



National Catholic Committee On Scouting – Region 14

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina & South Carolina

Fall

2004

Catholic Scouting - A Youth Ministry from Ages 6 to 21 . . . and beyond

The Scout Law The following is a continuation of “A Catholic Interpretation of the Scout Oath and Law” started in the Region 14 newsletter that is from the Catholic Committee on Scouting 1955 manual “A CATHOLIC MANUAL FOR SCOUTS”. For years the various religions have provided their definition of the twelve points of the Scout Law.

“A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS”

“Be all like-minded, compassionate, lovers of all brethren, merciful, humble; not rendering evil for evil, or abuse for abuse, but contrariwise, blessing” (1 Pet. iii:8)

First and Fifth Commandment

I am the Lord thy God. Thou shall not have strange gods before Me.
Thou shall not kill.

To do little things well is the finesse of good manners. When in church in attendance on the King of Kings, the Scout genuflects correctly, kneels and stands upright, never sits in a slovenly position. He is courteous, well-mannered in the presence of his King.

Likewise, the Scout knows his place in the company of authority and of his elders. He is polite and helpful to all, especially to those weaker and less gifted than himself, doing good turns, not for earthly considerations, but for an eternal reward.

Hence, it is that is almost a definition of a gentleman to say he is one who never inflicts pains.
--- Cardinal Newman ---

Courtesy does not necessarily mean to tip your hat to the ladies and say :Thank you” for the second piece of pie. It meant much more than that to St. Gabriel, a young member of the Passionist Order. He felt it a duty to be patient and cheerful as a mark of courtesy to those about him. And that was not always easy. To be pleasant when the manners of others are crude may cost. Being always thoughtful of the sensibilities of his companions, Gabriel remained good to deal with. To apologize came easy to him. A calm exterior may sometimes hide a disturbed interior but our young saint managed and managed well.

When our playmates anger us, it may be a feat to be courteous. A Scout may feel at times that it is weak to be well-mannered. This is by no means true. It takes a great deal of moral strength to be kind uniformly especially toward those who insist on teasing or irritating us.

How many times the Scout could follow the example of Gabriel. His very facial expression showed a light that reflected the sincerity of his good will. Can it be said of us that our very coming into a crowd makes everyone feel better? Good manners can be acquired, you know. But we must work at it.

In the 1995 edition of **A SCOUT IS REVERENT, A Sourcebook For Scouts of Catholic Faith**, the fifth Scout Law - **A Scout is Courteous** it states: “A Scout should see the image of God in everyone. Courtesy comes from the heart and goes hand in hand with friendship. He knows good manners and makes it easy for people to get along with him.”

Are you using the Scout Law from “A Scout is Reverent, A Source Book For Scouts of Catholic Faith” in your DCCS units at Courts of Honor? All Scouts and Scouters should have a copy and use it.

The Scout Law as Presented by the National Committee

Jewish Scouting www.jewishscouting.org/njcs/other/scoutlaw.html

A Scout is Trustworthy The person who is dishonest shall not live in My house, The person who is untruthful shall not stand before My eyes. *Psalms 101:7*

A Scout is Loyal And Ruth said “Do not beg me to leave you or to return from following after you, for where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay.” *Ruth 1:16*

A Scout is Helpful You shall love your neighbor as yourself. *Leviticus 19:18*

A Scout is Friendly Can two walk together unless they agree? *Amos 3:3*

A Scout is Courteous Honor your father and your mother. *Exodus 20:12*

A Scout is Kind Withhold not good from the person to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it. *Proverbs 3:27*

A Scout is Obedient Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge. *Proverbs 23:12*

A Scout is Cheerful A glad heart is good medicine. *Proverbs 17:22*

A Scout is Thrifty Precious treasure remains a wise person’s dwelling, but a foolish person uses it up. *Proverbs 21:20*

A Scout is Brave Be strong and of good courage. *1 Chronicles 28:20*

A Scout is Clean Who shall amend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in God’s holy Place? The person who has clean hands and a pure heart. *Psalms 24:3-4*

A Scout is Reverent It has been told to you what is good and what the Lord requires of you. Only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you God. *Micah 6:8*

Going to Philmont. How About a Side trip? “Lourdes of

America” In going to the Philmont Training Center we flew into Albuquerque, New Mexico, and have gone north on the Interstate a number of times but this year we went up a side road just a little east and stopped at El Santuario de Chimayo. El Santuario was built between 1814 and 1816. The miraculous crucifix of Our Lord of Espuipulas was found around 1810. There is no written testimony concerning the apparition of Our Lord in the Chimayo area.

