



National Catholic Committee On Scouting – Region 14

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina & South Carolina

Spring

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 two issues ago 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 defined their definition of the twelve points of the Scout Law.

“A SCOUT IS HELPFUL

“Amen I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.”

Fifth Commandment
Thou shall not kill.

As a true soldier of Christ, a Scout is willing to sacrifice himself for others. He is ever on the lookout to do his good turn. One daily good turn, within the grasp of all, is to pray for one we want to help. The best way to help ourselves is to help others for the greater honor of God. Frequently repeat the Scout slogan and review its meaning as found in this Manual. Even when not in uniform a boy should be recognized as a Scout by others, because they can see how helpful he is to others.

Doing nothing for others is the undoing of ourselves ---- Horace Mann

A social crusader in the true sense of the word, St. Francis Regis is the modern model of the Good Shepherd. His helpfulness made the poor mountain folk of Spain feel attracted to him. Because he looked after the bodily as well as the spiritual welfare of these rural dwellers, they received him with open arms. The poor appreciate the helpful.

When girls were too poor to get enough money to prepare for marriage, he found generous people with money who would help them. Many who lived in a life of sin because they didn't know any better listened to the kindly advice of this great apostle of the socially needy. As a result they began to lead a better life.” ...

“How many times could not a Scout imitate St. Francis' helpfulness by taking another, who is careless about receiving the Sacraments, with him when he himself goes. There are many opportunities when you look for them.

One thing is certain - - there will always be many ways to assist others. Sometimes the help needed will be in some temporal way; many more times it will be spiritual assistance that must be given. Let's get in step with St. Francis Regis. It will make us very happy both in this world as well as in the next."

In the 1995 edition of **A SCOUT IS REVERENT, A Sourcebook For Scouts of Catholic Faith** the third Scout Law - A Scout is helpful, it states: "Christ has told us that the good turn we do for others He will consider as done to Him. If Christ was willing to die for all of us, a Scout certainly should be ready to offer help when needed. The whole Scout program gives us an opportunity to be helpful, especially the doing of our daily good turn."

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.

NCCS Needs Pictures for 2005 Jamboree The NCCS Vocations Committee is asking anyone who has pictures of Scouts who are now priests for use in various slide show presentations. Their hope is to have this ready for the 2005 Jamboree. If you have such photos (including priests who have pictures of themselves as a Scout) please contact Homer Radford at bradford2@comcast.net.

The Marketing and Public Relations Committee is also looking for pictures or Videos of Religious Awards Ceremonies for use at the 2005 Jamboree. Please notify Tony Madonna www.nccs-bsa.org or atmadonia@aol.com if you can contribute photos. Surely, all your Golden Madellion units should have some photos available.

Scouting for Catholics - Adding the Supernatural, published by the Catholic Committee on Scouting in 1942 has 27 pictures within its pages. Most pictures have priests in them taken during some kind of ceremony.

Quality Diocese The Archdiocese of Atlanta Catholic Committee on Scouting February 2004 Newsletter lead off with: "*The Atlanta Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is please that the Archdiocese of Atlanta has been named a 2003 Quality Diocese.Of the fourteen (14) requirements, we completed eleven (11) of these just by keeping our program on track - only eight (8) are required. We did not start out to achieve this, it happened because we strive to give our scout units a quality program.*"

Scoutmaster's Minute 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 story telling 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 proceed quickly to the closing of the meeting."

This is one place that a Catholic sponsored Scout unit can express a Catholic, Christian view point to the Scouts. One example is Measure Yourself by the Golden Rule: (Show an ordinary ruler) What do I have here? Right, it's a ruler. Some people call it a rule. This one isn't golden but it does remind me of the Golden Rule. Do you know what the Golden Rule is?

'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you' That's a great guide for living. Scouts, if we always followed that rule we would always be kind to others because no one wants unkindness done to him.

