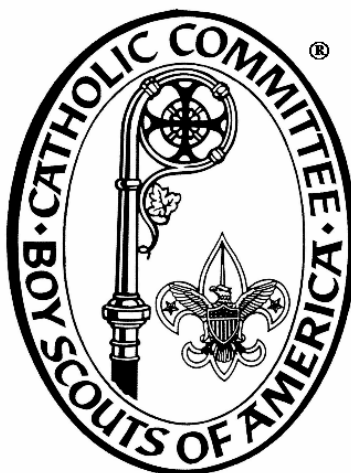


National Catholic Committee on Scouting



Annual Report
On
Boy Scouting in the Catholic Church
(April 2002 – April 2003)

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National Catholic Committee on Scouting Annual Report April 2002-April 2003

Introduction

Purpose of this Report This report summarizes the fundamental goals of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and objective progress made over the past year in achieving them.

Highlights 2002 saw the following major accomplishments by the NCCS:

- **Membership Initiative** - approved and endorsed in April 2002, tools for the Catholic Membership Initiative were delivered in the first quarter of 2003 and the program has been introduced in all regions and dioceses.
- **St. George Trek** – the fifth leadership trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch had fifty-eight participants in July 2002 representing 23 States.
- The NCCS continued to build relationships with the **National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers** (NFCYM) by participating in the Denver conference of Youth Ministers; attending the Salt Lake City meeting of its general membership; and interviewing Dr. Robert McCarty, Executive Director, for our Membership Initiative CD.
- The NCCS was present at the **World Conference** of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting and at the World Jamboree in Thailand.

NCCS Mission and Authority The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) exists to utilize and ensure the constructive use of the program of the BSA as a viable form of youth ministry with Catholic Youth of our nation.

The NCCS is a committee of concerned Catholic Laity and Clergy which is advisory to the Boy Scouts of America and relates to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) through its NCCS Episcopal Liaison.

BSA Mission It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping instill values in young people, and to prepare them to make ethical decisions during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we try to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

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Catholic Values, Programs, and Activities

Building Units with Catholic Identity

The basic goals of Catholic youth ministry are:

1. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today,
2. To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community, and
3. To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

The NCCS addresses these goals in several ways. We

- Encourage the formation and support of Catholic-chartered units,
 - Support Diocesan Catholic Boy Scouting Committees,
 - Offer Catholic programs complementary to the BSA programs, and
 - Provide formation and activity training for leaders and youth.
-

Dialogue on Leadership Standards

Catholic Scouting is built on standards and core values. A principal attraction of Scouting as youth ministry is its adaptability to the mission of its chartered organizations. The right of the BSA to enforce its membership and leadership standards has been the subject of several challenges and the U. S. Supreme Court has upheld the BSA right to freedom of association. We will continue to advocate Catholic values to the BSA.

- In June of 2002 the Catholic bishops of the United States adopted a *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* that mandates all dioceses and eparchies to develop new structures and processes for youth protection. As a result, dioceses are developing written guidelines to make and maintain safe environments for children and youth and have instituted plans for certification and training of all youth leaders that include criminal background checks.
 - On April 1, 2003 the Boy Scouts of America began performing criminal background checks on all new adult volunteers. This process is a supplement to the application process that requires approval of the chartered organization and reference checks. This is the latest step in a program of youth protection that has been in place for more than fifteen years.
 - The NCCS Executive Board affirmed BSA registration as a prerequisite for NCCS membership and verification of registration will be required annually.
 - Since volunteer leadership certification procedures for youth programs are directed by diocesan policies, there is great variety. The NCCS is continuing to advocate national uniformity to these procedures for Scouting volunteers.
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National Catholic Committee on Scouting Annual Report April 2002-April 2003

