



National Catholic Committee On Scouting – Region 14

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina & South Carolina

Summer

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 FRIENDLY

“A man amiable in society shall be more friendly than a brother.” (Prov. xviii 24)

Tenth Commandment

Thou shall not covet thy neighbor’s goods.

In limitation of his Divine Scoutmaster who said: “Let the little children come to me....” (Mark X:14), the Scout uses his time and talents to make others happy. As a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout he envies no one’s good fortune and is satisfied with his own limited lot. A smile on our lips bespeaks happiness in our own souls and forces joy into the souls of others. A Scout is friendly to all, especially to those in need.

What we haven’t got, we cannot give. A Scout who bores himself by being “crabby” cannot expect to make others happy. Remember that a smile is “catching.”

Smile a while
And while you smile
Another smiles, and soon
There’s miles and miles
Of smiles,
And life’s worth while
Because you smile, - - - Anonymous

The friendliness of Frederick Ozanam came from his real interest in those who needed kindness. Every type of suffering caught his attention. He is the real founder of the Vincent de Paul Societies of our day. While a college student at the University of Paris he got five young men interested in his scheme of helping residents of the slum area of the city. There was much need of action. Others followed the lead of the first six. Soon a group of thirty-five were holding regular conferences to plan systematic ways of caring for the needy. Each had the supervision of the care for one family. The Vincentian spirit of Ozanam moved on. Today it lives in the unselfish services of hundreds of men in parishes throughout the world. Time and money are not spared in this Christ-like work.

Even at this age, the Scout too can do much in the service of other boys who have little of the comforts God meant for all. Couldn't the Scout sometimes buy a candy bar for the boy down the block who often doesn't know the taste of that delicacy? Then there are the outgrown clothes that mother would be so glad to get to someone who could use them to advantage. Yes, where there is good will there will be dozens of opportunities to follow in the footsteps of Frederick Ozanam.

In the 1995 edition of **A SCOUT IS REVERENT, A Sourcebook For Scouts of Catholic Faith** the fourth Scout Law - A Scout is friendly it states: *A Scout should be a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout. We are all children of the same God, and brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, so a Scout tries to understand others, and respect those with ideas and customs different than his own.*

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 Still 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 you Golden Medallion 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 in church.

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 Committees 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 the Regional Chairman by December 5, 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 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 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 –

Planting Seeds (Have an apple and a plate with a few apple seeds)

If I gave you a choice, which would you rather have, the apple or the seeds? I guess most of us would choose the apple.

A long time ago there was a man who would have taken the seeds. He was a nut about apple seeds – so much so that people called him Johnny Appleseed. For many years he walked across hundreds of miles of our country, back when most of it was frontier land, and everywhere he went he planted apple seeds. The trees from those seeds fed many thousands of people in later generations. That's real long range planning!

Many of us are interested in the present. We don't think like Johnny Appleseed.

Maybe you don't want to go around planting apple seeds like he did. But there's another kind of seed you should be planning every day – that seed of good feelings between you and your follow man.

You can do it by living our slogan, “Do a Good Turn daily.” “Every time you do a Good Turn, you are planting a seed of good feeling. That seed may start the growth of a tree of Good Turns in each person you help. So that Good Turn may lead to many other Good Turns through the years, affecting the lives of hundreds of people.

What are you doing with the rest of your life?

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM)

We all know of long term Scouters who are on active military duty or are members of the military reserves. The MOVSM is a little known medal that was authorized on December 1, 1992 to recognize Armed Service members and Reserve Components. The individual should have performed outstanding voluntary community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. The Boy Scouts is one of a number of community organizations whose community service is recognized.

To be eligible, an individual’s voluntary service must be to the civilian community, to include the military family community. The service must be significant in nature and produce tangible results that reflect favorably on the Military Service. This community service must be sustained over time and be of a direct nature. The MOVSM ribbon will be worn after the Humanitarian Service Medal. Reference DOD 1348.33-M. provides more detailed criteria, the approval authority and sample nomination format. An internet search for DOD 1348.33-M will bring up the manual and go to page 61.

The Boy Scouts has recognized the Community Organization Award that honors its volunteers for scouting and awards a gold on purple square knot with a gold border. See website www.scouting.org/factsheets/03-582.html. A web search for the MOVSM will provide sites with pictures of the military medal and service ribbon.

