THE BRIDGE

The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

VOLUME 33 NO. 2, SUMMER 2024

Scout volunteers meeting in Orlando learned about Scouting "Rebranding program" and recognized the exemplary service of dedicated Scouters from across the country

Hundreds of Scouting volunteers gathered in Orlando, Fl. in early May for the National Boy Scouts of America annual meeting to set the tone for the Scouting year, assess the strengths and opportunities in the organization, and propel the movement forward. "Our number one job is to get kids in this program, one that every kid in America would benefit from," President and CEO Roger Krone shared with those in attendance at the opening session. That was the charge that led to the headliner announcement: The Boy Scouts of America announcing that it will rebrand to Scouting America, reflecting the organization's ongoing commitment to welcome every youth and family in America to experience the benefits of Scouting. The change will go into effect on February 8, 2025, the organization's 115th anniversary.

Though our name will be new, our mission remains unchanged: we are committed to teaching young people to "be Prepared. For Life," said Roger A. Krone, president and chief executive officer of Scouting America. "This will be a simple but very important evolution as we seek to ensure that everyone feels welcome in Scouting." This storied organization is putting its commitment to *all* youth front and center, by updating its iconic name."

The meeting also provided an opportunity to recognize Scouters from across the nation for their service to the Scouting community. Four NCCS Scouters were among those honored. They were:

Dr. Arnold Traupman who received the Silver Buffalo

Joe Bouley recipient of the Silver Antelope

John Anthony recipient of the National Duty to God Award

Bishop Michael Fisher received the St. George Award

Dr. Arnold Traupman, of Bethlehem, Penn., was one of fourteen Scouters recently named to join an illustrious list of Silver Buffalo recipients. Created in 1925, the Silver Buffalo is Scouting's highest honor for adults. It comes with a red-and-white Silver Buffalo Award medal and a square knot for wear on the uniform. Past recipients have included BSA founders, U.S. presidents, astronauts, corporate executives and civic leaders. Besides serving on the Catholic Committee on Scouting, he also served on the National Jamboree staff five times and on the World Jamboree Executive Staff in 2019.

Joe Bouley, of Salt Lake City, Utah is currently the NCCS Vice Chair of Training/ Relationships, He is one of 31 Scouters from BSA's 16 Territories who were awarded the Silver Antelope. This award, created in 1942, honors Scouters who have provided distinguished service within one of the BSA's 16 territories. It comes with an orange-and-white knot to wear on the uniform.

John Anthony, of Fort Worth, Texas, is the current NCCS Chair, and he was one of four Scouters recognized with The National Duty to God ward recognizing his demonstrated history of exemplary and noteworthy service and leadership to faith and service to youth.

Most Rev. Michael Fisher, Bishop of the diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., was recognized as the recipient of the St. George Award, the national recognition of individuals for their significant contributions and many years of support to Scouting in the local Catholic community. An Eagle Scout, he now serves as Bishop Liaison to the NCCS.

NCCS resources available for Catholic school educators

Nearly 200 Catholic School principals and teachers stopped by the Catholic Scouting booth at the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) annual convention in Pittsburgh. NCCS booth volunteers Bill Jenkins, Steve Bober, Bob Zeleznik, and Ed Stoker answered visitors' questions, shared resources and suggested next steps for using Catholic Scouting resources or starting a unit at their school.

Many of the teachers commented on the value Catholic Scouting adds to their school. The Scouts are always there to assist whenever asked and make the job of teachers and administrators easier. Many were proud when their Scouts earned their religious emblems showing their commitment to the Catholic faith.

Religious activities were one area many teachers asked about. Many educators were not aware this resource existed and using it would make their class preparation much easier. One teacher, instead of doing March Basketball Madness, does a Saints March Madness instead. After reviewing the program, she is going to use the Saints in the Activity Patches as "participants" in the class activity. It will save her preparation time and the resources are excellent in helping students learn more about their Catholic faith and the saints that trailblazed a path before us.

Next year, NCEA will be held in Orlando the week after Easter. NCCS looks forward to meeting with and helping Catholic educators learn more about how Catholic Scouting resources can play an active role in the Catholic student education process.

National Catholic Committee on Scouting

It was 60 years ago this Summer that I attended my first summer camp at Camp Trexler in Pennsylvania, which was the Lehigh County Council camp. The council has merged, and the camp has since closed, but the memories remain. This summer my two grandchildren attended their first Summer Camp. They enjoyed it tremendously as the basic Scouting program has remained the same. My granddaughter earned her cinematography and photography merit badges at camp.