Catholic Values, Programs, and Activities, Continued

Programs

- We continue to develop and improve programs and activities to supplement the secular scouting program through Diocesan Scout Committees.
- A revised Pope Pius XII religious emblem program for high school aged Catholic scouts and venturers was introduced at the 2002 biennial meeting. Many dioceses took advantage of bulk purchase arrangements for activity books and feedback from the first year of use is positive. The emphasis of this program is the exploration of vocations.
- Catholic religious emblems programs continue to be successfully implemented in most dioceses. Catholic Religious Emblems were presented as shown in the table below:

	Cub Scouts	Boy Scouts	Venturers	All Youth	Adult
2002 Catholic	28,749	4,158	1,190	34,097	805
2001 Catholic	30,936	4,319	1,562	36,817	843
2000 Catholic	27,277	4,639	1,002	32,938	971
2002 All Faiths	59,894	16,148	1,987	78,029	5,433

Source: Relationships Division BSA

- The full color brochure Religious Emblems for Catholics, NCCS item #16-436, has been completely revised and is available in bulk quantities.
- In 1997 a program called “Into the Third Millennium” was started to raise awareness of the Christian meaning of the Millennium. This has been a very successful program with more than 20,000 patches having been earned. This program was updated in 2001 as “The Third Millennium with Jesus Christ”. Certificates of achievement will be available on the NCCS website when the current supply of patches is depleted.
- A Rosary Patch program has been authorized with a limited number of patches and requirements to be introduced over the next four years.
- Twenty-eight units were awarded Gold Medallion status for their achievements in 2002. The Gold Medallion, intended to recognize the outstanding pack, troop, and venture crew in each region, was approved for continuation through 2005.

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National Catholic Committee on Scouting Annual Report April 2002-April 2003

Catholic Values, Programs, and Activities, Continued

Special Events

To give a direct witness to Catholic values the NCCS staffs several national and international events for participation by Scout youth and adult leaders.

- The 2002 summer season was the 48th consecutive year that the National Catholic Committee on Scouting provided **chaplaincy services** to the staff and participants at the Philmont Scout Ranch and Training Center in Cimarron, NM. Four priests and two seminarians provided 100% coverage for the season.
- **Bishop Gettelfinger** was the keynote speaker at the BSA annual Duty to God Breakfast in New Orleans in June, 2002. He was also honored as a Distinguished Citizen at a banquet in his honor by the Buffalo Trace Council of Evansville on September 4, 2002.
- Cardinal Keeler and Mrs. Carol Oldowski were honored with the presentation of **Silver Antelope awards** at the BSA annual meeting.
- The Executive Committee presented the **St. George Emblem** voted for Don Oblander in April to Lorena Oblander on October 12, 2002.
- Three priest members of the NCCS were present at the 2003 **World Jamboree** (Fr. Dennis O'Rourke – Past National Chaplain, Fr. Leo LeBlanc – ICCS Americas Region Chaplain, and Msgr. Robert Guglielmono – ICCS World Chaplain.)

In July 2002, the fifth **Saint George Leadership Trek** was completed at Philmont. Bishop Gettelfinger again hiked with the fifty-eight participants (including one all female crew) and thirteen advisors, spending some time on the trail with every crew. Trekkers met representatives of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George, the chief sponsor of this event, at the beginning and end of the trek.

