

National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

January 25, 2009

Your January/February To Do List

NCCS members

Annual Membership dues reminder (<http://www.nccs-bsa.org/pdf/2009NCCSmembershipForm.pdf>)

NCCS Annual meeting – 4/21-25/09 Galveston, TX (Save the date. More information to follow)

Scouting in the Catholic Church – 6/21-27/09 (<http://nccs-bsa.org/activities/philmont.php>)

Catholic Unit leaders

National Catholic Quality Unit Award – Pope Paul VI (<http://nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/ppaul6.php>)

Encourage your Catholic Eagle Scouts who will be graduating in 2009 to apply for the Doerr Scholarship (<http://www.nccs-bsa.org/business/EJDscholarship.php>) (Due 3/1/09)

Diocese Chairs and Chaplains

Quality Diocese Award – Submit before 3/15/09 (<http://nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/qualitydiocese.php>)

St. George Trek – 7/21-8/5/09 (<http://nccs-bsa.org/activities/trek.php>)

Applications and requests for financial assistance due 1/1/09

NCCS Executive Board & Standing Committee members

Silver St. George nominations due to Ed Gargiulo by 2/15/09 (<http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/sstg.php>)

Due to end-of-January publication, this will be the January and February eBridge. Next eBridge will be published in early March.

WELCOME

WELCOME, NANCY WATTS!

Let's welcome Nancy Watts, the new full-time Program Assistant serving the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Nancy has over 15 years experience providing executive administration support and is a Certified Meeting Professional. George Sparks, whose title is now Associate Director of Community Alliances, will be Nancy's supervisor. Nancy can be reached at nccs@scouting.org and 972-580-2114. The fax number is still 972-580-2535. We ask for your continued patience as she becomes oriented to her new position.

Feel free to contact and welcome her to our organization, introduce yourself, and transact business as needed.

NATIONAL NEWS

Congratulations Bishop Guglielmone

Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Monsignor Robert E. Guglielmone as the 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, SC. Bishop-elect Guglielmone succeeds Bishop Robert J. Baker who was Bishop of Charleston from July 13, 1999, until August 14, 2007, when he was appointed to the Diocese of Birmingham, AL. Bishop-elect Guglielmone, a native of New York, obtained his degree in education and began work as a high school business teacher. After teaching for five years, he attended Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, NY and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Center on April 8, 1978.

Guglielmone has served in a pastoral capacity at St. Martin of Tours, Amityville, N.Y., and at St. Frances de Chantal, Wantagh, N.Y. He also served on the faculty of Immaculate Conception Seminary as the Director of Pastoral Formation and Dean of Seminarians from 1986 to 1993. From 2004 to 2007 he served as the Diocesan Director of Clergy Personnel and most recently served as Rector of St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Center.

Msgr. Guglielmone served as NCCS National Chaplain from 1988-1991 and as World Chaplain (appointed by Pope John Paul II) from 2000-2008. He was the founder of the biennial St. George Trek held at Philmont Scout Ranch.

Bishop-elect Guglielmone will be ordained and installed as Bishop of Charleston on March 25, 2009. Information on Bishop-elect Guglielmone can be found on the Diocese of Charleston website at: <http://www.catholic-doc.org/>.

Silver Saint George Emblem

As a member of the NCCS Executive Board or Standing Committee, you are eligible to nominate candidates for the Silver St. George Emblem to be presented at our annual meeting in April. A nomination form can be found at <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/sstg.php>. Nominations must be received by February 15 to be considered. Nominations must be sent to Edward Gargiulo, Selection Committee Chairman, 2745 Skylark Road, Wilmington, DE 19808. Mail sent to the NCCS office will not be forwarded in time to be considered.

Why Should You Attend the NCCS Annual Meeting?

Here are some of the reasons why you should attend. If you are a diocesan chair or chaplain, your region chair and chaplain will be holding a region meeting to get updates on diocese events which you can share with other dioceses in your region. He will also be providing updates to national events and activities. You will also be given a report on national activities, events, and proposals at the general meeting and will vote on proposals in the business meeting.