This summer Catholic Scouting is involved with many activities starting with the St. George Trek. We are blessed that two Sisters from the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, from Ann Arbor, Mich., will be providing spiritual guidance to our female crew.

Catholic Scouting is a premier sponsor at the Eucharist Congress. If you attend the Congress, please stop by booth 318 and say hello. Fr. Paustian, OP, will be hosting a breakout on our activity patches - especially the Eucharist revival one.

Lastly, we will be conducting our first ever Wood badge training in conjunction with the Circle 10 (Texas) Council. This training will be held at the Philmont Training Center from August 24-30.

In Catholic Scouting,

John Anthony
NCCS National Chair 2022-2025

New leaders elected to serve on NCCS Executive Board

The NCCS is governed by the Executive Board which the diocesan representatives select. This Executive Board, consisting of an Executive Committee, elected Regional Chairs and Regional Chaplains and Members-at-Large meets annually. In elections held this past spring, the following new members were elected by the membership:

Vice Chairs
Bill Jenkins
Chris Murray

Region Chairs
Rich Donovan, Region 3
Cindy Riley, Region 13
Jim Hickey, Region 6
Scott West, Region 12

Region Chaplains
Deacon Travis King, Region 9
Deacon Lance Weakland, Region 15

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	**Fr. Gerard Gentleman**
Chair, Marketing and Public Relations	**Jason Wolz**
Advisor, Marketing and Public Relations	**Father Roger Lopez**
Editor	**Mike Gannon**

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 our summer months began, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops released a Pastoral Framework for Ministries with Youth and with Young Adults called "*LISTEN, TEACH, SEND"* NCCS has had the privilege of contributing to this document's formation and we are eager to assist in the promotion and implementation of this framework within Scouting and our other Catholic partners in ministering to and with youth.

As evident by its title, the document sets a pathway for both young people and the adults who work with them. The ordering of the framework reflects Pope Francis' emphasis on accompaniment as the way we are to encounter young people and bring them to Christ. Listening, Teaching and Sending are very familiar to the Scouting program.

As adults in Scouting, we rightly see ourselves as teachers. Scouting skills, life lessons and merit badge instructing are just some of the ways that we teach. As Catholic Scouters, we are also catechists, finding ways to use the methods and aims of Scouting to enhance formal religious educations.

With our focus on advancement and achievements, we are continually part of a process that is sending Scouts to the next rank, leadership position or high adventure accomplishment. Bridging ceremonies, boards of review, and courts of honor are how we send our Scouts ahead in Scouting and in life. In Catholic Scouting, we assist them in their sacramental initiation, preparing them for adult discipleship.

I believe that the greatest challenge for Adult Scouters, and any adult ministering to and with young people, is the call to listen. We are eager to teach and encourage their progress forward, but we often do so without appreciating the unique identity of each young person. Without listening, we can't teach and send. Without listening, we don't further our appreciation and understanding of a young person's wisdom, experiences, and challenges. In my time as a chaplain at Philmont, I have experienced the effects of not listening to young people. Crew disputes and a Scout's desire to quit the trek are almost always rooted in a lack of listening. So many obstacles can be overcome simply by listening.

As an advisor hiking with Scouts, I enjoyed listening to their conversations as we hiked along. In this framework, our bishops remind us that this is the way that Jesus led his disciples, listening as they interacted with each other, so he might better understand their questions and challenges.

My adult Scouting friends, I encourage you to read and reflect on this new framework on ministering for and with our young Scouts. I challenge you to spend some time committing yourself to increasing your ability to listen. I offer you these insights from *Listen, Teach, Send*, as a way in which you can grow in your appreciation of the value of listening to the young people you serve.

Let us ask young people regularly: What's on your mind? What's on your heart? What's bothering you? What's exciting for you? What are you dreaming about? For what are you hoping? The first step in listening is to draw closer to young people: not just to talk about them, but also to talk with them. When we encounter young people, we see their faces, hear their voices, and allow their words and actions to move us. We come to know who they are. We learn their stories. This also means we go out of our own comfort zones to encounter those of another generation.

Who do we see before us? Who is missing? What are all their concerns?

Listen, Teach, Send - A National Pastoral Framework for Ministries with Youth and with Young Adults can be found here **https://www.usccb.org/resources/listen-teach-send** .

