



THE BRIDGE

The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

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NCCS embraces USCCB's National Eucharistic Revival

The 2021-2024 strategic plan for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) centers on the theme 'Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ, Source of our Healing and Hope,' and a key priority of this plan focuses on a National Eucharistic Revival with the overarching goal of renewing the Catholic Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. To kick off this movement, plans are in motion in hundreds of dioceses and parishes nationwide for Eucharistic processions to take place on the Feast of Corpus Christi, observed this year on June 19.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting is embracing this initiative and Tim Glemkowski, Executive Director of the National Eucharistic Congress, will speak at our April membership meeting at the Embassy Suites at the airport in Kansas City, on Saturday, April 22, 2023. Most recently, he was Director of Strategy in the Archbishop's Office for the Archdiocese of Denver, assisting with initiatives focused on building for a time of apostolic mission. He is the former founder and president of L'Alto Catholic Institute and Revive Parishes. He authored *Made for Mission: Renewing Your Parish Culture*, which was released in Fall 2019 through *Our Sunday Visitor*. He is an international speaker who has also consulted for many groups,

organizations, dioceses, and parishes. His writing has appeared in numerous print and web-based theological and catechetical publications. Tim cherished his experience and the lessons learned through growing up as a Boy Scout. Tim and his wife, Maggie, live in Lakewood, Colo. with their three young children.

The National Eucharistic Revival will have a strategic three-year focus for formation and discipleship beginning at the grassroots level in individual parishes and dioceses and other Catholic institutions:

Year One (June 2022-June 2023) will be the *Year of Diocesan Revival* in which U.S. bishops respond to the Lord's personal invitation and empower their presbyterates and parish leaders to host events with a Eucharistic focus. These events include Eucharistic Congresses and designated days for formation and reflection. Trained pastors comprising the Eucharistic Preachers initiative have also been commissioned to speak at diocesan events.

Year Two (June 2023-June 2024) is planned as the *Year of Parish Revival*. Individual pastors will engage their staff and parishioners with community-specific activities and events such as catechetical formation on the Real Presence of Christ, opportunities to better understand and enter more deeply into the Paschal Mystery through the celebration of the Mass, and extended opportunities for Adoration and Reconciliation.

Year Three is the *Year of the National Eucharistic Congress and Missionary Sending* and commences with a National Eucharistic Congress set to take place July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis. The USCCB voted overwhelmingly at its semiannual general assembly in November 2021 to advance plans for a National Eucharistic Revival. The National Eucharistic Congress will be the first one in the United States in almost 50 years and expects to draw more than 80,000 Catholics, by way of pilgrimage, into an event of preparation, equipping the faithful as "Eucharistic missionaries" to go out to the existential and physical margins of society emboldened with the flame of divine charity to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ in the world.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

Major changes planned for NCCS website

by
Bill Guglielmi

Please be on the lookout for some exciting enhancements to our social media presence over the remainder of this year. The changes will be quite dynamic. First, you will see a complete overall of our website at **www.nccs-bsa.org**. We will be overhauling this site to bring it into our new brand, getting rid of dated material, and refocusing its content. It will become the final stopping point for any NCCS member to find any needed information for providing programs to Catholic Scouting. It will be the place for any of us to get to keep up to date. Concurrently, we will be refreshing our Catholic Scouting.com website making it the go to site for anyone interested in Catholic Scouting to find the necessary resources involved.

Basically, we will have two related, yet differently purposed, websites. One will be full of resources and the other will be dedicated to getting information to excite Catholic youth and parents who are not involved in Catholic Scouting and to providing pertinent information to Pastors and Youth Ministers outlining the benefits of employing Catholic Scouting as a youth ministry.

We are making significant progress in updating our web presence.



National Catholic Committee on Scouting



FROM THE CHAIR

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has kicked off the National Eucharistic Revival in June, 2022 until we enter the universal Church's jubilee in 2025. Why now? "Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and

summit of our faith: His real presence in the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States." The National Catholic Committee on Scouting will encourage all Scout organizations to lend support their diocese and local parishes. An Ad hoc committee has been established to help develop ways to participate.

On Saturday April 22, 2023 Tim Glemkowski, executive director of the National Eucharistic Revival will be speaking at our membership conference at the Embassy Suites at the Kansas City Airport, I hope you can attend.