- The NCCS has established a “**Saint George Trek Memorial Scholarship Fund**”. Major contributions made in the name of a deceased NCCS member will be memorialized on an plaque placed in the Catholic Chapel at Philmont. The first members memorialized are Emmett Doerr (fund founder) and Jack Deckenbach.
 - The Executive Committee allocated funding to plan an **Inter-Americas Trek** in 2003. The intent of this trek was to bring together two crews of Scouts (24 participants) from Latin America and the United States at Philmont to promote international understanding and fellowship. High costs associated with travel to the United States caused cancellation of the trek.
 - The NCCS encouraged Catholic scouts to attend the 2002 **World Youth Day** events in Toronto with groups from their dioceses. Several Venture Crews were in attendance and Region 1 organized a provisional Scout/Venture group.
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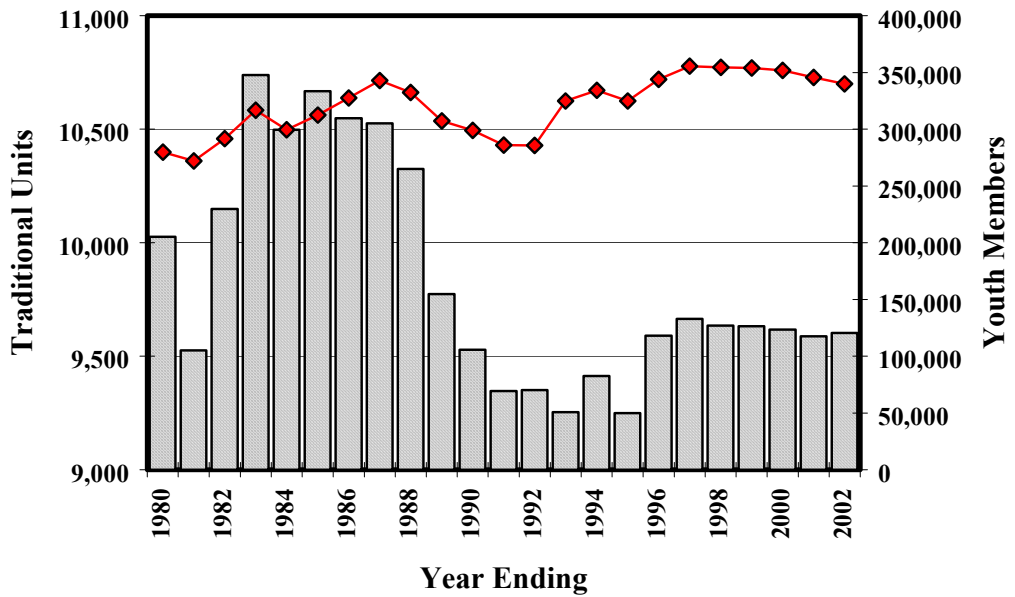
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Membership

Statistics

At the end of 2002 there were 339,846 youth registered in 9,603 traditional Scouting units chartered to Catholic Institutions. We have not achieved our Millennium goal of 10,000 units and membership has been eroding slowly since 1997.

Catholic Scouting	2002	
	Units	Youth
Cub Scouting	4,727	226,175
Boy Scouting	4,003	103,090
Venture	871	10,581
All Scouting	9,603	339,846



Continued on next page

National Catholic Committee on Scouting Annual Report April 2002-April 2003

Membership, Continued

Membership Initiative

The Executive Board approved and endorsed a Catholic Membership Initiative outline plan in April 2002. This initiative began in July 2002 and will end in April of 2005 with the following goals;

1. Reaffirm Scouting as Catholic Youth Ministry.
2. Increase the number of units with Catholic Organizations as Chartered Partners.
3. Encourage growth in Diocesan Committees to strengthen and support Catholic Scouting.

The initiative has been fully planned and rolled out to all Diocesan Scout committees and BSA Councils:

- New and revised literature resources to support diocesan committees and recruit new units
- Prepared a guide for diocesan committees to plan and execute a successful membership renewal process
- The BSA, with NCCS assistance, produced a new CD with testimonials for Catholic Scouting, training tools for recruiting teams, editable presentations, and printable resources.
- Every diocese and BSA Council received copies of the planning folders in August and October 2002 and CD's were delivered in January 2003.
- Every diocese and BSA Council will be invited to participate in this effort and they will be provided the resources needed to undertake a program of membership renewal and growth.
- Fr. Don Hummel, George Sparks, and Dave Richardson were present at BSA "All Hands" conferences in August 2002, to promote the availability of Catholic Initiative resources.
- The bulk of the effort going forward will be accomplished in individual dioceses. The goals and objectives of the initiative were fully explained to all NCCS regional leaders at our 2003 annual committee meeting and the methods and needs for diocesan goal setting were explained.
- Membership renewal will be a workshop track at the 2004 Biennial Conference.

