THE BRIDGE

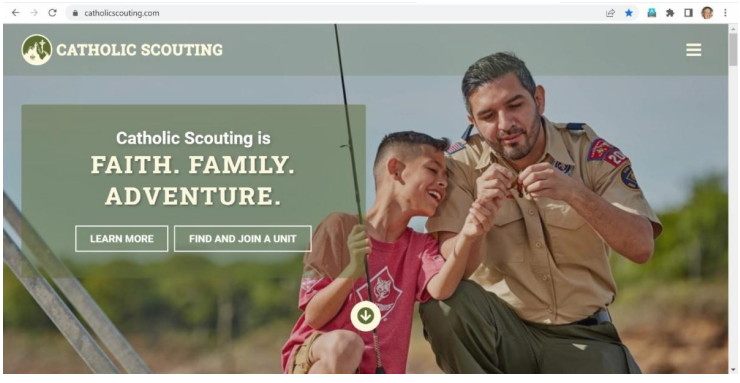
The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

VOLUME 31 NO. 4— WINTER 2022

NCCS website updated and reorganized to be more "user friendly"

We want you to be among the first to know that in December, 2022 the National Catholic Committee on Scouting unveiled a new ***nccs-bsa.org*** website. This replaces the original website, but the website address (URL) remains the same. This website is our organization's internal website, which focuses on membership, leadership , training, support, and an online store.

Wonder why we are making these changes? The new site will be easier to navigate and utilizes the latest security enhancements. Out-of-date content has been revised or removed. Users will be able to find everything they need with just one or two clicks. The NCCS online store has been updated and reorganized so you can quickly find the items you need to support Catholic Scouting programs.



If you are not familiar with the ***CatholicScouting.com*** website which is oriented towards introducing Catholic Scouting to youth, parents, your ministers and pastors, check it out today.

We hope you enjoy the new look. We will welcome your feedback after you have had a chance to check out both sites.

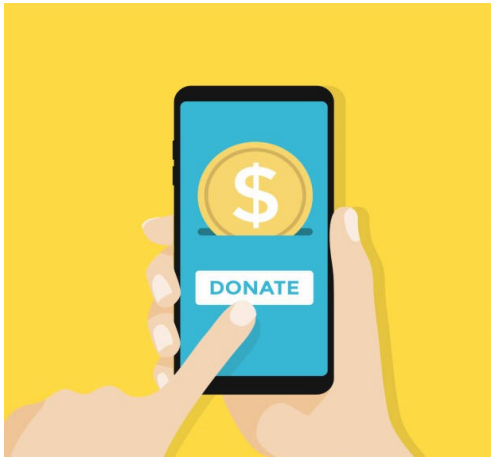
Catholic Scouting programs Depend on contributions to the NCCS Annual Appeal

We need your help for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to take the next steps in our Catholic Scouting Faith. Family. Adventure. campaign by contributing to the 2022 Annual Appeal.

Catholic Scouting can be a path to vocations, that is why it is important we continue to provide a strong Catholic Scouting program of Faith, Family, and Adventure.

As an example, during this past year, the NCCS subsidized over 50% of the cost of the Saint George Trek a Philmont Scout Ranch. Your financial support ensures that programs like the Saint George Trek continue for years to come.

Please consider making an annual contribution by clicking on the **contribute** link on the NCCS website at **https://nccs-bsa.org.**



Thank you

for your support

National Catholic Committee on Scouting

FROM THE CHAIR

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of George Sparks, NCCS Past National Chair (2016 – 2019).

George was active in Scouting since 1957. He was an Eagle Scout, earned the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow and the Ad Altare Dei award. He was recognized with the District Award of Merit, the O. A. Founders' Award and O. A. Distinguished Service Award, the Silver St. George emblem, and the Brother Barnabas F.S.C. Founders Award from National Catholic Committee on Scouting, the Cliff Dochterman Award from the Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians and the God and Service Award from P.R.A.Y.