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

NCCS awards ten scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 2024

By Julie Doerr

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) awarded ten college scholarships totaling $27,000 to high school seniors graduating this year. Each winner demonstrates outstanding leadership and service in four areas: Church, community, school and Scouting, received the Eagle Scout, Summit or Quartermaster award, and earned at least one of the following: Ad Altare Dei, Pope Pius XII or Light is Life (Eastern Rite) Religious Emblem. The scholarship award goes toward the Scouts' college education. Since 2005, NCCS has awarded a total of $272,000 in scholarships to 118 Scouts nationwide. Congratulations to the ten exceptional Scouts awarded NCCS Scholarships in 2024.

EMMETT J. DOERR MEMORIAL SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

$5,000 – Matthew Adamski, New Egypt, N,J,, Diocese of Trenton, Jersey Shore Council
$4,000 – Daniel P. Collins, Sturgis, Mich., Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan Crossroads Council
$3,000 – David Soberano, Tyrone, Ga., Archdiocese of Atlanta, Flint River Council
$2,000 – Vincent Bryan Brown, North Huntingdon, Penn., Diocese of Greenburg, Westmoreland-Fayette Council
$2,000 – Jude Francis Larson, Halesite, N.Y., Diocese of Rockville Center, Suffolk County Council
$2,000 – Maximilian J. Clement, State College, Penn., Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Juniata Valley Council
$2,000 - Matthew Richard Krzewinski, Porter Ranch, Calif., Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Western Los Angeles County Council

FRANK PARATER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

$3,000 – Alex J. Oswald, Monticello, Iowa, Archdiocese of Dubuque, Hawkeye Area Council

BILL & KAY DAVIES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

$2,000 – Owen Reed Compani, Amsterdam, N.Y., Diocese of Albany, Twin Rivers Council

THE TONY & PATRICE STEENKOLK FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

$2,000 – Augustine Terneus, Bellevue, Neb., Archdiocese of Omaha, Mid-America Council

New Christus Vivit award supporting scholarships unveiled at Biennial Meeting

The new Christus Vivit Award was presented at the 2024 Biennial NCCS Meeting in Albuquerque New Mexico. Eleven awards were given out to recognize donors to the NCCS Scholarship program who contributed $5000 or more to the endowment fund. The Latin name, Christus Vivit, translates to Christ is Alive, and is derived from Pope Francis' landmark exhortation on youth and young adults. The focal point of the award's design is the compass cross symbolizing a person's moral compass and is surrounded by a circle inscribed with the award name and NCCS Scholarships. The blue and white ribbon represents the sari habit of Mother Theresa, who is the perfect example of serving others. Donors (l-r) were Tony, Ed and Patrice Steenkolk, John and Julie Doerr, Jim Weiskircher. Hunter Piper, Laura Ray, Midge and John Savage, Bishop Michael Fisher, Fr. Gerard Gentleman and John Anthony. There was one anonymous donor.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and supported the NCCS Scholarship program throughout the years. Please pray for the continued success of the scholarship program, help young Catholic Scouts complete the requirements needed to be eligible and encourage them to apply for the scholarships. Donations of all sizes are welcome and can be made through the NCCS website.

NCCS Recognizes

Joseph Lettieri was ordained to the priesthood on June 8 at the Cathedral of St. Agnes in Rockville Centre, New York. He celebrated his first Mass at his home parish of St. William the Abbot in Seaford, New York last Sunday. Before Lettieri was a priest, he was a Scout. He earned his Eagle Award in 2015. Lettieri also earned all four of the Roman Catholic Religious Emblems offered by NCCS. "An important influence for me was living my Catholic faith through Scouting, which kept me oriented toward the priesthood," said Lettieri. "Scouting taught me about the preeminent place of God in my life."

The National BSA approved the new Council Duty to God award, Each council can award two yearly **and Bill Guglielmi** was recognized by the Greater Tampa Council. This is a good reminder for your council about this award to help recognize your local leaders.

Congratulations to high school sophomore **Samuel Miklovic** on being selected as the Knights of Columbus Missouri State Youth of the Year! Samuel is a member of Troop 161 in St. Louis, sponsored by Saint Simon the Apostle Parish, and he's earned the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII Religious Emblem awards.

Congratulations to the **Most Reverend Bishop John Barres of the Diocese of Rockville Centre** who received the Good Scout Award from the Theodore Roosevelt Council and Suffolk County Council, Boy Scouts of America. It was a wonderful evening to celebrate him, as well as recognize the Catholic Pastors and Parishes sponsoring Scouting programs on Long Island. Thanks also to the pastors of **13 parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Center, N.Y**. who charter Scouting units in their parishes, who were also recognized.

