



# THE BRIDGE

The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

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## Apostolic Nuncio celebrates World Scout Jamboree Mass

By Phil Krajcek

The 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree was held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia July 22 through August 1. The NCCS was well represented at the Jamboree with over 20 members and officers serving in various capacities.

Former NCCS National Chaplain Father Mike Hanifin served as the lead Catholic chaplain and NCCS International Committee Chair Phil Krajcek served as the coordinator of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS) booth and other Catholic activities at the Jamboree.

The Faith and Beliefs area at the Summit included a large tent with stalls for displays and activities by most of the world's major religious groups: Catholic, Islam, Hindu, Protestant, Buddhist, Sikh, Judaism and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The ICCS booth at the Jamboree was largely funded by NCCS, but was staffed by volunteers from the United States, Italy, Lebanon and New Zealand.

An estimated 13,000 people visited the booth over the course of the Jamboree. Participants were welcomed with an opportunity to view the daily readings, play bells symbolizing the good news to be spread around the world, lash together a hand-made crucifix as a sign of meeting our Lord who died on the cross for us, and tie a rosary brace-

let signifying the building of a relationship with God through prayer. Scouts were then invited to demonstrate that we are a community that meets in the name of God by sharing their thoughts on a wall poster.

In addition to the booth activities, Father Mike and his team of 12 chaplains celebrated nearly 100 daily Masses in various locations throughout the Summit.

On Sunday, approximately 7,000 worshipers attended a large outdoor Mass at which Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre served as principal celebrant and homilist.

Concelebrants included Bishops Daniel Conlon and Robert Guglielmone, current and former Bishop Liaisons to NCCS;

Auxiliary Bishop Richard Spencer of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA; ICCS World Chaplain Father Jacques Gagey; Fathers Kevin Smith, Gerard Gentleman and Mike Hanifin, from NCCS; and 38 other priests from eight different countries. Reverend Rick Tuggle served as the Archbishop's Deacon.

A reception for the clergy, dignitaries and volunteers followed the Mass.

The Jamboree was tremendously successful as evidenced by the smiles on the faces of all the participants. After years of planning, it's hard to believe the Jamboree is just a memory, but work has already begun on the 25th World Scout Jamboree, hosted by South Korea in 2023!



## Opportunities available to support a variety of NCCS programs and activities

There are many ways you can support the NCCS. In this issue of *The Bridge*, we'd like to highlight two of these opportunities.

**The Miter Society** was established to recognize financial supporters of the St. George Trek, NCCS's premier youth leadership program. The St. George Trek is held every two years at Philmont Scout Ranch. A minimum donation of \$1,000 is required.



The **Golden Ad Altare Dei Award** is given to supporters of NCCS' Endowment Fund for supporting the ministry of our priest chaplains. Minimum donation is \$2,500.



The following new members were recognized at the Annual meeting in Tulsa this past April:

### Miter Society:

Winona Bryant  
Frank Falvey  
Diana Kullman  
Charles Raimond, Jr.  
Fr. Mike Santangelo

### Golden Ad Altare Dei

Terry Grogan  
Charles Raimond, Jr.  
George Sparks  
Zachary Weimer



## National Catholic Committee on Scouting



### FROM THE CHAIR Jim Weiskircher

This month, I would like to challenge each of our diocesan committees to select two qualified individuals to send on the St. George Trek in July 2020. This is a life changing experience for the Scouts to grow in their faith and to be open to hearing the vocation stories of the priests, nuns, and seminarians who will accompany them on their faith journey. Applications are presently being accepted and are on a first come first served basis.

This is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Ad Altare Dei as the first religious emblem approved by the BSA and the Bishops. Over the years, over 400,000 Scouts have earned their Ad Altare Dei award. The first requirements were that a Scout serve in the Church for 150 hours. A high Mass counted for 2 hours and a regular Mass 1 hour. Please reach out to our Catholic youth not served by a Catholic unit and include them in learning more about their faith through the religious emblems program.

The World Scout Jamboree was sponsored by the US, Canada, and Mexico. The International Catholic Committee on Scouting booth and Mass were sponsored by the NCCS. Thank you to all that helped make the first WSJ in the US in 50 years a success. We hosted the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop, Christophe Pierre, who served as the principal celebrant at Sunday Mass, which was attended by more than 7,000 Scouts. The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Conlon, Bishop Guglielmone and Auxiliary Bishop Spencer and a contingent of Catholic priests who were serving as chaplains at the jamboree.