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National Catholic Committee on Scouting Annual Report April 2002-April 2003

Membership, Continued

Diocesan Reports

The BSA has completed conversion of its membership databases to a new computing system. Through the efforts of several volunteers, more reliable diocesan data is once again available. Diocesan help is still needed to verify the database and correct local errors.

Catholic Relationships

The NCCS is recognized by the USCCB as the authority to represent all Catholic Boy Scout Chartered institutions to the BSA. This is recognized as a dual responsibility: first, to build relationships with all youth serving Catholic institutions that can charter Scout units and second, to properly understand and represent Catholic youth ministry goals and objectives to the BSA. This is best done by building liaison relationships with several Catholic bodies.

- The National Chairman and Chaplain are active members of the **BSA Relationships Committee** and Religious Relationships Sub-committee and were present or represented at all of their meetings. With other Catholic members of these committees we represent Catholic perspectives to the National Council.
- **Knights of Columbus** – Since 1923 when the Knights of Columbus commended Scouting as a fruitful activity for their order, their councils have molded hundreds of thousands of youth through the Scouting program. Today the Knights charter 1207 units with almost 40606 registered youth and 16,334 adult leaders. In some regions more than 21% of the units chartered to Catholic units are affiliated with the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus do not currently have a formal representative on the NCCS Executive Board, but there are many members on national and diocesan committees.
- **Serra International** – A Catholic fraternal group with a strong interest in promoting religious vocations and training Catholic lay leadership. Serra has been a strong supporter of Catholic Scouting programs including financial underwriting of the Pope Paul VI National Unit Recognition. Homer Radford, a member of both the NCCS and Serra is our liaison representative and attends its annual meetings.
- **Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George** – The Constantinian Order is a worldwide organization with a mission of service to others. In the United States this service extends to Catholic education, The Path to Peace Foundation, Catholic University, and Catholic Scouting. Over eleven years they have underwritten the cost of every Saint George Youth Leadership Trek at Philmont (now held every other year). John Condon is their liaison as an at-large member of our Executive Board.

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Membership, Continued

Catholic Relationships (continued)

- **USCCB Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth**

Barbara Anderson attended the NCCS breakfast at the USCCB annual conference.

On February 14 Ed Gargiulo and Bray Barnes represented the NCCS at a workshop of the USCCB Committee on Youth and Young Adults at the invitation of Bp. Dennis Schnurr, Chair. The intent of this meeting was to solicit ideas and input from youth serving organizations. Approximately twenty organizations were present. Major items of discussion included participation at World Youth Days, needs for a coordinated plan for youth protection, and increased inter-organization collaborations.

- **USCCB Annual Meeting**

On Sunday evening, November 10, Bishop Gettelfinger and the NCCS hosted an appreciation dinner for selected bishops at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The Northeast Region accepted the invitation of the NCCS to present the Silver Antelope announced earlier to Cardinal Keeler at the dinner. Bishop Gettelfinger also hosted a breakfast for 30 bishops attending the annual conference in Washington on November 11. The NCCS national chaplains used this opportunity to discuss current programs and needs of Catholic Scouting such as the St. George Trek, the membership initiative and chaplaincy at Philmont.

- **National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry** – The NCCS is a collaborating member of the NFCYM and its Executive Director, Robert McCarty, is a member of our Executive Board. Tom Nishikubo continues to be our NCYC representative and represented us at the 2003 NFCYM Annual Membership Meeting in Salt Lake City.

Members of the NCCS Executive Board were present, with the BSA Relationships Division, to man a display booth at the 2002 National Conference of Catholic Youth Ministers (NCCYM) in Denver. About 2,100 youth ministers attended the conference from more than 40 dioceses across the country. Ed Gargiulo and Fr. Don Hummel offered a workshop “Boy Scouting Relationship to Comprehensive Youth Ministry”.

