



THE BRIDGE

The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

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New initiative to promote the vision of Catholic Scouting

by

Bill Guglielmi

**Vice Chair (Membership/
Marketing & Public Relations)**

Pope Francis encourages us to “Go forth! Proclaim! The joy of the Gospel is something to be experienced, something to be known and lived only through giving it away, through giving ourselves away.” In the ministry of Catholic Scouting, we give ourselves away by practicing our faith and sharing with the young men and women in our charge, stories of our faith.

The purpose of the NCCS is to utilize and ensure the constructive use of the program of the BSA as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation. The NCCS seeks to sustain and strengthen the relationship between the BSA and the Catholic Church and to work cooperatively with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and various other groups involved in Catholic youth ministry in the United States.

The Executive Committee, to better fulfill this purpose, authorized the Marketing & Public Relations and the Finance Committee to initiate an exciting new initiative to revitalize our promotional and marketing resources. The Committee directed a select group including the National Chair, National Chaplain, National Chair Elect, National Chaplain Elect, Vice Chair (Finance), and Vice Chair (Membership/Marketing & Public Relations) to oversee the implementation of this effort by the Chair and Adviser of the Marketing & PR Committee and our outside contractor, Saint Pio Media, Edina, Minn.

Campaign Vision

The goal is to create a marketing campaign which communicates to all stakeholders (i.e., youth, parents, youth ministers, pastors, bishops, and diocesan committees) how a fully engaged Catholic Scouting unit can empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today and in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community. Additionally, the campaign should create a sense of excitement around Catholic Scouting and its elements. Messaging and strategy should highlight and connect the common thread of the mission across

programs, and social media. Ultimately, to create a truly recognizable brand in the vocation of pastoral youth ministry.

Campaign Goals

Specifically, the campaign is designed to accomplish the following goals for us:

- * To develop a new NCCS website oriented towards communicating the vision of Catholic Scouting and its elements to key stakeholders. The website should retain all original content but be reorganized and revised to be consistent with new marketing approach. Analytics for measuring the effectiveness of new site should also be included to provide meaningful data for measurement.
- * Implementation of an updated and expanded NCCS social media presence including editorial services, web and social media content and feature stories.
- * Digital media to include conception, scripting, and production of an institutional, Catholic Scouting oriented video for multi-channel use with debut at 2021 NCYC, and the production of two additional one-1-minute videos.
- * Catholic Scouting campaign development, including development of creative copy, design of ads, and ad production, for digital and print executions.

(Continued on Page 2)



INITIATIVE—CONT FROM PAGE 1

Campaign Progress

The initiative began in May 2021. It is being built around the premise that **Catholic Scouting is a journey of experience:**

**...an experience of Faith
--an experience of Family
...an experience of Adventure**

The effort is focused on three audiences. The first is bishops, pastors, youth ministers, NFCYM leaders, and diocesan scouting committees. Our second audience are current Catholic Scouting participants and their parents, parents of other youth, and the youth themselves (including youth participants at the 2021 NCYC). The third audience is grandparents.



Some of the accomplishments achieved to date are the publication of a marketing strategy, the development of Catholic Scouting logos (more to follow on these), infographics, draft social media posts, and videos. The new website is estimated to be launched around October 1, 2021. The increased social media presence is expected to be implemented around the same time frame.

I trust that you will share our excitement. Look forward for more things to come soon.



FROM THE CHAIR Jim Weiskircher

Last month, we lost a tremendous voice for Catholic Scouting, Monsignor John Brady. His smile and energy will be missed. Also, on July 11th, we also lost a beloved past National Chaplain and big supporter of Catholic Scouting, Father Joe Carroll. Please keep them in your prayers.

Next month, the NCCS will be the lead sponsor of the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. The theme will be Catholic Scouting: Faith, Family, Adventure. Our goal is to reach out to youth, youth ministers, and clergy with the message of Catholic Scouting as a Youth Ministry. With all of the recent negative press, it gives us the chance to answer questions and to lay the groundwork for moving forward. I am excited with the progress being made to reach out to parents and Scouts through the new website, Catholicscouting.com designed to appeal to them.