The trouble is, we aren't saints. And so we don't always follow the Scout Law – 'A Scout is kind' – or the Golden Rule.

Some of us follow the Golden Rule for About 3 inches. Others make it for 8 inches. A few of us might make it all the way to 11 inches.

How far do you go on the Golden Rule? Probably not as far as you could. So the next time you're to do something unkind, or say anything that will hurt someone, stop and think. What will it do to your place on the Golden Rule?" From Woods Wisdom.

You can probably think of a Scoutmaster's minute that impressed you that has stayed with you. Please send me an e-mail with that Scoutmaster's Minute and hopefully these may be shared with others. (jjohn32@aol.com)

Is your Feast Day Coming up Soon? Is your Parish named for a Saint? If so, are you familiar with the life of your saint? Do you do anything special on that feast day? Your Chaplains Aide can go on a search engine and find all kinds of information and you can put on a presentation and compose a closing prayer for the meeting.

What is Happening in Cub Scouting? The last Newsletter was a brief review of the new National Cub Scout Character Connections Program which includes Cub Scouting's 12 Core Values. The Program enables leaders to incorporate character development into regular pack and den programs and activities. Read more on this program in the archives on the Scout National Web Page www.scoutingmagazine.org/issues.0303/a-cubs.html. Since all NCCS members are required to be registered with the Boys Scouts, you should be receiving a copy of the Scouting Magazine. Another Character Connection resource is Chapter 4 in the **Cub Scout Leader book**.

When you have your next committee meeting talk over the new program and how the Cubs are answering the questions about God. There were numerous illustrations of questions from all the Cub Scout Rank Handbooks in the last Newsletter. As an example the Tiger Cubs Character Connection in Achievement 5F -- Let's Go Outside: Go Outside and Watch the Weather. After talking with his parent about the weather the Character Connection: Faith asks the Cub Scout "How do you think the world and the universe around us came to be? Talk to your adult partner about his or her faith in God. How does it make you feel that God made this wonderful world for you to live in? Talk about something you could do to show respect for the earth God gave us. Tiger Cubs are 6 years old and normally partnered with a parent.

Ways to Advance Your Child's Spiritual Life This is the title of an article in the same issue of the Scouting magazine that included the Character Connection Program. The Family Talk column started with "*For children to live balance lives, parents need to help them grow not only physically, emotionally, and intellectually, but spiritually as well.*" The author Victor M. Parachin provides some ways for parents to help advance a child's spiritual life. These sections are:

Accept Your Responsibility as a Parent To provide Spiritual Formation
Tell Yourselves, "It's Never Too Early!"
Participate in a House of Worship
Model the Spiritual Life For Your Children
Institute Quiet Time
Teach Children to Pray
Spend Time Together in Nature
Pay Attention to Your Children
Stress the Golden Rule

Read more of what the author has to say in each of these areas. Go to the BSA National website. www.scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0303/d-famt.html

Cross Over You should be familiar with this term. This is the time of the year that termites and Cub Scouts swarm and you need to keep on top of everything. The Cubs will be looking for a new scout home in a scout troop and where they light most likely depends on the Cub and Scout Committees. Plan an open house and invite all the Cub Scouts and parents to come by and see all the great activities you have done and have planned. Include the Religious Emblems programs, all the various patches that can be earned and how much fun it will be for the Scouts and parents. Get the parents involved, they may also be looking for a place to join.

Getting the Word Out The **BRIDGE** is only sent to people who are registered members of the NCCS so there are probably dozens and dozens of Scouters and parents who never get to see the **BRIDGE**. There is a Council near Chicago that has put the entire issue of the **BRIDGE** on its website [it is not a link]. If you have a website put a link [Regional, Diocesan, Council or Unit] to the BRIDGE www.nccs-bsa.org/business/bridge.php .