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Membership, Continued

Catholic Relationships (continued)

- **International Catholic Conference on Scouting** – The NCCS is one of about 70 Catholic Scout Associations composing the ICCS. We are represented on the world council by our International Committee Chair, Fr. Dennis O'Rourke.

Fr. Dennis O'Rourke and Ed Gargiulo represented the NCCS at the ICCS World Seminar and Triennial World Congress from July 11 through 14 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The city of Thessaloniki was selected for this meeting because the World Organization of the Scouting Movement (WOSM) meeting was also to be held there following the ICCS meeting.

The topic of the World Seminar was "*New Challenges, New Commitments for Catholic Scouts.*" Discussions centered on the role of Scouting in the lives of youth of our respective countries. In some countries Scouting has a well-defined religious orientation, and is strengthened or even organized by the local church, but in others Scouting is strictly a secular movement – like in the United States. Many associations are trying to respond to changes brought about by the immigration of non-Christian populations.

Mr. Baldur Hermans, of Germany, was elected at the World Council to be the General Secretary of the ICCS for the next three years. In other business the council renewed its charter with a "*Letter from the Thessalonians*" that challenges Scout leaders throughout the world to be confident in the goals and methods of Scouting under Catholic auspices.

Two NCCS chaplains currently hold positions of leadership with the ICCS. Msgr. Robert Guglielmone is the World Ecclesiastical Assistant (chaplain) and Fr. Leo LeBlanc is the Ecclesiastical Assistant (chaplain) for the Inter America Region. Both were also present at the Thessaloniki Conference and WOSM meeting that followed. Bob Oldowski, NCCS Past Chair, is also a member of the ICCS Intra-Americas Region Executive Committee.

Cultural Diversity

The NCCS must build a foundation for diversity so that the programs can be easily adapted to any parish situation.

The immediate objective is to establish an advisory group to identify needs and programs. While we continued to meet with BSA regional Scoutreach and relationships committees and the USCCB Committee on Youth and Young Adults, no concrete progress was made this year. The NCCS Advisory Board has been tasked to study needs and recommend an appropriate effort.

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Diocesan Committees

Support

The National Committees provide direct support to dioceses through Regional Chairs and Chaplains. Since 2000, a National Vice-Chair has had oversight responsibility for the Regional Chairs to centralize and focus communication. Communications are effected by personal phone calls and letters (E-mail), newsletters, and regional meetings and conferences. More than half of the regions hold meetings or conferences independent of the NCCS biennial meeting and about one-quarter produce a regional newsletter.

Support is also provided through the NCCS quarterly newsletter, “*The Bridge*,” and our Internet Website (www.nccs-bsa.org).

Region Statistics

The Diocesan Scout Committee is the principal means to advocate, teach, and deliver Catholic Scouting.

Region	Area	Units	Youth	Dioceses	Active Committees
1	ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI	891	33232	11	8
2	NY, PR	810	25935	9	8
3	PA, NJ	1063	36881	13	13
4	WV, VA, MD, DE, DC, Mil.	479	18382	7	5
5	KY, TN, LA, MS, AL	668	24376	18	15
6	MI, OH	932	35171	13	10
7	WI, IL, IN	1238	45007	16	16
8	MN, ND, SD	314	11565	10	5
9	NE. IA, KS, MO	705	24635	15	13
10	TX, OK, AR	612	20234	16	15
11	CA, NV, HI, Guam	718	23160	15	14
12	WA, OR, ID, MT, AK	286	8665	11	9
13	WY, UT, CO, AZ, NM,, TX	314	11021	11	10
14	NC, SC, GA, FL	572	21523	12	9

A “Quality Diocesan Committee” award was developed with the assistance of the Regional Leadership. This program is expected to parallel the intent of the Pope Paul VI unit recognition. Sixteen dioceses qualified for this award in 2002.