It has been 2.5 years since we have been able to meet together. I would encourage everyone to start planning to attend the 47th biennial conference to be held just a few miles from Chicago's O'Hare airport from April 21st-24th. Please consider attending.

The pandemic has forced us to use technology to expand our reach for training, religious activities, religious emblems and communications. Pope Francis, through *Christus Vivat*, encourages all of us to understand how to reach today's youth. We need to follow his lead and look for new ways to connect with youth through Catholic Scouting.

Yours in Catholic Scouting as a youth ministry,

Jim

Nominations for NCCS leadership positions now being sought

If you are interested in serving or want to nominate someone for the following positions please contact Ed Martin at martinedp@outlook.cpm
Election ballots will be mailed to all NCCS members in early November.

Chair-elect 2022-2025

Vice chair 2022-2024 (2)

Region Chairs for the following regions (2022-2025)

Region 1 Conn., Maine, New Hampshire and Mass.

Region 5 Ala., Ky. Miss. Tenn., and La.

Region 8 N.D, S.D., Minn.

Region 11 Calif. Nev., and Hawaii.



NOMINATIONS

A graphic featuring the word "NOMINATIONS" in bold, black, uppercase letters on a yellow banner. The banner is set against a white background with a black outline and is surrounded by several small yellow dots.



**The Chaplain's
Corner**
Father Joe Powers
National Chaplain



I wish to extend a special “thank you” to our chaplains at Philmont this summer and to those who staffed our training programs: *Scouting in the Catholic Church* and *Scouting in the Local Church*.

Now is the time to consider your adult leaders for a Bronze Pelican or St. George Emblem. Our adult religious awards recognize outstanding service and give witness to our youth about self-sacrifice and commitment. Applications and qualifications can be downloaded from the NCCS website.

Msgr. John Brady passed away on September 9th at the age of 92. He was a long-time member of NCCS and served Catholic Scouting in the Archdiocese of Washington as its chaplain since 1960. Msgr. Brady was a familiar sight at BSA Jamborees, having missed only one or two since their beginnings. He is the author of an interfaith mediation on the Scout Law entitled: *Higher than Eagles*. May he rest in peace.

While we come to terms with the fallout from the terms of BSA’s settlement, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting is committed to serving Catholic youth in scouting

When asked which is the greatest commandment, Jesus replied, “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” And a second, “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) By learning more about each other, we are better able to love our neighbors. Learn more at: <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/human-dignity>

Electronic AAD Youth Manual now available

The NCCS Emblems Committee is pleased to announce that the Ad Altare Dei Youth Manual is now available in an interactive, electronic format (e-AAD). Given the current situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic, stay-at-home learning, quarantining in some areas and the advent of Zoom and other virtual meeting venues, this is an ideal time to make this electronic Ad Altare Dei Youth Manual (e-AAD) available. This electronic format is a “copy” of the printed version. The original content of the program has not been changed or altered. The entire workbook has been programmed so that Scouts can work on the manual and send their answers to their counselor and the counselor can review the answers anytime.

Counselors can still use the printed version if they feel more comfortable with it.

Go to <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/> to find a copy.



**St. George Trek
Memorial scholarship Fund**

*We remember in prayer
our deceased loved ones*

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Carlos Arboleya | Sammie Reggie |
| Dorothy Danaher | Jean Ribar |
| Jack Deckeenback | John Ribar |
| Emmett Doerr | Frank Rossomondo, Jr. |
| Marta Doerr | Marvin L. Smith |
| Ernest Klimczak | Ellie Starr |
| Jospeh McAlevey | Truman Stacey |
| Thomas Nishikubo | Gordon Steifel |
| Don Oblander | Jack Thompson |
| Joseph A. Olivas | |

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.

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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.

In Memory Monsignor John Brady 1929—2021

by
Michael Glass

I was saddened to hear of the recent passing of my good friend and fellow Scouter Msgr. John Brady at 92 years of age.

I first met Msgr. Brady in 2006, my first summer as a new Boy Scout Leader accompanying my son's Troop to Camp Olmsted on the Goshen Scout Reservation in Goshen, Va. As a Troop sponsored by Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Parish, Msgr. Brady would seek out and offer to celebrate Mass just for our Troop, in our own campsite. It was very special. The first time I heard him speak to our Scouts I was immediately smitten by his gentle candor, deeply spiritual character, and his natural ability to connect with youth. He would take his time to explain to the Scouts the significance of each part of the clergy apparel worn for Mass and encourage them to participate, which they did. All this in a beautiful outdoor setting. It was moving.