George earned a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and taught in the Chicago Public School System for nine years. He entered the professional service of the Boy Scouts of America and served as a district executive, program director, field director, Scout executive and Associate Director of the Relationships Division. He served as the BSA Liaison to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. He retired from professional Scouting in 2011 after thirty-one years of service.

Since retiring, George served the NCCS as Membership Chairman and National Chair. George was active in community service as a member of Kiwanis, Exchange and Rotary and served his parishes as a member of the parish council, Eucharistic minister, Lector, and Commentator. He was a Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. George and his wife Susan were married for 51 years. They have three children: George, Jr., Jennifer, and Sarah, and three grandchildren.

In Memoriam

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.

NCCS National Chair	**John Anthony**
NCCS National Chaplain	
Chair, Marketing and Public Relations	**Jason Wolz**
Advisor, Marketing and Public Relations	**Father Roger Lopez**
Editor	**Mike Gannon**
NCCS Webmaster	**Roselito de los Reyes**

To submit items for future editions of *The Bridge* please contact Mike Gannon at scouttrain@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.

The Chaplain's Corner

Father Gerard Gentleman

National Chaplain

As this new year began, the Lord called Pope Benedict XVI home to his eternal reward. He served as Pope from April 2005 until his resignation in February 2013. He was the first Pope to resign in 600 years and for almost ten years he lived in retirement. He, like Pope Saint John Paul II before him, and Pope Francis after him, cared for and related well to young people. During his homily at the 2008 World Youth Day Mass in Sydney, Australia he said the following.

"Dear young people, let me now ask you a question. What will you leave to the next generation? Are you building your lives on firm foundations, building something that will endure? Are you living your lives in a way that opens up space for the Spirit in the midst of a world that wants to forget God, or even rejects him in the name of a falsely-conceived freedom? How are you using the gifts you have been given, the "power" which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you? What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come? What difference will you make?"

As Scouts and disciples these are important questions for us to ask ourselves. In his wisdom Pope Benedict asked all of us to be forward thinking, and to use our experiences of today to prepare us for tomorrow. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we understand that we are called to make a difference in the world. This is also our mission as Catholic Scouts. Our Scouting experience is a companion to our formation in faith.

Through Scouting we are given gifts and experience that will help us to be servant leaders in the world, the church and hopefully scouting as well.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary Pope Benedict welcomed Scouts from around the world to St. Peter's square and imparted his blessing upon them and all Scouts. At that time, he also wrote in support of Scouting and the church's mission to Scouts. In his letter he said,

"The sense of responsibility inspired by the scouting pedagogy leads to a life in charity and the desire to serve one's neighbor in the image of Christ the servant, relying on the grace that he bestows especially in the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation."

He also offered these words of encouragement to adult scouters: *Indeed, Scout leaders will remember that their priority task is to awaken and form the personalities of the young people entrusted to them by their families, teaching them to encounter Christ and making them familiar with Church life.*

As we begin this new year, we as Catholic Scouts commend Pope Benedict to our Lord and his heavenly kingdom. In his honor let us take to heart the words he offered to the young church and scouting. Through the firm foundation of scouting and the practice of our faith, let us continue to build a future that is reflective of God's everlasting love and mercy.

Cub emblem workbooks updated to include girls

By John Savage
Emblems Committee Chair

The Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei workbooks have been updated to include the girls in Cub Scouts who are now eligible to earn them. The requirements have not changed, we have just made the language inclusive. Look for the new manuals in your Scout Shop and the NCCS Shop soon. They have distinctive new covers so they will be easy to spot.

The price of emblems is set by the local Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, according to their local needs. Be aware, however, that the wholesale price to dioceses has increased, so your local Catholic Committee on Scouting will be adjusting budgets accordingly.

I hear periodically from leaders and parents who are having trouble contacting their Diocesan Catholic Committee to acquire emblems for their Scouts. When this happens, your first support is your Region NCCS Chair, listed on the NCCS website. If you still need help, please contact me at the email address below.