John Anthony served as course director for our 2019 *Scouting in the Catholic Church Conference* at the Philmont Training Center. The small course was excellent and participants left better prepared to deliver Catholic Scouting through their dioceses. Attendance was down this year because Philmont Training Center moved our week up so as not to interfere with the WSJ. Next year, the course will be moved back, and participants will be able to meet the Scouts as they come off of the St. George Trek.

The *Scouting in the Local Church* will be moved on a test to the Summit in June 2020, to allow for more Scouters to attend. Please encourage your committee members to attend. Mark Kramer will be course director.

*Yours in Catholic Scouting as a youth ministry,*

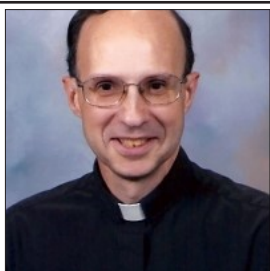
*Jim*

*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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## The Chaplain's Corner

Father Joe Powers  
National Chaplain



Greetings from Independence Missouri, home of President Harry Truman. As this is my first Bridge article since becoming the National Chaplain, let me introduce myself.

I am the second of seven children and home was in Raytown Mo., which is on the western side of the state in the Kansas City metro area. My college and theology years were spent at Conception Seminary College and Kenrick School of Theology in St. Louis. I was ordained for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph on May 12, 1979. My assignments have sent me to all parts of the diocese during the past 40-years. Currently, I am the pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church and Administrator of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, both in Independence Mo. In addition, I serve as our diocesan Scout chaplain.

Scouting has always been a part of my life. I achieved the Arrow of Light and later became an Eagle Scout from Troop 283 on September 24, 1968. I earned the Ad Altare Dei cross and have been honored with adult religious awards. The Heart of America Council awarded me a District Award of Merit and its Silver Beaver. I joined NCCS in 1998 and served as the Region 9 Chaplain. In 2016 I became the Associate National Chaplain under Father Kevin Smith. I have since served on the chaplains' staff at the last 4 National Jamborees – 3 as a subcamp chaplain, and in 2017 in the Chaplains' headquarters with Father Mike Hanifin. Now, I look forward to my new role, together with our Associate National Chaplain, Father Gerard Gentleman.

## Units urged to celebrate Priesthood Sunday in parishes to honor all priests

Priesthood Sunday, celebrated nationwide on the last Sunday of September each year, is a special day to honor the priesthood in the United States. It is a call for parishioners to honor Christ as Priest and the men who were called to be his priests on earth. It is also a day to honor all religious and to focus on the importance of vocations. Catholic Scout Packs, Troops and Venture Crews are encouraged to make a special effort to involve the youth in programs of making appreciation cards to be presented after Mass on this day or at an event planned in your parish.

See [www.priestsunday.org](http://www.priestsunday.org) for some ideas, then plan your own way of honoring the priest(s) of your parish.



## Training opportunities scheduled for Scouting leaders in 2020

The *Scouting in the Catholic Church* training will be conducted at the Philmont Training Center from July 19 to 25, 2020.

Scouting is the perfect tool to bring a new edge to a Parish's youth ministry program or bring new life to a Catholic school's after school programs. Scouting is adventure realized both in the classroom and outside. Scouting can be a Catholic institution's leadership laboratory! Scouting provides resources in STEM, high adventure venues like Philmont, and much more. What Scouting in the Catholic Church does is to help you wrap these programs into a Catholic institution's ministry to youth. Our conference focuses participants not only on the

mission and programs of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS), but also involves them in adult faith formation and an understanding of the concept of Scouting as a youth ministry.

It is designed for any adult interested in using Scouting as a program for Catholic youth ministry such as Scout chaplains, clergy, (arch) diocesan or parish youth ministers, and council, diocesan, regional, and national Catholic Committee leadership and members.

New this year the *Diocesan Development Conference* (also known as "Scouting in the Local Church") will be hosted at the BSA's new training facilities at the Summit in West Virginia from June 22 to 27, 2020.

The goal of the conference is to have the participants develop an understanding of the organizational models and administrative strategies for the successful operation of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting.