The latest issue is now on the NCCS website. Some of the information you could learn about are: the Millennium Patch program has now been discontinued as a patch program after 35,000 youth and adults participated; information on the 2004 Philmont Course "*Scouting in the Catholic Church*" and the outstanding staff; P.R.A.Y. is now an authorized distributor of Catholic Scouting Religious Emblems Books and much more.

It notes that the religious awards will still be processed through your local [arch] diocesan/eparchy Catholic Committee on Scouting .

Catholic Scout Web Sites Interested in starting a Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, but don't know how to start? Go no further but do go to <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/business/sampleweb.php> to download a template web page file. Email webmaster@nccs-bsa.org for more information.

New Books for the *Light of Christ* and *Parvuli Dei* Emblems

Some of you might have notice in your local Scouts Shops the new Cub Scout emblems books for the *Light of Christ* and *Parvuli Dei*. The NCCS Religious Emblems Committee has been busy the last couple of years in updating the language, graphics and covers of these two books. None of the requirements have been changed – just updated. Many requests had been made in the past for a Spanish translation of these two books and that has been accomplished in these updated books. The entire *Light of Christ* book (#33074A) is written in both English and Spanish, the *Parvuli Dei (Children of God)* (#33085A) only has the Parent’s introduction in both languages. If your local Scout Shop does not have them available yet, Contact National Supply (1-800-323-0732) or the P.R.A.Y. office.

Looking For Ideas? Have you spent some time looking over what the NCCS **web site has to offer?** Click on its site map www.nccs-bsa.org/sitemap.php and read some of the publications that catch your eye. **Vocations Promotion Through Scouting Youth Ministry “Consider Your Call”, Catholic Committee Workshop – Suggested Agenda, Vocational Workshop, Scouter Development Facilitator Manual** and **MORE**. The site map goes on for four pages.

Out of Sight, Out of Mind?

A short time ago the Supreme Court made a ruling that was in favor of the Boy Scouts of America and the Scout may set the criteria for membership.. Maybe you haven’t heard much since that time but things have not been quiet. If you call up the Boy Scouts of America home page there is a recently added box to click on – Legal Issues www.bsalegal.org. One case it lists is a settlement reached with the ACLU. San Diego agreed to revoke a Scout lease on public campgrounds where they have been since 1918. This and other suits are also reviewed in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ONLINE March 10, 2004 issue titled “Secular Absolutism”. The judge in California would not accept a Federal Justice Department Friend of the Court brief that was submitted. The California Supreme Court just rules that Catholic Charities must include contraceptives coverage to a woman as part of any prescription drug benefits it extends to employees. The court simply said that Catholic Charities was not a religious organization.

In this issue of the **BRIDGE** is an article yjay NCCS will submitting two Amicus briefs in two law suits - one in California and one in Connecticut. The City of Berkeley is stopping the free marina berthing of Sea Scouts for the services they have provided the City over the years. The case is now before the State Supreme Court. In Connecticut the state employee chartable campaign may exclude the Boy Scouts of America, from a list of 900 charities that receive funds, as a group that discriminates against homosexuals for leadership positions.

Keep It Up In the **BRIDGE**, Ed Gargiula, NCCS Chairman, letter he noted that from June 2002 to 2003 375 Catholic sponsored units were dropped. During 2003 there was a gain of roughly 100 new units.

In Region 14 there was a loss during the same time frame but you all in the twelve dioceses have been doing great and rebounded to higher levels. In particular, look at the overall long trend for the region.

	<u>Units</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Youth per Unit</u>
June 1996	448	12,748	5,057	17,805	28
Jan 2003	572	21,523	7,412	28,935	38
Dec 2003	602	22,192	7,565	29,757	37

A New Year

A new year is unfolding
Like a blossom with petals curled tightly
Concealing the beauty within.
Let this year be filled
With the things that are truly good;
With warm in our relationships
With strength to help those who need our help
With humility and openness
To accept help from others.

Thought: **You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.** (Henry Ford).

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