As I had three boys in Scouting, our friendship grew over the many years we attended Camp Olmsted. All three boys worked there as Camp Counselors. Msgr. Brady and I got to know each other well, and I looked forward to catching up with him each summer. We kept tabs on when each other would be there so that we could connect. Father was an avid photographer and was very inquisitive of my gear and techniques. From time to time he would ask me to collect certain images that were pleasing to him or that he might use in a later project. Often we might see each other during the off season on Scout Sundays or other Scout functions. He was easy to love.

During his more than 50 years of service on the Goshen Scout Reservation one of his many missions was overseeing the building and maintaining of the Chapels at each camp. He was very proud of each.

I will miss my old friend. I personally feel that once Msgr. Brady was no longer able to attend the reservation, a hole was left that has not yet been filled.

A Scout is Reverent.



In 1950, while at the jamboree in Valley Forge, Penn., a young Eagle Scout John Brady met Scout chaplain Father Robert Brown. It was a life-changing event.

"What are you going to be?" Father Brown asked the young Eagle Scout.

Eagle Scout Brady said he was going to make a career out of the military and would be commissioned into the Army after graduation.

"Turn it down," Father Brown told him. "You're going to the seminary." "I knew he was right that the priesthood is what I had been called too. I wouldn't have been a priest if it hadn't been for the Scouts."

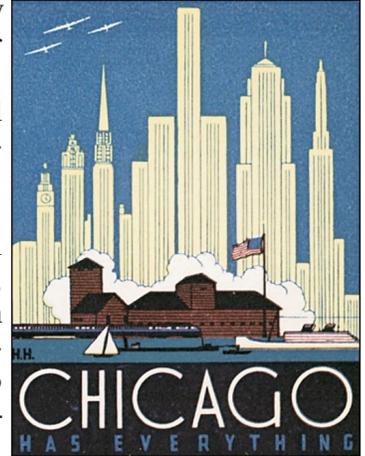
Following Father Brown's admonition, he enrolled at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and was ordained in 1955 by Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle in St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington and served faithfully for the next 66 years.



47th Biennial meeting set for Chicago in April 2022

Make plans now to come out of your “Covid Cocoon” and join fellow Scout Chaplains, Scouters and spouses in west suburban Chicago, Illinois, for the 47th Biennial Conference of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Our last conference in Chicago (Schaumburg) was 16 years ago! The local archdiocesan committee of Chicago is very excited about being our host committee in 2022!

There will be opportunities to attend regional meetings, the NCCS General Business Meeting, informative workshops, a Philmont Reunion Luncheon, daily liturgies and much more – as well as meet Scouters and Chaplains from Archdioceses, Dioceses and Eparchies from around the country. Full Conference Registration Fee will include five of seven 7 meal functions and access to four refreshment breaks, and the Saturday evening NCCS Pre-Banquet Reception.



The Executive Committee and several standing committee meetings, registration and the Trading Post begin on Thursday, April 21, and the opening conference Mass (our biennial NCCS memorial Mass) is Thursday at 6:15 p.m. The “Showcase 2022” (Ideas Fair) and Trading Post open at 6:30 a.m. on Friday, April 22, followed by Region Meetings and an Advisory Board meeting.

The NCCS General Business Meeting is on Saturday morning, April 23, followed by an afternoon Plenary Assembly Address and break-out workshops on Saturday afternoon, and a Saturday Vigil Mass for the third Sunday of Easter, Reception, and Banquet. Sunday’s Prayer Breakfast, April 24, is followed by the Executive Board meeting.

Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport is served by 46 airlines, the most likely of which to be used by our conference attendees include Alaska, American, Delta, Frontier, Jet Blue, Sun Country and United Airlines. NOTE: Chicago’s Midway Airport features service by Southwest Airlines, but is an additional 2 hours travel time to get to our hotel from the Midway airport if using the CTA Blue Line subway train. You should take the Orange Line to the Clark/Lake station and transfer to the Blue Line toward O’Hare and get off at the Rosemont station. Our hotel is 3 blocks from the station.)