We hope you will save these important dates:

National Catholic Youth Conference
November 19-22, 2022
Long Beach, Calif.

National Catholic Committee on Scouting Conference
April 20-23, 2023
Embassy Suite Airport
Kansas City, Kansas

Scouting in the Catholic Church
Philmont Training Center
July 9-15, 2023

Yours in Catholic Scouting as a youth ministry,

John Anthony,
NCCS - National Chair 2022-2025

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.

The Chaplain's Corner

Father Gerard Gentleman

National Chaplain



Recently I was asked if I saw a connection between Christian discipleship and Catholic Scouting. After thinking about the question for a bit I realized that the answer was right in front of me. The Scout Law and Scout Oath are companions to the promises of Baptism and the work of a disciple.

In the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes we are given the framework for living the Christian life and following Jesus as his disciples. The law of Moses and the Sermon on the Mount, given by our Lord, guide us in the practical application of our faith. In doing what we are called to do and avoiding the temptations of sin we follow the path that leads us to eternal life. In the Scout Law, a Scout is called to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Fulfilling the Scout Law is a practicum in discipleship. Being a lawful Scout empowers us to be faithful disciples and daily practitioners of our faith. When we adhere to the Scout Law, we are living the life of a faithful Christian.

In addition, the Scout Oath, made right from the beginning of his or her Scouting journey, is a promise made and renewed throughout a Scout's life. Akin to the way our baptismal promises are made and renewed throughout our life as disciples. As Scouts we promise, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself, physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight." We make that promise in acknowledgement of what we strive to be as Scouts. In baptism we promise to renounce what is evil and profess faith in God and the Church. In both cases we know that there are times we fail to live up to our baptismal promises and the oath we take as Scouts. As Catholics we renew our baptismal promises and we participate in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, to reconcile our infidelity and to be strengthened by God's grace. Through renewing our promises and participating in the sacraments we reorient ourselves and recommit to our baptismal call. As Scouts, we frequently recite the Scout Oath. Each time we recite that oath we are examining our fidelity to these promises and reorienting ourselves in our journey as Scouts and citizens. Being faithful to our baptism is a lifelong effort and adherence to the Scout Oath is always a work in progress. Fidelity to our oath as Scouts most certainly assists us in our fidelity to our baptism.

As I said many times to the Scouts at Philmont this summer, my job as your national chaplain requires me to be a priest for Catholic Scouts around our country. Although we may not know each other, know that I am praying for all Scouts and Scouters, and I ask for your prayers too. At the beginning of another year of school and Scouting, I pray for every one of you, that you might be renewed in faith and that your practice of the Scout Law and Oath will assist you in being the faithful disciple the Lord has called you to be.

Celebration of Vocations Awareness Week set for first week of November

Becoming a priest or a man or woman religious is not primarily our own decision.... Rather it is the response to a call and to a call of love. - Pope Francis, Address to Seminarians and Novices, July 6, 2013

National Vocation Awareness Week, to be celebrated November 6-12, 2022 is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations. This annual awareness program began in 1976 when the U. S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for the observance dates. In 1997, this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which fell on January 13 in 2013. Beginning in 2014, the celebration was moved to the first full week of November.

Local diocesan Catholic Communities and Scouting units should work with their diocesan vocations office and their local parishes to tailor an event to suit their own preferences, such as a special prayer service, having a priest speak on vocations at a retreat or to a Scout meeting, or offering special prayers of thanksgiving during the prayer of the faithful.



Scouting in the Catholic Church training offers insights into NCCS organization and programs to help enhance youth learning

by
Theresa Dirig

Scouting in the Catholic Church was once again held at the Philmont Training Center July 17 – 23, 2022. A training staff of four and five participants spent time together learning about how NCCS is aligned and the programs NCCS offers along with how to enhance learning by our youth. The faculty for this year's course were Theresa Dirig (course director), NCCS Religious Activities Committee chair, Rev. Gerard Gentleman, NCCS National Chaplain, Fernando Ruvalcaba, Diocese of Las Vegas CCS Chairman, and Sheina Ruvalcaba, Diocese of Las Vegas CCS Member.