Well done to the Scouts from Troop and Pack 364 in the Diocese of Victoria, Texas who participated in part of the St. Juan Diego route of the Eucharistic Congress pilgrimage and engaged in Eucharistic Adoration at Mission Presidio La Bahia.

Happy Birthday to **Msgr James Kolp,** Region 6 Chaplain, who recently celebrated his 99th birthday!

The Greater St. Louis Area Council presented the Council Duty to God award to **Fr. Joe Weber** in May at the council recognition dinner. The Award recognizes his exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting for the Council.

A Scout is Reverent

Scouts embracing their faith in dioceses and parishes across the country

Bishop Michael McGovern of the Diocese of Belleville, Ill. celebrates Scout Sunday with a Scouting awards Mass with awards to Cubs and Boy Scouts and adult leaders.

Scout Sunday Mass for the Archdiocese of Chicago

Scouts and Scouters of the Diocese of Victoria, Texas participated in part of the St. Juan Diego route of the Eucharistic Congress pilgrimage and Eucharistic Adoration at Mission Presidio La Bahia.

Scouts from San Pedro Catholic Church in the Diocese of Miami celebrated Scout Sunday by participating in the Mass as greeters, bringing the gifts to the altar, and other duties. Fr. Ferry Brutus, called Scouts and Scout Leaders up to the altar, blessed them and thanked them for the good work they do .

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

As our country experiences more migrants and homeless, we recall that back in 1989 the NCCS began a pilot offering the Scouting program to that population. It was titled the Cabrini Project and was named for Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, an Italian immigrant, a nun who established many care facilities for immigrants. She was canonized a Saint in 1946, the first American citizen to be named a saint.

The program formed traditional Boy Scout troops under Catholic sponsorship in non-traditional places where migrant and homeless people were living, like welfare hotels and shelters. First successes came in New York City and San Diego. This program had special requirements since parental involvement was almost non-existent and much funding was needed from outside sources. This program needed more resources and eventually became part of the BSA's Scoutreach programs.

The NCCS has included Mother Cabrini in its program of optional religious activities, one of which studies the lives of saints meaningful to youth and leaders. One then can earn the appropriate "saint patch".

Also, did you know that Cabrini was invited to Colorado where she built a convent and a camp for girls. There is a shrine to her there. Four years ago, Colorado established the first Monday in October as a state holiday: Frances Xavier Cabrini Day. Earlier this year, a movie studio released the movie "Cabrini" which is now being shown streamed and in theaters.

2023 Quality Diocesan Committee Award Recipients

Region 1

Diocese of Portland, Maine
Diocese of Manchester
Diocese of Norwich, Conn.
Diocese of Hartford
Diocese of Providence
Diocese of Boston

Region 2

Diocese of Albany
Diocese of Rockville Centre
Archdiocese of New York
Diocese of Buffalo

Region 3

Archdiocese of Newark
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Diocese of Camden
Diocese of Pittsburgh

Region 4

Archdiocese of Washington
Archdiocese of Military Services
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Archdiocese of Baltimore

Region 5

Diocese of Baton Rouge
Archdiocese of Louisville
Diocese of Nashville
Diocese of Memphis
Diocese of Lafayette, La.
Diocese of Owensboro

Region 6

Diocese of Lansing
Diocese of Cleveland
Diocese of Cincinnati
Diocese of Youngstown
Diocese of Grand Rapids
Archdiocese of Detroit
Diocese of Kalamazoo

Region 7

Diocese of Bellville
Diocese of La Crosse
Diocese of Joliet
Diocese of Springfield, Ill.
Diocese of Gary
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Archdiocese of Chicago
Diocese of Green Bay
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Diocese of Rockford
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Diocese of Evansville

Region 8

Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

Region 9

Diocese of Wichita
Archdiocese of S. Louis
Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph
Archdiocese of Dubuque

Region10

Diocese of Brownsville
Diocese of Victoria
Diocese of Fort Worth
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Diocese of Austin

Region 11

Diocese of Oakland
Diocese of Orange
Archdiocese of Las Vegas
Diocese of San Bernadino
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Diocese of San Jose

Region12

Archdiocese of Portland, Ore.

Region 13

Diocese of Phoenix
Diocese of Colorado Springs

Region14

Diocese of Savannah
Diocese of Charleston
Diocese of Raleigh
Diocese of Venice
Archdiocese of Atlanta
Diocese of St. Petersburg
Diocese of St. Augustine