One tradition recalls that during Holy Week on the night of Good Friday, Don Bernardo Albeyta, who was a member of the Hermandad de Nuestro Padre Jesus el Nazareno was performing the customary penances of the Society around the hills of Potrero. Suddenly he saw a light springing from one of the slopes of the hills. Don Bernardo went to the spot and noticed that the shining light was coming from the ground. He started digging with his bare hands and found a Crucifix and notified his neighbors. Word was sent to the nearest Priest who came and brought the crucifix back to the church and placed it on the main altar. The next morning, the Crucifix was

gone, only to be found in the original location. This procession took the crucifix back to the church only to disappear and be found again at the original location. After this reoccurring a few times everyone understood that El Senor de Esuipulas wanted to remain in Chimayo, and a small chapel was built. The chapel is now a part of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Father Sebastian Alvarez in his letter to the Episcopal See of Durango, dated November 16, 1813, expressed his feelings of the people coming from afar to seek cures for their ailments and the spreading of the fame of their cures, induce many more faithful to come in pilgrimage. El Santuario has been a place to pray, to thank, to ask, to meditate and to experience piece of mind as well as of body.

Close to 300,000 visitors a year come to worship the Almighty, to ask for peace in the world and in their hearts, to fulfill a promise, to feel the healing touch of God.

Youth Protection Training – Is That All There Is?

Your unit leaders have completed the Boy Scout Youth Protection and, therefore, the unit has completed all the requirements for Boy Scout Youth Protection or has it? The following is a synopsis of a case in California a few years ago.

The unit leader had retired from the school system after many years and nothing was suspicious about his background. The BSA, etc., were sued by a Scout and his single mother stating that the leader had sexually abused the youth. The mother is foreign born and does not read English well. The family lost on the initial suit but won on appeal.

The reason for the reversal was that nothing was presented to the Scouts and the parents. The handout at the beginning of the handbooks were in English but they were available in Spanish and never given to the mother. There was no meeting with the Scouts and their parents to show the available videos and discuss the requirements of youth protection. The mother was not aware, nor was the Scout, of the Youth Protection program.

The Boy Scouts have *“How to protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide”* which is a tear out booklet bound in with BSA youth books. It is designed for parents or guardian and young people to use together for Youth Protection Training. The BSA also has separate age-appropriate videos for Cub Scout-age and Boy Scout-age boys to address the problems of sexual abuses. The video for Cub Scouts, *“It Happened to Me”* should be used annually by packs or dens, but only for Cub Scouts accompanied by a parent or other adult family member. The video for Boy Scouts *“A Time to Tell”* introduces the *“three Rs”* of Youth Protection, and should be viewed by troops annually.

The BSA recognizes that many of our leaders feel unprepared to talk to children about preventing abuse. For this reason, the BSA has meeting guides for both of the videos produced to be viewed by youths. The guides address everything ...

Have you taken the second step and held the meeting with the Scouts and Parents? And documented everything? And repeat it as required?

2004 Quality Diocese A recent mail-out to all Diocesan Chaplains and Chairman included the self-evaluation **WORKSHEET 2004 QUALITY DIOCESAN COMMITTEE AWARD**. The Diocesan Committee must achieve eight of fourteen standards with five being required. If worksheet copies are needed, they can be downloaded from the NCCS website www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/qualitydiocese.php which also provides additional guidance in filling out the worksheet. i.e. “*Diocese should use prudent judgment in regard to national standards. For instance, in COMMUNICATIONS among members is the key ingredient to the requirement, the use of phones, fax, e-mail, surface mail or other means is encouraged.*”

The Diocesan Committee’s earliest submission is December 1, 2004 and the LATEST submission date is by February 15, 2005. **Send to:** Bert Johnson, CHAIR, REGION 14; 349 Cypress Landing Dr., Longwood, FL 32779–2616. You will receive a certificate and two patches for the Chaplain and Chairman. Additional patches may be purchased for committee members for \$3.50 each.

GOLD MEDALLION AWARD

Information and applications concerning this award can be found on the NCCS website www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems~awards/gold_med.php All units chartered by a Catholic organization (Parish, School, Knights of Columbus Council, Men’s Club) are eligible and encouraged to apply for consideration as to the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS). Of those submitted the DCCS selects one Pack, Troop and Crew and **forwards the applications, with any supporting materials to your (Arch)Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting by December 5, 2004. The committee will select three nominees and forward the information to the Regional Chairman by December 15, 2004.** Each DCCS will establish their deadline with sufficient time to allow selection of their three finalists to the Region.

