



## Fast Start For New Diocesan Chaplains



### You're a New Diocesan Chaplain!

Congratulations on choosing to promote Scouting as Catholic youth ministry by serving as a diocesan\* chaplain for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS)! This document provides some basic information on getting started in your new role.

### Why You?

The bishop of your diocese, by virtue of his office and through the use of whatever means is adopted in the diocese for making appointments, appointed you, possibly with input from the past diocesan chaplain and chairman. You were appointed because you were believed to be representative of the diocesan clergy, to have interest and experience in ministry to youths, and are willing to dedicate yourself to the purpose of the NCCS.

The purpose of the NCCS is to utilize and ensure the constructive use of the program of the BSA as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youths of our nation. The NCCS seeks to sustain and strengthen the relationship between the BSA and the Catholic Church and to work cooperatively with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and various other groups involved in youth ministry in the United States.

The recommended term of office is two years and is renewable.

### Getting Started

There are several things you need to know:

- What's expected of me?
- Where do I get help?
- What do I do next?

### What's Expected of Me?

1. Work to provide the best possible climate for Scouting in your diocese.
2. Nominate (with recommendations from council Catholic committees on Scouting, clergy and council Scout Executive) council chaplains who also serve as associate diocesan chaplains.
3. Assist in the selection of candidates to serve as council chairman.
4. Encourage training and use of unit chaplain aides.
5. Encourage council Catholic committees on Scouting to help provide opportunities for church services during group outings in accordance with NCCS and BSA policies.
6. Collaborate with the diocesan director of youth ministry to assure the recognition of Scouting as a vital program of youth ministry within the diocese.
7. Represent the diocese at NCCS biennial conferences and regional meetings as a voting member.
8. Represent the bishop at all meetings of the diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting and supervise the spiritual welfare of Catholics in Scouting in the diocese.
9. Collaborate and communicate with the diocesan office and diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting chairman in the fulfillment of the duties of the office.
10. Promote participation in the Gold Medallion and Quality Diocesan Committee Awards and the *Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate for Scouting* program.

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## Overview of the Function of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting

### • Purpose

The purpose of the diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting is to give guidance, vitality and leadership in the spiritual emphasis of Scouting to all Catholic Scouts and Scouters of the diocese. While the diocesan bishop, or his appointed representative, may determine the method by which a diocesan committee is established and functions, a plan is outlined and offered below as a guide. The committee endeavors to make the entire Scouting program available to increasing numbers of youths in parish units and other units operated by Catholic organizations.

### • Program

The agenda of the diocesan committee supplements the program of the Boy Scouts of America with special instructions and activities emphasizing the spiritual aspect of Scouting (see Goals and Objectives, Pub. 16-150).

### • Responsibilities

The diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting shall:

1. Develop, schedule and carry out a program of youth ministry for all Scouting units with the Catholic Church that complements other BSA council or district activities as well as those of the parish and diocese.
2. Through publicity and other contacts, strive to reach all Catholic youths and Scouters in units not chartered to Catholic organizations to offer them participation in activities conducted by the committee.
3. Schedule regular meetings, preferably quarterly, to carry out diocesan and national programs and activities.
4. Promote attendance at annual NCCS meetings by appropriate committee officers and subcommittee chairmen for representation, training and information.
5. Advise BSA councils within the diocese on all matters relating to Scouting among Catholics.
6. Assist local BSA councils in making unit organization contacts with all parishes and church-related societies and help in the establishment of units within these organizations.

## Where Do I Get Help?

There are several resources in addition to this document that will be of help to you in your role as diocesan chaplain:

- The NCCS website ([www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org)) has a complete list of contacts, program descriptions, various applications and the NCCS *Bylaws* and *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Section O of the Handbook pertains specifically to the role of the diocesan chaplain and the diocesan committee.
- A regional chairman and chaplain have the responsibility to assist diocesan leadership. These individuals are elected by their respective diocesan leadership. The regional chaplain may be, or may identify another individual to be, your mentor.
- Your mentor may be any Catholic Scout chaplain who has served several years in your capacity or at a higher level and is familiar with the NCCS *Bylaws* and *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Your mentor is an individual who has a desire to help other new leaders be effective. Your mentor avails himself as a resource to you when called upon to offer information or to help solve a problem. Most importantly, your mentor assists you in developing your initial set of goals (see *NCCS Leader's Handbook*).

## What Do I Do Next?

1. Review the *NCCS Leader's Handbook*
2. Meet with your mentor to answer any questions or concerns and to establish your initial set of goals
3. Establish communication with diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting leadership, council chaplains and appropriate diocesan office leadership
4. Work your action plan

\* The term "diocese" includes archdiocese, eparchy and archeparchy.