The Emblems Committee is here to help you. How can we help your Scouts get more out of the programs we offer? What support do you need in order to have a more successful emblems program? We'd like to hear from you. Please send us your thoughts at:
NCCS-Emblems@comcast.net.

Scholarship countdown to March 1 has begun

By
Julie Doerr

The countdown has begun, and we are less than two months before the March 1st application deadline for the NCCS Scholarships, so please do a good turn by identifying and encouraging eligible Scouts to apply. We need your help to get the word out! One leader shared that she had to strongly encourage one of her Scouts to take the time to fill out the application. It was worth it because he became the winner of a $4,000 scholarship. Another leader posted the scholarship announcement in their church's bulletin, a Scout saw it, applied, and won a $2,000 scholarship. You make a difference in whether a Scout applies! Go to **https://www.nccs-bsa.org/college-scholarships** for more information about eligibility requirements and the 2023 application.

You can also let Scouts know about the NCCS Scholarships by handing out our new scholarship informational cards. We include them with every Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII emblem, please be sure to hand them out with the awards. In addition, the cards can be ordered FREE of charge from the NCCS online shop, you just pay shipping and handling. Give them to any Scout interested in working toward the scholarship requirements or to parents who may want to learn more. They also make great handouts at events. One side is in printed in English; the other side is Spanish. Order yours from the online shop today!

Please take a few minutes to cut and paste the following information and send it to your parish office to post it in the church bulletin. Thank you in advance for your support. Maybe a Scout you know will become an NCCS Scholarship recipient.

For immediate release. Please post the following in your church's bulletin:

Ten National Catholic Scouting Service Scholarships Available

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is awarding ten service scholarships totaling $27,000. If you are a service oriented Catholic Scout, who is a high school senior, has received the Ad Altare Dei, Light is Life or Pope Pius XII award, and earned the Eagle Scout, Summit or Quartermaster Award you may qualify. Check the NCCS Website at **http://nccs-bsa.org/college scholarships** for complete eligibility requirements and application information about the NCCS Scholarships. **Applications are due by March 1st.**

Four new Religious Activities unveiled inn 2022

There are four new Religious Activities that were rolled out in 2022 that Scouts and Scouters will enjoy:

Modern Saint – Pier Giorgio Frassati
American Saint – Oscar Romero
American Saint – Frank Parater
International Saint – Jacques Sevin

These four new activities are available on the NCCS website. Here is a quick review of each:

Pier Giorgio Frassati – a well loved Italian who, in his short 24 years, was an example of charity and love of God for many. He came from a wealthy family and, to his family's dismay, gave away all of his belongings to those who were needy. He showed his friends how to enjoy God's beautiful creation and at the same time give praise to God! Pier is known for his humor and jokes, being physically fit, caring for the poor and his selflessness. A great role model for our young people. He died in 1925.

Oscar Romero – the fourth Bishop of San Salvador. When raised to bishop – he was thought to be a "safe" choice for the politically violent El Salvador. Once he realized that his people were being oppressed by the government, his homilies and speeches supported his flock and drew the ire of the political regime. He was assassinated while saying Mass on March 24, 1980

Frank Parater – Eagle Scout and Seminarian from the diocese of Richmond Va., said he had nothing to give but his life, and that is why he chose to become a priest. Although he did not finish his studies, he is a wonderful example of selfless giving to God. He died in Rome, while studying for the priesthood, in 1920.

Jacques Sevin – this French Jesuit is called the Father of Catholic Scouting – he first introduced Catholic Scouting to France, and it has since spread across the globe. He is the reason that our National Catholic Committee on Scouting exists. Learn more about why he pursued this course of life in this activity! He died in 1951.

A VOCATIONS REFLECTION

By

Br. Andrew J. Kosmowski, SM
Vocations Chair

From the start of October to the end of November, I sat as a member of three vocation panels. Afterward, I realized these panels are an excellent opportunity for collaboration with youth ministry teams. Our youth ministers are keenly aware of the need to promote vocations to the youth of their parishes, just like we as Catholic Scout leaders are. Working together with the youth minister can yield some benefits that working without might not provide.