We also spent time learning more about our faith through Catechism lessons from Fr. Gerard Gentleman. Learning how to implement Renewing the Vision in our programs was brought to life by Sheina Ruvalcaba. The final component of the course is National Catholic Leadership Development. This section was presented by Fernando Ruvalcaba, who kept everyone engaged during his presentations.

Our participants came from California, Texas, Wisconsin and Virginia. We are grateful for their participation and pray they are working on their Jerusalem Cross requirements. One of the amazing stories was of participant George. He came from California partially to be at camp when the St. George Trek returned (he sponsored some of the Scouts), but also to participate in the same course his wife participated in 42 years prior. He shared an article that was in the NCCS Newsletter from the Winter of 1980 talking about her participating and her love of Scouting. His beloved wife Shizuko passed away two years ago. To hear his stories of his wife and see her name on the plaque at the Philmont Chapel was very special. Catholic Scouting was important to both George and Shizuko and they both loved how it helps youth grow.

I think one of the best things about attending training at Philmont is the friends you make and the love of Catholic Scouting that continues to grow. Try to block out time for our course next year – bring your family – enjoy Philmont and come home!



Faculty and staff take time to pose with Bishop Conlon, a strong proponent of the training.



Staff, participants, and family attended Mass at the Philmont chapel.

Detroit Scout discerns God's plan for his life on St. George Trek.

By
Karla Dorweiler

(Editor's Note – This article appeared in the August 23 edition of the Detroit Catholic. It has been edited and is reprinted with their permission).

DETROIT — Most 17-year-old boys wouldn't be thrilled about waking up at 3 a.m. during summer break.

Joshua Progar, on the other hand, couldn't wait to emerge from his tent long before sunrise last month to hike the Tooth of Time, a stony peak on Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Once his group arrived at the top, they celebrated Mass as they took in the vistas. He cites the experience as the highlight of a two-week adventure.

Progar was selected to represent the Archdiocese of Detroit in the St. George Trek, a backcountry experience for vocational discernment organized by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS), which is an advisory committee to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Progar is a member of BSA Troop 3 in Ann Arbor and a parishioner at Mother of Divine Mercy Parish in Detroit.

"The primary goal of the St. George Trek is to provide the participants with an opportunity to consider where God may be calling them," said Fr. Mike Santangelo, who is the Trek director, an Eagle Scout since 1982, and a priest with the Diocese of Trenton, N.J. "The ability to hike in the backcountry of Philmont with priests, seminarians and vowed religious allows the participants to be free of the distractions of the world, to be with like-minded young people, and to be guided by those who have already responded to God's call."

Thirty-four Scouts from around the country participated in the July 2022 trek.



After waking at 3 a.m. to hike to the Tooth of Time, the Scouts attend Mass on the peak.

The group was divided into three crews that traveled together into the backcountry with a priest and a seminarian, hiking four to ten miles per day and setting up camp nightly. Progar was elected to be the chaplain's aide for his crew of 12. He coordinated the daily rosary and prepared for Masses by arranging lectors and other details.

"I enjoyed being in charge of worship because I wanted to help all of us grow in prayer," Progar said.

Steve Terhaar served as Scoutmaster for Troop 3 during Progar's application process, which took place in 2020, though the trek was then delayed. Terhaar wasn't aware of the St. George Trek until Progar brought the information to him and expressed interest in applying. "I think the trek provides a wonderful opportunity beyond our troop for Scouts to further their leadership skills and to further their faith, too," Terhaar said. "What a great thing to go out into nature and share time with those who have like-minded desires for their life and to hear about their journeys."

Troop 3 has received the Pope Paul VI National Catholic Unit Excellence Award, which is issued by the NCCS, every year since its founding in 2010. The troop holds a vocations outing each spring to visit a seminary or religious community and prays a rosary around the campfire on every campout. During the Archdiocese of Detroit's Year of Prayer for Priestly Vocations, vocational experiences like the St. George Trek are key in allowing young people like Progar to listen for God's voice.

"The trek helped me understand more about discernment and brought me to another level of discernment," Progar said. "I learned that if I feel God might be telling me something he wants for me, I can pray for Him to reveal that path." At the end of the trek, Scouts are asked to make a "Covenant Commitment" that includes both a personal spiritual commitment moving forward and a promise to share their experience within their respective dioceses. They also promise to be a peer leader and role model to their fellow Scouts. Progar hopes to travel around the state to tell other troops about the trek and encourage them to apply within their dioceses.

