J.R. Bouterse of Caledonia, several individual donors and Knights of Columbus Councils from Dearborn, Davidson, Iron River, Kalamazoo and Howell, the GRCCS has raised almost a third of the funds needed. The vision is to make this initial fish pond a reality in Uganda and spread this effort throughout Africa. This will allow many more children to be shown ways to improve their quality of life through the proven methods used by Scouts around the world.

For more information, email scottharvey@prodigy.net.



Ad Altare Dei Program Updated to Reflect Changes in Church Catechism and New Missal Guidelines

After a 22 year run, the Ad Altare Religious Emblem program has been updated. The new version will be in Scout Shops in the near future. The program is in compliance with all new missal guidelines and the current Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church. Scouts should find the updated program a little more exciting and interesting.

The Emblems Committee has been working on this for several years to make sure the program is up to date and hopes this update will keep youth interested in earning their AAD. The Emblems Committee asks everyone to use the online evaluation form so the Committee can better understand what the Scouts need (and want) to make the program more interesting.

Go to: <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/survey/AADScoutFeedback.php>

If you have the old books they are still acceptable for Scouts to use.

Please feel free to contact Harvey Carter, Emblems Chairperson, with any questions at, harvc2@bellsouth.net



Join the NCCS

Any registered Scouter can join the National Catholic Committee on Scouting by filling out the NCCS Membership Application at:

<http://www.nccs-bsa.org/doc/2010%20NCCS%20Annual%20Membership%20Form%20v4.doc>

Your membership fees support the efforts of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to provide faith-based programs including religious emblems; activity patches; adult, unit, and diocesan committee recognition awards; and national training conferences. In addition to *The Bridge*, the NCCS quarterly newsletter, you will also receive invitations to the annual meeting, to participate on Standing Committees, and Scouting in the Catholic Church conference.

Cub Scout Pack 716 chartered by St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Madison, celebrated Scout Sunday on February 5, 2012 by attending Mass with their families.

All Scouts in the parish were invited to participate by attending Mass in uniform. Cub Scouts participated in the liturgy by reading prayer intentions and bringing the gifts to the Altar for the celebration of the Eucharist. Scout leaders served as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.



Following the liturgical celebration parish priests, religious leaders, Knights of Columbus Council 9543 Grand Knight, Andrew Jackson Council executives, and other special guests joined the Scout families for their first annual Blue & Gold Banquet.