If you are a member of a national standing committee, this may be your only face-to-face meeting in the year to discuss and work on committee activities. If you are a member of a diocesan standing committee, you can give input to national events and activities at the national standing committee meetings.

In general, it is a great way to meet Catholic Scouters from around the country and share ideas, events, and activities. Please plan to attend and sign up when the registration information is available.

More information for the April 21-25, 2009 Annual meeting in Galveston will be available in the next two weeks. Information will be on the NCCS website and will be mailed to all registered NCCS members.

NCCS Annual Appeal Underway

The NCCS Annual Appeal is underway and you should have received a letter from Ed Martin and Fr. Dennis O'Rourke seeking your participation. Your participation in this campaign is one way you can show your support and interest in our work of using Scouting as Catholic youth ministry. We thank you for your gifts of talents and time, we thank you in advance for your financial support, and we look forward to your continued service to Catholic youth. Contact Ed Martin at martinedp@hotmail.com or Fr. Dennis O'Rourke at frdenaz@gmail.com if you did not receive a letter, but would like to donate.

College Scholarships Still Available

Do you know a Catholic Scout in his/her senior year of high school who has earned both the Eagle or Silver award and the Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII religious emblem? If so, college scholarship funds are available through the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. The deadline is March 1, 2009. An application and more information can be found on the NCCS website at <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/business/EJDScholarship.php>.

2009 Philmont Training Course

If you're looking to make a significant difference in the lives of youth through Scouting in the Catholic Church, the NCCS course "Scouting in the Catholic

Church," is the course for you (whether clergy, laity, or women/men religious)! This week-long program not only presents the mission and programs of the NCCS but also immerses you in the formation of your apostolate in Scouting and the application of Scouting as youth ministry. The course is scheduled for the week of June 21-27. The staff will be Ed Martin (course director), Fr. Ray Fecteau (course advisor), NCCS Chair-elect Col. John Halloran (ret.), and Susan Barriball. Be a part of this select group by contacting the NCCS office (nccs@scouting.org or 972-580-2114) or by asking your council today how you can receive an invitation!

Region 13 Training Conference Pilot a Great Success

One of the 2008 NCCS Renewal Project recommendations was to find ways to make training and idea exchange more available to Catholic Scouters through regional or state training sessions. On January 9-10, 2009, NCCS offered a pilot of regional training hosted by the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting. Of the 48 registered participants, ten were also presenters. Three of the participants were new Diocesan Chairs and over a third had not been to a national event before. Sixty percent were from Region 13. Non-Region 13 participants came from Ohio, Illinois, California, New Jersey, Texas, Virginia, and Indiana.

The participants gained knowledge in the relationships of national and local BSA and GSUSA to Scouting units, the diocese, and diocesan committees. The new Diocese of Phoenix Venturing Crew attended and with the other participants learned how to plan and deliver retreats. The participants learned about Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate Formation for Scouters which provided their first encounter of the program and a desire to experience it. Another Renewal Project recommendation was fulfilled by the Marketing your Catholic Committee presentation to help diocesan committees understand how to plan and market their activities. As an example of sharing new diocesan activities and how they can potentially become national programs, the Diocese of Phoenix CCS presented a new idea of a Catholic Junior Leader Training program that they are developing with training taking place this spring. Participants also learned more about the dioceses that make up Region 13, and heard short presentations on other national and local events and activities.

With the positive feedback by diocesan and national CCS members, this pilot will be formalized at the national meeting in April, a list of courses and presenters will be created, and a discussion with the region chairs and chaplains will take place to plan and implement future regional training conferences.