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Diocesan Committees, Continued

Training

If the Diocesan Scout Committees are to effectively influence their diocesan Catholic communities and build units with a strong Catholic identity, their members and leaders must be trained.

- **Philmont Training Conference “*Scouting in the Catholic Church*”** – Since its inception on 1974, the focus of this annual training conference has been the formation and training of leaders for Diocesan Boy Scout committees. The 2002 conference was attended by 37 Scouters from 13 states and was directed by Gerry Scanlan, with Msgr. Anthony Ferrero (chaplain), Bray Barnes and Marie Simons serving as faculty.
- Approximately 200 Catholic Scouters attended the **2002 Biennial Conference** in Tucson, AZ. These conferences are organized to provide a forum for the general membership of the NCCS, offer training workshops, and provide an opportunity for the NCCS national committees to meet. Fewer than 20% of our Diocesan Committees were represented at this year’s conference and there is serious concern about the effectiveness of this meeting.
- **Training Committee** – In addition to the coordination efforts outlined above, the Training Committee provides for the needs of standing committees, regional leaders, and diocesan committees for training programs and tools.

New training tools were developed and introduced for new diocesan and regional chairs and chaplains. These tools include a new *NCCS Leaders Handbook* and *Mentoring and Action Planning*.

NCCS Training programs are being aligned with the BSA Training Continuum concept. Fast Start tools found in the *NCCS Leaders Handbook* are intended for orientation of new leaders. Basic programs include *Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate Formation for Scouting* and *Mentoring and Action Planning* and are recommended for the first year. Supplemental training will be received at Biennial workshops and at regional meetings. The Philmont Training Conference *Scouting in the Catholic Church* will become the Catholic equivalent to BSA Wood Badge Training to satisfy advanced training needs.

Workshop content at the 2002 biennial conference was redirected to address the training and information needs of four specific interest groups: Diocesan Committee leaders, Membership Committee members, Religious Emblem Committee members, and youth ministers. Twenty-five separate workshops were recruited and coordinated by the Training Committee. This effort is continuing as we plan the 2004 Biennial Conference.

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National Catholic Committee on Scouting Annual Report April 2002-April 2003

Diocesan Committees, Continued

Staffing National Committees

The NCCS is constantly seeking people to serve on standing committees, task forces, boards, and as regional leaders. More than 100 volunteers offer their time and talents to serve on national committees to achieve the mission of the NCCS. Scouters can learn more about our activities at the annual Philmont Training Conference “*Scouting in the Catholic Church*”, Annual Standing Committee Meetings, regional meetings, and at our Internet Website www.nccs-bsa.org. Volunteers are invited to submit biographical information to Barbara Nestel, at N.C.C.S., P. O. Box 152079, Irving TX 75015-2079.

The Nominating Committee is charged with responsibility to search out qualified individuals willing to work on the National Executive Board.

Finding qualified regional leaders is a continuing problem. All regions had chairperson in 2002. One region was not able to find a qualified chaplain for selection. One regional chair and one regional chaplain also have also accepted Standing Committee leadership responsibilities.

Advisory Board – The NCCS Advisory Board is composed of approximately forty volunteer members appointed by the executive board for five-year terms. Current activities of the board include:

- Assessment of the BSA Learning for Life programs of values and decision making offered primarily to schools.
- Seeking ways to increase the cultural diversity of Catholic Scouting.
- Construction of an historical database of the resolutions and actions of the NCCS.
- Review of the relationships between Catholic Scouting and diocesan Youth Ministry Offices.
- Participation in Long-range planning studies and activities.

Long Range Plan

A Long-range Planning Committee commissioned to identify major issues facing the NCCS has submitted its report as a vision document. It identifies improvement opportunities in seven areas: membership, programs, administration, relationships, clergy, vocations and finance. All of the national committees have been charged with responsibility to re-evaluate their mission and objectives in the light of this assessment and revise their plans accordingly.