Did You Know...
by Bob Oldowski
(NCCS Historian)

A further look at early NCCS History*

In the 1920s, as Scouting was growing, it began extending to Catholic parishes, thanks to the work of Brother Barnabas, Victor F. Ridder and others. Catholic interest in Scouting continued to increase among clergy and laity alike. Leaders began calling on bishops to promote the program. This led to the U.S. National Council of Bishops forming a committee of bishops who identified Scouting as a positive program for Catholic boys, and set a goal to have a Scout troop in every Catholic parish.

In late 1933, Bishop Francis Kelley of Oklahoma City-Tulsa, as chairman of the committee, reorganized this into the Bishops' Catholic Committee on Scouting. Then in 1934 the National Council BSA approved a "Plan of Cooperation" under which the bishops retained the responsibility for the spiritual welfare of Catholic Scouts, and the BSA placed its programs and facilities at the disposal of its Catholic partners.

This led to be the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Leadership roles eventually were assumed by clergy members and then by lay members also. The NCCS continues to have an Episcopal Liaison serving as a link from the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

*A history prepared in 1976 was re-printed in three parts in The Bridge beginning with the December 2013 edition. Our NCCS web site has back copies of The Bridge newsletters stored there.

NCCS announces new \$2,000 Steenkolk Family scholarship for 2023

By
Julie Doerr

The NCCS Scholarship Committee is excited to announce the new \$2,000 Tony & Patrice Steenkolk Family Scholarship for 2023! Grateful, thankful, and blessed are words that come to mind when reflecting on the NCCS Scholarship Program and the Steenkolk family. They are truly a blessing to Catholic Scouting. In 2023, NCCS will now award ten scholarships totaling \$27,000 through the Emmett J. Doerr, Parater, Davies and Steenkolk Scholarships.

Tony and Patrice's Scouting adventure started over 23 years ago when their oldest son joined as a Wolf Cub. Married for 33 years, they have 4 sons, George, Charles, Henry, and Edward. All have earned Eagle Rank, Vigil Honors in Order of the Arrow, and Roman Catholic religious emblems, with the youngest having earned all four.

Active in their parish, St. Joseph's in Libertyville, Illinois, Tony and Patrice have two passions in Scouting: Duty to God and teaching leadership. Tony has promoted Duty to God for over 15 years at every level, staffed NYLT 9 times including scoutmaster and Wood Badge (WB) staff 3 times. Patrice is also WB trained and was chosen to be on staff this past year. Tony has been awarded the Bronze Pelican and St George religious awards, the Silver Beaver, Distinguished Commissioner Service and holds Vigil Honors in Order of the Arrow. He is currently on the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Archdiocese of Chicago and chairs the subcommittee, for the North East Illinois Council, which he has

led for more than five years. Patrice is also a member of this subcommittee and enjoys teaching the NCCS Religious Activity Saint patch series for the council's annual Catholic Camporee. Both are religious emblems counselors and run the religious emblems boards of review every year for their district. They now treasure spending time with their three granddaughters and with their youngest son currently a senior in college, they are excited to be able to help others with the financial burden of attending college.

Watch for the 2nd annual edition of *Serving Others*, The NCCS Scholarship Newsletter arriving in your inbox this fall to learn more about this year's NCCS Scholarship recipients. Please encourage eligible scouts to apply. For more information and the 2023 application, see the NCCS Scholarship website page: <https://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/college-scholarship>



Tony & Patrice Steenkolk

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

Recently I attended Scouting in the Local Church training. As vocation chair, I presented an overview of the vocations in the Catholic Church. Since then, I realized that I was clearing up some myths about religious life, and I believe this is the best time to do the same here. Here are two which I discussed.

Falsehood 1: Women become sisters because the Church does not permit them to become priests. This is false because women become sisters for the same reasons that men enter religious life. We have been called to give our lives to the service of the Church by Christ who directs us to a religious community with a particular charism or gift received by its founder(s) from the Holy Spirit.