This is a great opportunity for Diocesan Committee members to come as a leadership team. It is designed particularly for Diocesan Catholic Committee members, Scout chaplains, clergy, (arch) diocesan or parish youth ministers. Questions about this training should be directed to Mark Kramer, [dccoscf.kramer@gmail.com](mailto:dccoscf.kramer@gmail.com) or 703-839-0389.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ON CATHOLIC  
SCOUTING GO TO  
<http://www.nccs-bsa.org/>

# Scholarships totaling \$20,000 awarded nationwide

Seven service scholarships totaling \$20,000 have been awarded nationwide in 2019 by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) through the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship Fund. To be eligible to apply for the scholarship, a Scout must be Catholic, earned the Ad Altare Dei and/or Pope Pius XII Awards, and received either the Eagle Scout, Summit, or Quartermaster Award. A complete list of award recipients, eligibility requirements and applications can be found online at <http://nccs-bsa.org/index.php/college-scholarship>. Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarship recipients have been chosen because they are committed to making a difference for good in the world through service and leadership in four areas: Church, Community, School and Scouting. These young people are certain to enrich our future.

## Christopher Boken, \$4,000 Scholarship Recipient

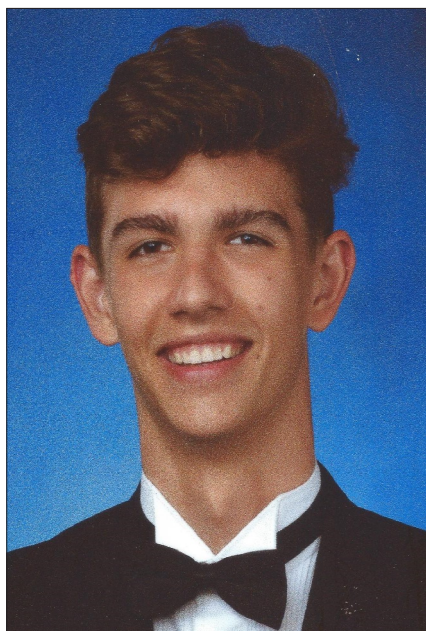
Christopher Boken, of Fremont, CA, member of St. Joseph Church in the Oakland Diocese is the \$4,000 recipient of the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarship.

In 2018, Christopher was selected to participate in a two-week internship at Stanford University's Medical Center. *"This program confirmed my desire to help others as a physician...I am proud to be a Scout and a Catholic and strive to live my faith every day. While I have ups and downs, I feel that I always maintain my balance, learn from my mistakes and ensure that I am acting in a positive manner that sets a good example for others."*

Christopher's Eagle Scout project involved beautifying and improving a meditation garden for the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose in Fremont, Calif. From concept to design, the project took over a year to complete with a combined total of 160 hours to restore the sculpture garden.

Through Scouting, Christopher has held numerous leadership positions in his troop, served as Chaplain's Aide at Philmont Scout Ranch for over six months and

trained for the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) to become a staff member/ trainer.



Eagle Scout Christopher Boken

In his community, Christopher has worked with youth through the Riverdale After School Program and Bachrodt Academy. He has helped the disabled at Hope Services, and as a food server for the disadvantaged and homeless at Centerville Dining Hall. During the summer of 2018, he volunteered 66 hours at Neurosport Rehabilitation, a post-operative therapy center.

At Bellarmine College Preparatory, in San Jose, CA, Christopher was selected as a Freshman Experience "Big Brother". Along with another student, he led and mentored a group of 8 freshmen throughout their first year of high school. Christopher has also shown leadership on the volleyball court representing his school. His JV team was undefeated in the regular season in the West Coast Athletic League (WCAL). Then, moving up to Varsity, his team made it to the semi-finals of the NorCals, regional tournament, seeded 10<sup>th</sup> best team in the country and 8<sup>th</sup> best in the state.

Because of his success in volleyball, he was featured in the July 2018 issue of Boy's Life Magazine. He will attend Creighton University this fall.