Region will select one National Winner for each Scout program that will receive an 11” x 17” National Winner Certificate and a 3’ x 5’ National Winner Flag. The units not selected will be sent a National Finalist Certificate. The application may be submitted along with any support materials (documents, slides, photos, videos, CDs, newspaper clippings, etc.). These materials should illustrate a quality program including: religious activities, religious emblems participation, outdoor activities, parish involvement.

Looking forward to reviewing these applications and seeing the outstanding programs you all are providing Catholic youth. Thanks for all your efforts.

Scoutmaster’s Minute Your Direction (Take a bearing with a compass)

One day a Scout named Bill was sighting with his compass, as I’m doing now. “Top of that hill is 045 degrees,” said Bill, I’m going to follow that bearing and end up on top. Bill started off checking his compass now and then to make sure he was heading right. Finally, he set foot on top of the hill.

He had done three things – set his objective, figured out the direction he’d have to go to get there, and then moved full steam ahead.

Like all of you, Bill set a lot of courses toward many goals in his lifetime. Maybe he said to himself, “I’m going to be an engineer.” Then he would find out what it takes to become an engineer, and steered his course in that direction.

By the end of the month, all of you should be able to set a compass course. Probably all of you have set a course toward a career. There's another kind of course that's more important than your career. I'm talking about the character course. Your character is being formed right now by what you do and don't do.

We have a "compass" for the character course, too. It's the Scout Oath and Law. Set your character course using the Oath and Law and you'll have the best kind of character.

You'll be the kind of man who others can trust, rely upon and admire. You'll go to the top of the character hill.

The Scoutmaster's Minute has been a part of Scouting for many years. The 1959 Scoutmaster's Handbook states "*Near the end of each troop meeting, the Scoutmaster should leave a thought for the week with the Scouts -- impressing upon them the fact that they are Scouts and, therefore, are expected to act like Scouts.*

This may be done in story form -- which can take the place of any other storytelling during the meeting -- or it may take the form of a short talk based on some point of the Scout Oath and Law.

Make it brief, stop when the idea has been expressed and move quickly to the closing of the meeting."

This is one place that a Catholic-sponsored Scout unit can express a Catholic, Christian viewpoint to the Scouts. One example is –

What are you doing with the rest of your life?

Christmas Flag Ceremony (Flag is spotlighted)

Many people associate me with sunshine and the Fourth of July. I'd like to tell you about some of my more important days. Christmas Day is not usually thought of as patriotic, but YOU be the judge.

My very first Christmas, I remember very well. I was in a boat with General George Washington, crossing the Delaware on his way to Valley Forge. By Christmas of 1814, Francis Scott Key had written a famous song about me after the British had burned our White House. At Fredericksburg, the Christmas of 1862, found ALL my men free from slavery. I was mighty proud that Christmas. The Christmas of 1917 was a miserable one. I was at Verdun, France, in a cold and freezing battle but I stayed on to give my men hope. In 1941, General Douglas MacArthur spent Christmas with me in Manila, cheering our men on. Since then, I've been to Korea and Viet Nam. I spent a little while in Iran and a long time on the moon. I spent some time in the Persian Gulf nations too. I've been almost everywhere in the world, on one Christmas or another since that long-ago time we crossed the Delaware. Some Christmases have been peaceful and beautiful – others sad and dreary. I'll still be around this Christmas. I might not get as much attention as the Christmas tree does or the presents under the tree. But I'll still be there, giving hope and courage to the men and women willing to fight for me and our country.

(May end with audience standing for the Pledge or simply by the lights dying out).

Source: http://scoutxing.com/ceremonies/ceremonies_2638.htm

Around Region 14

Diocese of St. Petersburg The latest issue of the St. George Lancer, published by the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, among various subjects, highlights upcoming events for Catholic Scouts. Some of these events include the following:

Cub Scout Retreat	November 13, 2004	“Our Lord is Sense-Sational”
35 th Bishop Scout Sunday	February 27, 2005	
Feast of St. George Mass	April 23, 2005	

An article highlighted an Eagle Scout project lead by Philip Taylor, Troop 610 at Saint Stephen Parish in Valrico. Philip’s project constructed and installed outdoor Stations of the Cross at the Diocesan Youth Camp Good Counsel near Inverness. The Eagle Project also included a prayer garden that used xeriscaping and benches to facilitate prayer and meditation.. Great project.

Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Scout Camporee, March 11-13, 2005 at Camp Tuscarora near Newton Grove, N.C.

What is happening in your Diocesan Catholic Scouting ~~program~~ Ministry? Please send your information to jjohn32@aol.com

Thought: “The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.” *Vince Lombardi*

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