The Conference Hotel with our group room rate is the Hilton Rosemont/Chicago O’Hare. The rate is \$119 (plus tax). Our hotel is located in the Convention Center/Entertainment district of Rosemont, adjacent to O’Hare Airport. (Our room rate is good 3 nights prior and 1 night after the official conference dates, based on availability). The regular self-parking rate at our conference hotel is \$29 per night, but will be discounted to

\$14.50 per night for registered hotel guests who are also conference registrants. In-room internet access will be complimentary. The hotel’s complimentary shuttle vans run continuously to/from O’Hare Airport, and also provide complimentary transportation to/from the Rosemont CTA ‘Blue Line’ subway station and numerous local shopping and dining destinations within a 5 mile radius, based on availability. Registration information will be available soon on our website at www.nccs-bsa.org. See you in Chicago in April 2022.



Philmont Training Course helps 14 Scouters grow in their understanding and use of Scouting as Catholic youth ministry.

By Fr. Mark Carr, SJ

This summer's 2021 Scouting in the Catholic Church (SiCC) conference brought together fourteen people to grow in their understanding and use of Scouting as Catholic youth ministry. This year's attendees came from twelve states and included a Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, NCCS regional chaplain, parish youth minister, BSA district executive, pastor, diocesan Catholic committee chairs, and St. George Trek alumni. Fr. Mark Carr, SJ, Theresa Dirig, and Chris Murray served as conference faculty. All participants benefitted from the rich and varied experiences present in the cohort. As in previous years, the conference took place at the Philmont Training Center (PTC).

Speaking midway through the conference, one participant commented, "The greatest highlight of my week so far has been meeting everyone and coming together to learn what the NCCS offers as well as taking the opportunity to learn new ideas and how to have a conversation to further promote Scouting in the Catholic Church."

Throughout the week, the group was easily identifiable by its SiCC neckerchiefs and purple polos with embroidered SiCC logo. A unique Catholic Scouting brand enhanced the branding opportunities at PTC's Western Night and helped spread the message that Scouting is youth ministry! Raising the Vatican City flag at Friday morning's flag ceremony further left Catholic Scouting's mark on the week.

Special guests during the week included John Anthony (NCCS National Chair-Elect), Phil Krajec (NCCS International Committee Chair), Wendy Kurten (BSA liaison to the NCCS), Fr. Roger Lopez (Philmont chaplain), and Fr. Mike Santangelo (Director of the St. George Trek). The bishop liaison to the NCCS, Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, and NCCS National Chairman, Jim Weiskircher, joined the conference by Zoom.

Mid-week provided a break from the conference and allowed conference participants to visit Philmont museums, take in a short backcountry hike, or venture farther. Some made pilgrimages to el Santuario de Chimayó, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, and the Loretto Chapel with its renowned circular staircase. Others enjoyed the many art galleries and southwestern ambiance of Santa Fe.

The climax of the week occurred Thursday evening. The group celebrated Mass at the historic Chapel of the Holy Child located at Rayado, about seven miles south of the PTC. After Mass, a BBQ brisket dinner catered by Philmont awaited everyone across the road. A private candlelit tour of Philmont's Kit Carson Museum followed. Roger Mosby (Chief Scout Executive), Danny Tucker, (Director of PTC), Elizabeth Olivas (NCCS program administrator), and representatives of the Santa Fe Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting joined conference participants for much of the evening. The evening concluded with the praying of vespers in common while an almost-full moon rose from the horizon and a classic Philmont "starlit sky above" appeared.

Thanks to all who participated in the 2021 Scouting in the Catholic Church Conference and to family members who accompanied them and enjoyed Philmont's Family Adventure and NAYLE programs. If you have never been to Scouting in the Catholic Church, plan to attend next year's training sessions scheduled for July 18-22, 2022.



Chapel of the Holy Child

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

As our Catholic Scout units reconvene for the upcoming school year, consider a unique ceremony to begin the fall program.