# through the Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship Fund

## Matthew Stevenson, \$3,000 Scholarship Recipient

Matthew R. Stevenson of Clackamas, OR, member of St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Portland is the \$3,000 recipient Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarship. As a young boy, Matthew found confidence through his Boy Scout Troop. After crossing over from Cub Scouts he says, *“Some of the troop’s older Scouts took me under their wing. They taught me to persevere when faced with difficult tasks and to serve others without expecting anything in return. The older Scouts and the adult Scouters in the troop encouraged me to take advantage of any service and leadership development opportunities...”*

Matthew’s Eagle Scout Project involved designing, constructing and installing a portable rolling reference library for the Bible Study Program at his parish. His project was completed in six-weeks with a total of 350 project hours.

Matthew was honored with the Frank Parater Recognition Award, presented to Scouts who have earned all four Catholic Scouting awards. He is active in his church and has been an altar server, Eucharistic Minister, Youth Leader for Vacation Bible School and a peer group lead for Youth Connections. Through Campus Ministry, at Jesuit High School in Portland, he was a 2018 Senior Pilgrimage Leadership Team Member, Pilgrimage Walk Lead, Chapter One Student Mentor and Vigil Team lead for a Junior Encounter Retreat.

Matthew became involved with leadership and service in his troop and the Order of the Arrow (OA). From 2014-2017, he led planning for the Three Rivers District Camporee and was responsible for marketing, promotions staffing and competitions. During this time, he held several positions and was elected OA Chapter Chief. In 2016, he was Advanced Scout Track Training Chair before being elected Lodge Administrative Vice Chief where he was responsible for communication of events and service opportunities to over 2,000 members.



He also served as Editor and content contributor for the Lodge’s news magazine. Presently, Matthew is with the Sections Communications Team as content contributor for three lodges in Oregon and Southwest Washington. He is a six Palm Eagle Scout and winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Eagle Scout of the Year 2016, for the State of Oregon.

In his community, Matthew is active in the Filipino Catholic Community of Oregon and Southwest Washington where he serves on the hospitality and liturgy committees. Currently, he also serves as a voting Board Member for the Clackamas County Traffic Safety Commission.

Appointed to Student Government-at-Large by Jesuit High School Administration, Matthew represented his school at the Metro League Leadership Conference for three years and the Ignatian Leadership Development Conference for one.

He is a member of National Honor Society, Asian American Club, Diversity and Inclusion Student Council, a Student Ambassador and Advisory Group Lead. He will attend the University of Seattle.



## Did You Know...?

By Bob Oldowski

NCCS Historian

### The Catholic Scouter/Architect

You probably have heard of the **Sagrada Familia**, the magnificent Catholic basilica in Barcelona, Spain. This has been under construction for over 100 years.

Designed and begun by Antoni Gaudi, this edifice has seen several architects, including **Jordi Bonet** who was chief architect for almost three decades beginning in the 1960s.

Interesting to note is that Jordi Bonet was also heavily involved in Catholic Scouting, most notably with the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS), serving as a delegate member from his country for a dozen years, and then as the ICCS Secretary General from 1977-1981.

He was an architect of both a religious structure and a religious organization.



## St. George Trek - An opportunity for Scouts to explore where God is calling them

By

Fr. Mike Santangelo

St. George Trek, Director

Are you looking for an opportunity to offer one of your Scouts to further explore where God may be calling them? The St. George Trek may be just the answer! The St. George Trek is the NCCS' high adventure Catholic leadership program. What better place for a Scout to explore his or her vocation than in God's country? Philmont Scout Ranch and the St. George Trek offer a very unique opportunity to Catholic Scouts to further discern their vocations while experiencing the beauty of Philmont. The next Trek is scheduled from July 8 – July 23, 2020.

This past summer I was blessed to once again serve at Philmont for part of the summer on staff as a Chaplain. Although the effects of the fires of 2018 are still being felt, and the recovery efforts will be ongoing for some time, Philmont is open again and welcomed a record number of crews this summer. The St. George Trek will still be an opportunity to those who participate to have a once in a lifetime experience.

Who would be a good candidate for the St. George Trek? The Trek is open to those Scouts recommended by their home Arch/Dioceses. Each local Arch/Diocesan committee may set its own criteria for nominating Scouts. However, all Scouts nominated should be emotionally mature adolescents who will be fifteen years of age on or before July 1, 2020 in High School, no older than 18 years old, and committed to assist their Catholic Committee when they return home. The Scout should also meet the Philmont requirements for participating in a trek.