New Footsteps of American Saints Patches Now Available

We are proud to announce the 2009 patches in the series called the "Footsteps of American Saints" are now available. The "Footsteps of American Saints" activity program encourages youth to learn about several individuals that have shaped the landscape of Catholicism in America. Each religious activity honors those men and women who led heroic lives of faith. Their words, deeds, and devotion to prayer and to the sacraments, inspire all American Catholics. In the church calendar for the United States, some have the rank of "Saint" and are venerated by the universal church. Some have the rank of "Blessed" and are venerated by the local church. Some have the rank of "Venerable" and, while on the way to becoming a "Saint," may be venerated by Catholics. Most of these men and women lived and worked in North America in what is now the United States. Some others never set foot in America, however they had a huge impact on the Catholic American landscape. All of them sought to follow Jesus.

The goal of this activity is to share the lives of several Saints so that the youth might relate to what these people have done and maybe look to these individuals as role models. In addition to five new "Saints" for 2009, the Activities Committee has updated the requirements for the five 2008 "Footsteps of American Saint" activities. Information and links to the requirements are available on the NCCS website at: <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/footsteps.php>.

Do You Need an Activity for Your Next Scout Meeting or Retreat?

We have two activities that are great for youth of all ages.

First, we have the very popular Rosary Patch activities. The Rosary Patch activities are a series of five activities which focus on the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and how to pray the Rosary. The first four activities focus on the individual mysteries, and the Pray the Rosary activity pulls it all together and guides the youth in how to pray the rosary.

Second, we have the Footsteps of American Saints activities. The Footsteps of American Saints is a religious activity program that encourages youth to learn about several individuals that have shaped the landscape of Catholicism in America. In a society where role models are sometimes hard to find, this series of activities gives you plenty of remarkable individuals to pick from, Starting January 1st. . . we added five more saints.

OK . . . you like the activities, but you don't know where to start. Do you work on these in Scout meetings or at a retreat? Simply choose the activity that you want to work on. Most of these activities can be completed in less than an hour. If you are doing them in a Scout meeting, then you may want to work on one

activity. At a retreat, you may want to set up several stations where the youth work on a specific activity per station and they rotate from station to station each hour. Wow!!! That means the youth could earn all the Rosary activities at one retreat or earn them after five Scout meetings. Pretty cool . . . huh? Now think of the same process, but for the Footsteps of American Saints. Whether you earn one or earn them all, your youth will definitely learn more about their faith and the people that helped shape it.

Rosary Patch activities

<http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/rosaryPatch.php>

Footsteps of American Saints activities

<http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/footsteps.php>

So-o-o . . . What are you waiting for? Click on the links above to learn more about these great programs.

New Program to Plant Seeds for Vocations Via Serra Club/ Venturing in Catholic High Schools

From Buffalo, NY to Seattle, WA....from Anchorage, AK to Amarillo, TX, leaders of Catholic High Schools are asking about Serra Clubs forming relationships with Catholic High Schools to establish Venturing Units. They learned about this opportunity from an e-mail marketing blitz during the last quarter of 2008 to invite leaders in Serra Clubs to form Venturing units in Catholic High Schools.

David Gironda, Sr., a long time Catholic Scouter and member of the Serra Club of Phoenix, AZ, has been active in Venturing and Sea Scouts for many years. His experience with these BSA programs convinced him that Venturing under the auspices of the NCCS provides wonderful opportunities for Catholic youth. He came up with the idea of forming Venturing units in Catholic High Schools with Serra Clubs as their Chartered Partner. (Serra is an international lay organization whose purpose is objectives are to foster and promote vocations to the Catholic priesthood and religious life, and to encourage its members to fulfill their own Christian vocations to service.) In 2006 the concept was adopted by the USA Council of Serra International-Vocations Committee, and a grant was received from the Serra International Foundation to reimburse 50% of the cost of establishing new Venturing Unit by Serra Clubs.