A number of you know Scouters are in the military that have been Scoutmasters, or other Scouting positions, for a number of years and should be recognized. Let him/her know of the website and DOD manual.

Rosary Patch Series The Second in the series of Rosary Patch series can now be earned. All the information for the new Luminous Mysteries patch is available at website www.nccs-bsa.org/embrms-awards/rosaryPatch.php. The Rosary Patch series will focus each fiscal year (July 1 thru June 30) on a different set of Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. 2003-2004 Joyful Mystery; 2004-2005 Luminous Mystery; 2005-2006 Sorrowful Mystery and 2006-2007 Glorious Mystery. The patch order form, may be printed from the web site. Girl Scouts and Campfire – USA may earn these patches and is open to everyone interested in attaining the patch by answering the questions. There are different questions for the 1st thru 5th grade, 6th thru 12th grade and Adult Leaders.

On Praying The following is Chapter 2 of **A SCOUT IS REVERENT, A SOURCE BOOK FOR SCOUTS OF CATHOLIC FAITH. (1995 edition, BSA Catalog No. 3075)** Does your Scout have a copy?.

To pray is to seek union with God. As members of the Church we are urged by God's Spirit to pray each day.

One good Source of prayer is the Bible. Scripture is God's Word given to us by the Holy Spirit. It is a good habit to read part of the Bible each day, perhaps a chapter. Some of the morning and evening prayers suggested in this booklet are examples of using the Bible in our prayer.

We can pray in words, but sometimes God's Spirit asks us simply to be still and enjoy His company. We might think about this while camping out under the stars or watching a sunset or sunrise or while climbing or hiking. We might find God in prayer of this kind at home or in a church.

Sometimes God's Spirit gives us words to speak. Sometimes He gives us joy or sorrow and our prayer flows from the deepness within us. As He urges, so should we pray.

When He wants us to use words He sometimes inspires our own words and we pray spontaneously. At other times He provides the text from our memories (as with the Our Father) or from written words. The prayers in the next two chapters are prayers provided for you. Some you can , and should memorize, others you can read or pray whenever you like.

We should pray to God not only when we are by ourselves, but when we gather with others. Without this prayer in community our prayer can be somewhat selfish and eventually it may stop. It's not enough to commune with God in nature or to listen to Him in your room or to kneel down in prayer at bedtime. We must join these moments of prayer with other people, the community, our family, our troop, our parish. Prayer in common gives life to our personal, private prayer.

Chief among all prayers is the Eucharist commonly called the Mass. It is the central prayer of our Christian life, and it is a prayer of community. It brings us closely into the mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. At Mass, in a special way, Jesus comes to us, and we meet Him. This makes the Eucharist the chief local point of all that God does to make us holy in Christ, and it is the chief focal point of all that we do in worship of the Father through Christ our Lord. All other prayer, all other Christian works, flow from the Eucharist and find fullness in it.

God's Spirit has inspired the Church to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday. Sunday is like Easter every week, for on Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

You shouldn't miss Mass on Sundays except for serious reasons, and you shouldn't allow an interfaith prayer service on Sunday to replace your going to celebrate the Eucharist.

To be a server at Mass is to exercise a special role of leadership in the Church. As a Scout you are at an age when you can give this service and you are at an age when this identification with the Church can help you understand yourself better. It is good Christianity, and good Scouting to offer to serve at the Eucharist.

Whether your prayer is with words, or without, matters little. What does matter is that you pray because when we pray we are united with God. It is very important that all people take time to be with God each day.

Philmont Training Center Announced New Religious Emblems Course

A new course was announced for Philmont Training Center entitled "Religious Emblems for Youth and Adults." It will be held during the Relationship Week August 7 – 13, 2005. Those interested in promoting religious emblem programs of all faiths, should look over the program. The course will focus on Religious Emblems as a membership tool. The class will emphasize the Religious emblems that can reinforce BSA values in boys as well as on how and why to promote them. One surprising number is that 98% of all clergy have no knowledge that the religious emblems programs exist. Look at website www.prayweb.org/ptc_rel_emblems.htm. This course is not presented by the NCCS, although the NCCS will do some presentations on Religious Emblems.

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:

Boy Scout & Venturer Retreat	October 1-3, 2004	"Live in the Light"
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.

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

Thought: "When your work speaks for itself; don't interrupt it." *Henry J. Kaiser*

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