One of these benefits is a critical mass of youth. Some of our troops are small, but when added with the youth from the youth group, the number in attendance can get large enough for many questions to be asked. More importantly the youth ministers also have other resources that can make this event happen. This event could be part of a parish youth retreat or a day of recollection, in which the youth ministers and the Scout leaders can divide responsibilities. For example, the youth ministers can find the space and provide food and drink while the Scout leaders can find people to sit on this panel. Through such a collaboration, the youth ministers may better understand that Catholic Scouting is a complementary parish program to their activities

Youth ministers are resources that I believe are underutilized by Catholic Scout leaders for many reasons. They know basic sacramental theology and can serve as speakers and reviewers for the emblems. Reach out to them as well as your pastors.

NCCS News Notes

Long-serving members recognized with Silver St. George Award

Four NCCS members were selected to receive the NCCS Silver St. George emblem at this year's Annual Meeting. This recognition is given to Scouters for both their years of service as members of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the impact they have made in the promotion of Scouting within the Catholic Church. Recipients are nominated by their peers. This year 10 others who were selected in 2020, 2021, and one from 2015, were also formally recognized after missing their opportunity because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Year	Recipient	(Arch)Diocese
2015	Bishop R. Daniel Conlon	Diocese of Joliet, Illinois
2020	Fr. Leo McDowell	Diocese of Great Falls-Billings
2020	Theresa Dirig	Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend
2020	Fr. Jason Adams	Diocese of Savannah
2020	Phil Krajec	Archdiocese of Atlanta
2020	Fr. Shawn Tunink	Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas
2021	John Doerr	Archdiocese of Atlanta
2021	Bob Greer	Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
2021	Bernie Kilcoyne	Diocese of Orange (Calif)
2021	John Savage	Archdiocese of Detroit
2022	Ann Marie Ellingham	Diocese of Rockville Center
2022	William Guglielmi	Diocese of St. Petersburg
2022	John V. Meakin Jr.	Diocese of Hartford
2022	Chris Murray	Archdiocese of Washington (DC)

NCCS Catholic Scout Wood Badge set for Philmont Training Center in August 2024

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS), in conjunction with the Circle Ten Council, will be hosting an NCCS Catholic Scouter Wood Badge Course at the Philmont Training Center from 25-30 August 2024. A major ingredient for a successful course is quality staff members who are knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and dedicated servant leaders committed to the mission, vision, and values of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), and who are active in the Catholic faith as lay people and clergy who see the mission of the BSA and NCCS as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation. If you're interested in serving on staff, please download and read the attached application. For additional information, please contact Ben Feril, Course Director at **bengmferil@msn.com** or by phone at 443-907-8159.

Did You Know…?
By Bob Oldowski
(NCCS Historian)

A further look at the history of National Catholic Scouting:

With the 1910 beginning of Scouting in America, Catholic parishes and groups began using the Scouting program. Often accepted with enthusiasm locally, there were concerns expressed by many Catholic Church leaders whether this was an appropriate program. One by one, U.S. bishops were asked to approve use of the program, and eventually a committee of bishops was established to determine if this was appropriate to use and what the guidelines might be.

In 1931 this bishops' committee on Scouting was chaired by Bishop Francis C. Kelley of Oklahoma City-Tulsa. He expanded the committee to include 22 archbishops and bishops, one from each Ecclesiastical province in the United States. Under this leadership, a comprehensive Plan of Cooperation with BSA was developed. (This is how the bishops viewed interacting with the BSA.)

The original plan set up what was expected of four primary components: a National Catholic Scouting Committee, Diocesan Scouting committees, the BSA National Council and BSA local councils. In the first two categories, this plan described the function, organization and action of bishops, of priests and of laymen. The other two categories noted the Church's advisory role to the BSA. The plan is set forth upon the authority of the bishop of the diocese and the responsibility of the pastor of the parish for the supervision of all work among Catholic boys in the diocese and in the parish respectively.