In 2008 the first units were formed. Congratulations are in order for Dennis Leiber, an avid Catholic Scouter in the Gerald Ford BSA Council and officer in the Serra Club of Grand Rapids, Michigan. With strong collaboration between the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and Serra Club of Grand Rapids the first Serra/Catholic High School Venturing Crew 2207 was chartered. They started with 30 youth members at West Catholic, but are now up to 57 youth

members. A second crew of 15 members at another Catholic High School was formed in December 2008.

In the Diocese of Phoenix, David Girona, Sr. not only started their Serra/Venturing High School Crew 2214 with five youth members at Notre Dame Preparatory Catholic, but also formed a diocesan "Bishop's Crew" at the request of our Bishop Thomas Olmstead, Crew 2009. Fr. Dennis O'Rourke, Advisor to the NCCS Finance Committee, has been instrumental in the development of this unique Venturing unit.

Each Serra Club that charters a Venturing Crew will receive funding for half of the expenses of chartering, registration fees and promotion expenses for attracting youth. The units chartered by Serra Clubs provide programs that combine a vocation discernment focus with the benefits of belonging to a unit of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) within a Catholic high school extracurricular group. The success of the program will be based on offering quality programs that are not available to most Catholic High Schools while reinforcing the values and skills taught there. It further gives a venue to make ethical choices, acquire leadership skills, advance knowledge and skills in the areas of high adventure, sports, arts, hobbies and earn a vocation-oriented Catholic Scouting emblem.

At the October NCCS Executive Committee Meeting, information was provided about the Serra Club program. The Committee recognized the value of this new Venturing concept and Bill Davies, NCCS National Chairman, contacted Homer Radford, USAC of Serra International Venturing Coordinator, to ask how the NCCS can assist in this effort. Austin Cannon, VP Support for the NCCS Vocations Committee will be the NCCS Board contact for this initiative.

The marketing blitz that has drawn attention to the program began in September 2008. David Girona, Sr. created an e-mail database and sent their program announcement and information to all Catholic High School Superintendents, almost every Principal of the nearly 1,300 Catholic High Schools in the United States, and Serra Club Presidents. His hundreds of hours of effort has generated requests for direct contacts and new inquiries have been received every week since the marketing blitz began.

For more information and resources:

http://www.serraus.org/resources/vocations/venturing_catholicHS_serra08.pdf

Homer Radford

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NCCS Vocations Committee, Coordinator of the Serra Club/Venturing in Catholic High Schools

David Gironda, Sr.

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Associate Coordinator and Field Director

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

December 2008 International Newsletter

The December 2008 ICCS Circular Letters newsletter from the ICCS Secretary General, Baldur Hermans) can be found at

http://www.cics.org/html/modules.php?name=Downloads&d_op=viewdownload&cid=13.

Welcome

Lisa Balog, Diocese of Stockton, CA Committee Chair

Rev. Bryan D. Stitt, Diocese of Ogdensburg Chaplain

Fr. Jim Altman - Diocese of La Crosse, WI, Chaplain

Mark Moitoza, D.Min. - Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, Contact

PRAYERS

- Bishop-elect Guglielmone on his appointment as bishop of Charleston, SC
- The death of Dr. Joseph Kolp, brother of Msgr. James Kolp
- All those that protect and serve our nation, states, and local governments, especially those in harm's way.
- All those that have been affected by the world economic conditions.

Next eBridge deadline 2/20/08. Next The Bridge deadline 3/15/08. All articles should be sent by this date to nccsnews@nccs-bsa.info or posted on the NCCS Information Board.

Karen Stone, Editor

eBridgeNews@aol.com

Yours in Christ and Scouting,

The NCCS Newsletter Team

Please send your Newsletter items to: nccsnews@nccs-bsa.info

We reserve the right to spellcheck and edit content for clarity.

We will try to include your article in the next monthly *eBridge* newsletter, but may withhold the article until we can confirm/clarify content. For longer articles, please send a few brief paragraphs and a link to the full article on your website. Forward this eBridge to your fellow Catholic Scouters. For new registrations to the *eBridge* and to read the NCCS Information Board go to <http://www.nccs-bsa.info>.