Years back, Catholic Scout units were encouraged to begin the Scout year with an Investiture Ceremony. The *Scouting for Catholics* handbook of 1942 offered ideas for Cub packs and for Scout troops chartered to Catholic organizations. Here is one example:

Do this in church after a Sunday Mass or prior to a kick-off unit meeting. Invite the family. Have a church representative (priest, deacon, chartered organization representative, etc.) open with a prayer, then explain how the Scout unit functions as a church youth organization that uses the BSA programs for activity ideas. This would also be a good time to mention the religious emblems and programs the Scouts can work on.

Call forward the adult unit leaders to be installed and blessed as approved leaders of this parish group. Have them and the Scouts also say the Scout Oath. Bless the entire group. Make any announcements. Dismiss the group.

Scholarship Program to grow to nine scholarships totaling \$25,000 for 2022



In 2022, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting will award 20% more scholarship funds totaling \$25,000 through the NCCS Scholarship Program. We are happy to announce 2 NEW named scholarships in addition to the 7 existing Emmett J Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarships.

NCCS Scholarships for 2022:

- NEW \$2,000 Bill and Kay Davies Scholarship
- NEW \$3,000 NCCS Francis "Frank" Parater Scholarship
- Seven Emmett J Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarships Totaling \$20,000

Total of \$25,000 in NCCS Scholarships Awarded in 2022

These new scholarships were introduced in the first edition of NCCS's New Scholarship Newsletter *Serving Others* sent out in mid-September. A beautiful picture of a Philmont sunset was featured in the newsletter. We want to thank the photographer, James Brown, for permission to use his photo.

To apply, scholarship applicants only need to fill out the current NCCS Scholarship application form in order to be considered for all awards.

How can you help? We need your assistance to identify qualified scholarship applicants and encourage them to apply. You can also encourage younger Scouts to work toward earning the Religious Emblems, the Eagle Scout, Summit or Quartermaster Awards and providing service to their Church, Community, School and Scouts. Complete eligibility requirements and the application are available on the NCCS Website Scholarship Page at <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/college-scholarship>

A VOCATIONS REFLECTION
BY
Bro. Andrew J. Kosmowski, SM

“Beacons of Light” is a phrase many in my archdiocese are hearing right now with mixed reactions because it means a parish reorganization. This phrase is rooted in *Lumen gentium*, “People of light,” a significant document created at the Second Vatican Council. This document reminds us of what our vocation is: to be saints. My conjecture is that the Communion of Saints in Heaven is greater than the total of those the Church has recognized. Many of us hopefully will be among these unrecognized saints, those we celebrate November 1.

As Scout leaders, we are called to help form saints. This is not solely the realm of the priests, Brothers, Sisters, or lay ministers of the Church. As a fruit of our baptism, the entire Family of God is called to create saints. One way we can do this is to ask our Scouts how they are growing in their Duty to God. This is a requirement for all ranks. Let us eagerly form our Scouts into Saints!



Applications now being accepted

St. George Trek preparations moving ahead for July 6-21, 2022

by
Father Mike Santangelo

This past summer I was blessed to be able to spend some time out at Philmont serving as a chaplain. It was another exciting summer at Philmont with record breaking numbers of crews and participants. During my time there I spoke with several people about the St. George Trek. Philmont is looking forward to the return of the Trek as much as we are to have the Trek again.

The 2022 St. George Trek will be from July 6th until July 21st. Applications are being accepted now. Any Scout considering participation in the 2022 Trek should be at least 15 years old on or before July 1st, 2022 and not yet 19. The Scout should also still be a high school student this academic year. The Scout should also be physically fit and able to complete a typical Philmont trek.

Arch/Dioceses are asked to submit the approval form found on the NCCS St. George Trek website before a participant will be considered for acceptance. I'd also ask that the local committee help us ensure that those participants they nominate are able to complete a typical Philmont trek. No one wants to put a participant in a position of arriving in Albuquerque or Philmont and not being able to participate.

Currently, we are still open to the possibility of having a female crew. The determining factor will be the number of young ladies who are recommended as participants. There is a minimum number of participants we would need to form a crew.

All preparations are moving ahead, and applications are beginning to be received. If you are a member of a local Diocesan committee and know of a young person who would benefit from being a participant on the Trek, now would be the time to submit an application.



Go to <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/st-george-trek> for more information.