In March 1933, the Plan was presented to the BSA National Executive Board and approved. A year later this Plan was formally accepted by the U.S. bishops. This was the beginning of the national Catholic Scouting program in America.

Member Assembly set for April 20-23 in Kansas City

By
John Doerr

Join your fellow Scout Chaplains, Scouters and spouses in Kansas City, Missouri, for the Member Assembly of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. The general membership session will feature Tim Glemkowski, Executive Director of the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana. You can learn more about Tim and the Eucharistic Revival in the Chairman's column on page 2 of this issue.

The assembly will be held at the **Embassy Suites Kansas City-International Airport from April 20-23. 2023.** The room cost is $109 plus tax, which includes complimentary breakfast and an evening reception. More information is available under the upcoming evens tab on the NCCS website at **nccs.-bsas.org (click on register now or make your hotel reservation.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Training programs at all levels updated to add relevant materials

We continue to update the material in the programs including coordinating the content of all the programs as well as adding relevant material from *Christus Vivit* by Pope Francis.

Scouting in the Catholic Church (SiCC) which focuses on leadership at the National Level will again be in person by trained NCCS members led by Course Director Julie Doerr **at Philmont Scout Training Center from July 9 to 15, 2023**. This program starts on Sunday and ends on Friday. Registration is available online.

Scouting in the Local Church (SiLC) or Catholic Scouting for Dioceses focuses on Diocesan Level leadership including Diocesan Chairs and Chaplains, Council leaders and professionals and Diocesan leaders and staff. This program, previously a weeklong program, will be consolidated into a five-day program on **ZOOM** in the evenings from Monday to Friday. Registration will be available online when the dates in August are confirmed.

National Catholic Leadership Development (NCLD) or Guide to Catholic Scouting at the Parish Level is focused on leadership at the Local Level delivered by Diocesan leaders_to unit leaders, pastors and parish staff, youth ministers and District volunteers and professionals. This program, Guide to Catholic Scouting, is available on the NCCS website and is promoted as a supplemental "basic" training for individuals dealing with Catholic Scouts. Check with your Diocesan leaders for dates.

Fast Start for Catholic Leaders or e-Learning is individual, self-guided basic training for all Levels of leadership, which is currently available on the BSA training site for COR's of Catholic units. Individual printable summaries are available on the NCCS website for Cub and BSA Scout Leaders, Venture Advisors, Diocesan Chairs and Chaplains, and Regional Chairs and Chaplains. New training videos for pastors and parish staff, youth ministers, parents, and leaders are under development with a projected release in the spring. The links to these programs will be available on the NCCS website.

Philmont training helps develop Scouting as Youth Ministry

Whether a veteran or new to Catholic Scouting, you are invited to attend Scouting in the Catholic Church (SiCC) at the Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, N.M., July 9th to the 15th. Experience unique opportunities offered at Philmont while learning about Catholic Scouting. The goals of the conference are to help participants understand how Scouting is Catholic youth ministry, gain knowledge about Catholic Scouting resources, and use the training to promote Catholic Scouting in your dioceses and councils. The conference is appropriate for Scout chaplains, clergy, youth ministers, and all those involved with Catholic Scouting at the unit/parish, diocesan, regional, and national levels. In addition to learning about Catholic Scouting, you can choose to participate in fun experiences offered only at Philmont. Tour the National Scout Museum and Villa Philmonte, the New Mexico home of Waite and Genevieve Phillips to learn how Philmont began. Hike the trail to Lover's Leap, watch a magnificent sunrise or gaze at millions of stars sparkling in the night sky. See deer, elk, antelope, and bison as they roam the fields and ranch lands. For more information, registration, fees, and the PTC 2023 Conference Orientation Guide go to: **https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/ptc-conferences/** Please encourage others to attend and spread the word about Scouting in the Catholic Church at Philmont.