Falsehood 2: A man who is a brother is in a transitional vocation as he prepares for priesthood. This may be true for many men who enter religious life, but it is a false statement nonetheless. When a man enters a religious order, he may enter an order composed solely of brothers, an order mostly priests, or an order that has an unusually small number of priests. The man enters religious life first to be a brother. It is with the permission of his religious superiors that he may prepare for priesthood.

I write this so you have means to explain to Scouts some basic information about religious life. Your diocese or eparchy has consecrated men and women reside in its territory; feel free to ask them questions. You may also email me your questions regarding consecrated life at kosmowski1@udayton.edu.

Training committee continues to refine “levels of training” for membership

By
Chris Murray

The training committee continues to update the material from all the NCCS programs, including adding relevant material from *Christus Vivit* by Pope Francis in the refinement of the various levels of training.

The current training portfolio available for all members is:

Scouting in the Catholic Church (SiCC) was delivered in person at Philmont by trained senior NCCS members from July 17 to 23. This weeklong program will be offered again the summer of 2023 in person at Philmont Scout Training Center starting on Sunday and ending on Friday evening. Registration will be available online when a date is confirmed.

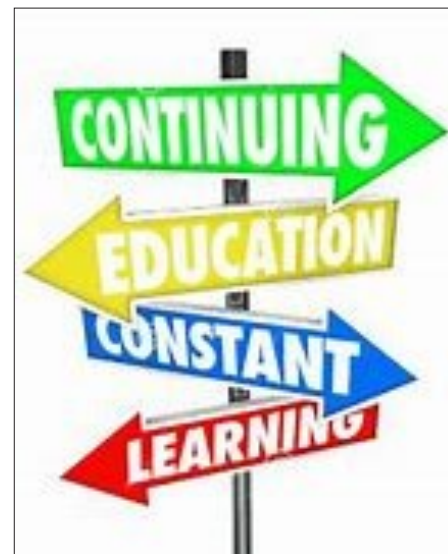
Scouting in the Local Church (SiLC) was delivered virtually again on Zoom from August 21 to 27. This weeklong program will be held again next year, probably virtually on a Sunday from 3-5:15p.m. evenings from 8-10:15 p.m. on

on Saturday between 3-5:30 p.m. Registration will be available online when a date is confirmed.

National Catholic Leadership Development (NCLD) is being updated to better integrate with the other programs and will be delivered by Diocesan leaders at the local level to all unit and district leaders, pastors and parish staff, Youth Ministers, Council staff, and Diocesan leaders. This is promoted as a supplemental “basic” training for individuals dealing with Catholic Scouts. Dates of the availability of the updated integrated program will be announced once it is completed. Check with your Diocesan leaders for dates.

Learning (Fast Start for Catholic Leaders): individual, online, basic “fast start” training which will be expanded from COR training currently available on the BSA training site. Individual programs will be available for unit and district leaders, parents, pastors and parish staff. Youth ministers and diocesan staff.

Date of the availability of the integrated programs will be announced once it is completed. The link to the programs will be available on the NCCS website.





NATIONAL CATHOLIC
COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

We Need Your Help!

Do you want to be a part of providing a world-class, life-changing experience? If you love Catholic Scouting and being a part of high-functioning team that delivers amazing experiences, then we want you on our team supporting the National Catholic Committee on Scouting's exhibit at the 2023 National Jamboree.

What's a Jamboree? It's not a camp. National Jamboree is 360-degrees of fun, friends, and fellowship with hands-on adventure that takes you places you never thought you'd go and challenge you to try things you never thought you could.

The Jamboree will take place from July 19-28, 2023, at the Boy Scouts of America's

SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE, Glen Jean, West Virginia

If you are a registered member of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Boy Scouts of America and are 16 years old or older and meet the necessary medical requirements you can serve on our team. There are three opportunities to serve:

Applicants 34 years of age and older:

- Session 1 (July 16-22, 2023) \$700
- Session 2 (July 23-29, 2023) \$700
- Session 3 (July 16– 29, 2023) \$1200

Applicants 16-33 years of age:

- Session 1 YAJ (July 16-22, 2023) \$400
- Session 2 YAJ (July 23-29, 2023) \$400
- Session 3 JAJ (July 16– 29, 2023) \$675

If you are interested, please contact Bill Guglielmi at:

EMAIL: wguglielmi@gmail.com

Mobile: (813) 766-7769

Detailed information will be provided after this initial contact.