The application process has already begun with several acceptance notifications already being sent out. Each Arch/Diocese can nominate 2 participants at this time. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, space permitting, the limit of 2 Scouts per Arch/Diocese will be lifted and those who have already nominated participants can nominate additional Scouts. For additional information on the St. George Trek, please see the NCCS website or you can contact me at my parish assignment 732-458-0220.





## A VOCATIONS REFLECTION

By

Br. Andrew J. Kosmowski, SM  
Vocations Chair

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Recently, I was asked what the NCCS can do to promote vocations. In some ways, this is easy because the NCCS has reasonable programs to encourage Catholic Scouts to explore vocational discernment, such as the Saint George Trek and the Pope Pius XII emblem. However, the question was more haunting and stayed with me long afterward, in part because vocation work is not solely the arena of vocation directors, Serra Club chapters, the National Religious Vocation Conference, and others. It truly belongs to the entire Church.

So, how can we as individual members of the Church promote vocations? For many laity, it comes to serving the Church faithfully. Does your parish need a sacristan to set up the sacred vessels, wine, and bread before Mass; or a new parish council member; or a new chair for the festival, the school board, the finance committee, or another body? Perhaps your parish needs your gifts in these areas.

Are you learning about the many charisms present in the Church? Many religious orders have lay organizations that promote their gifts to the Church; perhaps Jesus is calling you to follow Him through one of these paths. Doing so will show your children the spirituality of a group within the Church that may be underappreciated by many.

Do you go to Mass outside of the days of obligation? The summer might be a good time to go, and you can bring your children, nieces, nephews, or grandchildren with you. If you are unable to, perhaps you can ask the pastor to consider an experiment of a once per week evening daily Mass so you and your family could attend.

Those of us in consecrated or ordained life had our vocations fostered by our families. In this time of turmoil, when we as a Church are in true need of holy priests, brothers, and sisters, pray that the entire Church may grow in holiness and that we may receive solid vocations to be of service to the Church.

## Chaplains play important role at Philmont Scout Ranch

Catholic chaplains at Philmont are selected by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. They are available for religious services, conferences, and confessions. Daily Masses are celebrated at the camping headquarters. Masses are conducted at outlying camps upon request. Scouts and Scouters of Catholic faith who cannot attend Sunday or weekend mass due to great distances between their camps and the place of mass may fulfill their obligation (through a special privilege granted by the Archbishop of Santa Fe) by attending a daily mass at camping headquarters the evening before departing for the trail or the evening they return to headquarters from the trail.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting would like to thank the following priests for serving as chaplains at Philmont this past Summer: **Rev. Michael A. Santangelo, Rev. Shawn P. Tuning, Rev. Roger A. Lopez OFM, Rev. Steven R. Hoffer, Rev. Mark Carr SJ, Rev. Kevin M. Smith, Rev. Michael Hanifin, Rev. Gerard Gentleman Jr, and Rev. Donald Hummell.**



Rev. Michael Hanifin, Rev. Gerard Gentleman Jr, and Rev. Donald Hummell.

Last meeting in Windy City was in 2005

## NCCS returns to Chicago for 46th Biennial meeting in April 2020

**M**ake plans now to join fellow Scout Chaplains, Scouters and spouses in west suburban Chicago, Illinois, for the 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Our last conference in Chicago (*Schaumburg*) was 14 years ago! The local archdiocesan committee of Chicago is very excited about being our host committee in 2020!

There will be opportunities to attend regional meetings, the NCCS General Business Meeting, an informative workshop offering, 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 23, and the opening conference Mass (our biennial NCCS memorial Mass) is Thursday at 6:15 p.m. The “Showcase 2020” (Ideas Fair) and Trading Post open at 6:30 a.m. on Friday, April 24, followed by Region Meetings and an Advisory Board meeting.

The NCCS General Business Meeting is on Saturday morning, April 24, 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 26, is followed by the Executive Board meeting as well as an all-day Region 7 Convocation/Training Program for Catholic Committee Scouters of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, at which all conference attendees will be invited to register and participate!

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 one-way travel time must be allowed to get to our hotel from the Midway airport if using the CTA Blue Line subway train: take 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. Our NCCS custom room reservations link at:

**<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/O/ORDHRHH-NCCS-20200420/index.jhtml>**

Please make your room reservations *as soon as possible* as

the number of rooms at this rate are limited.

Registration information will be available soon on our website at **[www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org)**. See you in Chicago in April 2020!