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Financial Stability

Financial Summary

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting saw a decline of about 10% in its fund balances through 2002. Total cash and endowment assets invested with the BSA at the end of 2002 were \$984,889.

- Operating funds closed the year at \$123,051.
 - The Golden AAD fund closed with a \$255,542 balance. Interest from this account will ultimately fund the NCCS activities of priest volunteers. These expenses are about \$40,000 each year.
 - The St. George Fund, authorized in 2001 with a bequest by Emmett Doerr, closed with a balance of \$178,897. Interest from this fund is used to provide support and scholarships for the St. George Trek at Philmont. The NCCS augmented the operating budget for the Trek and funded scholarships for the first time in 2002.
 - The finance committee completed conversion of trust funds to an NCCS Smith Barney account. Approximately \$228,000 is invested per a socially responsible Catholic Investment Policy approved by the executive committee and consistent with USCCB policies.
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2002 Expenses

Expenses for 2002 were \$299,804 vs. a budget of \$315,950. They may be compared with expenses of \$218,650 against a budget of \$292,074 in 2001. The year to year variations are largely due to increased expenses for the St George Trek and Biennial Meeting in even numbered years. Expenses traditionally under-run the budgeted amounts due to generous in-kind contributions by lay volunteers and costs voluntarily accepted by our priests.

2003 Budget

Expenses for 2003 are budgeted at \$241,720 which is about 23% lower than 2002. These expenses are lower than those for years when additional funds are allocated for a Jamboree, a Biennial Conference, or the Saint George Trek.

Executive Board Support of Annual Fund

In 1999 the Executive Board passed a resolution that asked for 100 percent participation in the annual fund campaign by Board Members. Participation in 2002 was 35%.

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Appendix: National Leadership (April 2003)

**Executive
Committee**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Leader</u>
National Chairman	Edward P. Gargiulo
National Chaplain	Rev. Donald K. Hummel
National Chairman-elect	Bray B. Barnes
Past National Chairman	Robert S. Oldowski
Past National Chaplain	Rev. Dennis J. O'Rourke
Associate National Chaplain	Rev. Roger LaChance
Vice-Chairman: Finance	Lt. Col. John J. Halloran, Jr.
Vice-Chairman: Administration	Thomas T. Nishikubo
Vice-Chairman: Program	Gerard A. Scanlan
Vice-Chairman: Regions	John P. Ribar
Vice-Chairman: External Affairs	Edward P. Martin
Episcopal Liaison	Most Rev. Gerald A. Gettelfinger
BSA Relationships Division	Donald York
USCCB Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth	Barbara Anderson

**Regional
Leaders**

<u>Region</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Chaplain</u>
1	Dave Moskal	Rev. Steve Salvador
2	Robert Jones	Rev. Kevin Smith
3	Frank Koller	Msgr. John Dermond
4	Michael Gannon	Rev. Daniel Mode
5	George LeCrone	Rev. Charles Morgan
6	Alan Tarlo	Msgr. James Kolp
7	Robert Freville	Rev. Roger Strebel
8	Carol Oldowski	Rev. Jerry Fehn
9	Robert H. Nelson	Rev. Joseph B. Powers
10	Ray Broussard	Msgr. James Anderson
11	Frank M. Diaz	Msgr. Tony Ferrero
12	James Burgen	Rev. Leo McDowell
13	Don Ellefsen	Rev. Jim Blaine
14	Bert Johnson	--- vacant ---

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Appendix: National Leadership (April 2003), Continued

Committee Assignments	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Advisor</u>
	<u>Standing Committees:</u>		
	Chaplains	Rev. Joe Weber	Betty Bridgeman
	Conference	Mike Kosiba	Rev. Michael Donald
	Eastern Churches	Marge Dillenburg	Rev. David Michael
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