



# THE BRIDGE

The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

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## Bishop Conlon receives National Duty to God Award

The Most Reverend Daniel Conlon, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Joliet, IL., and the Liaison on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting is one of only four recipients of the 2022 National Duty to God Award presented by the Boy Scouts of America. Created in 2016 the award distinguishes persons who selflessly work to prepare youth for life by perpetuating the merit and legacy of a Scout's duty to their Creator.

The bishop has been involved in Scouting since his youth days when he rose to be a Life Scout and served on the summer camp staff. He has chaired the Bishops' Committee on Protection of Children and Young People.

His love and passion for the Scouting Program is without question, and knows no bounds. He has served on the Executive Boards of four Councils. He has led three 10-day St. George Treks at Philmont, leading the Scout youth discerning religious life. He has served as the Catholic Chaplain and as a member of Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting in the Dioceses he has served.

He has said that when he retired, he intended on going back to the Scouting position that he felt he had the greatest impact, that of a unit leader. He currently serves as an Assistant Scoutmaster at St. Joseph Parish in Manhattan, IL.



Bishop Conlon is a great ambassador for his council, Scouting, and the Catholic Church. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow and a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award.

This award acknowledges the unswerving dedication to faith, fellowship, and national service of those whose character embodies the moral principles and shared ideals of the Boy Scouts of America and recognizes adult individuals who have demonstrated an exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting. Nominations are open to candidates from all faiths and religious groups chartered by the Boy Scouts of America.

The other recipients included: Clarence E. Crayton, Jr., AME Connectional Director for Boy Scouts, Ed Milbrada, Member of the National Religious Relations Committee, and Ted Spangenberg, Jr., Past President for Baptists for Scouting.



## Father Ross Chamberlain honored with Golden AAD

At the Chicago Biennial, when Laura Ray, long time Training Committee member donated to the Golden AAD fund she completely surprised Training Advisor Father Ross Chamberlain OFM by making it in his honor. Laura, a Training Committee member since 2004, also serves on her council Executive Board, has been a Unit Commissioner, Cubmaster and has held many other leadership positions. She is also a Navy veteran. Laura has been honored with numerous awards, including the Silver Beaver, Bronze Pelican, St. George, Golden AAD, and Miter Society. Her Scouting career began when her children joined Scouting. She took every training offered to provide good programs for her Cub Scouts and continued the same when the boys moved into Scouting.

Laura wanted to recognize Father Ross for all his efforts on behalf of the NCCS and the training committee.

Father Ross is the Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs at St. Bonaventure University. He is an Eagle Scout, OA Vigil member, and a



Philmont chaplain. As a youth he earned the Parvuli Dei and Ad Altare Dei awards. Father Ross co-authored the Scouting in the Local Church course and as Training Advisor, he is helping update NCCS' Continuum of Training: E-Learning modules, NCLD, SILC, and SICC courses.

Father Ross said of the award: *"I was so taken by Laura's generosity, that it didn't occur to me that this would have been awarded to me this year... until it was announced by Jim Weiskircher, National Chair. I was humbled."*



## National Catholic Committee on Scouting



**FROM THE CHAIR**  
**John Anthony**

Greetings Catholic Scouters!

As a boy growing up in the Diocese of Allentown, in Pennsylvania, I was fortunate to be a member of Troop 74 chartered to Saint Catherine of Sienna Parish. My experience was blessed thanks to outstanding adult leadership. As an Eagle Scout and Order of the Arrow member, I served as a staff member for seven years at various local camps. Upon graduation from Allentown College of Saint Francis de Sales, Center Valley, Pennsylvania, which incidentally is where I met my wife.

I started my career as a professional Scouter in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During this time, I received a Masters of Social Services Degree from Murray State University. I have served as Scout Executive in Binghamton, New York and Miami Lakes, Florida. In addition, for thirteen years I gave leadership at the National level to the BSA Learning for Life Program. The adventure continued after retirement. I was asked to serve as membership chair for National Catholic Committee on Scouting eight years ago. Little did I know what God had planned for me upon my work retirement. I feel honored to undertake the role of Chairperson to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. I dedicate my time and talents from God to the advancement of Catholic Youth Ministry through Scouting.

On the popular show "The Chosen", which follows the life of Jesus Christ, in Season 1, episode 7, Jesus invites Matthew to follow him. Matthew replies, "Who me?" to which Jesus responds, "Yes, you." Peter queries, "What are you doing? He is a tax collector!" Jesus says, "Get use to different."

When I reflect on the phrase 'Get use to different' Scouting comes to mind. As a boy, I joined Scouting in 1964. The program has changed over the years. However, the foundation of Catholic Scouting has not wavered. Each time that we participate in Catholic Scouting, we engage in these principles of our faith, the love of God and family and the thrill of adventure.

Recently the director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Fort Worth pointed out to me that 'Scout leaders spend more time with the youth of their parish than do their local directors'. I thought about his comment and came to the realization that he was certainly correct.

We as Catholic Scout Leaders, need to be worthy examples to today's youth. In time, these individuals will be the leaders of our Catholic Church as clergy or lay leaders.

We are called to serve. They deserve our "best".

*Yours in Catholic Scouting,*

*John*

**NCCS - National Chair 2022-2025**

**The Chaplain's Corner**  
**Father Gerard Gentleman**  
**National Chaplain**



My name is Father Gerard Gentleman, I am a proud Eagle Scout, and am honored to begin my service as the National Chaplain for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

I am a native of Long Island, New York in the eastern suburbs of New York City. I entered Scouting as a Cub Scout of Pack 251 and bridged over to Troop 439, both in my hometown of Ronkonkoma. I attended schools in Connetquot Public School District. After graduating High School in 1986 I enrolled at the State University of New York at Fredonia where I obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts Performance in 1990. After graduating college, I spent the next year working at various theatre industry jobs in New York City.

My faith and my vocation were fostered in my home parish of Saint Joseph and later years in the Parish of the Holy Cross. While I was passionate about theatre and all the arts, I felt called to something different and questions about a possible vocation to priesthood lingered in my mind. One year out of college I made the decision to apply to the seminary and further discern where God was calling me. In June of 1997 I completed my studies at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, N.Y. and I was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre on June 14, 1997. I have served as an Associate Pastor, High School Chaplain and in two parishes as Pastor. I am currently Pastor of one of our diocese's largest parishes, Saint Rose of Lima in Massapequa, NY.

Scouting and the Church have been intertwined throughout my life. As a Scout I earned the Ad Altare Dei award and attended various Catholic Scout Retreats. Most importantly, it was the example of my Scoutmaster, Tom Brown, that inspired me in both Scouting and my faith. Mr. Brown was a loving husband and father for his family. To our troop he was a gentle, wise, and faithful leader who motivated us to not only be good Scouts but people who practiced our faith.

A Catholic Scouter whom I remembered from my youth was the catalyst for my reentrance into Scouting as an adult. Bishop Bob Guglielmone, the Bishop Emeritus of Charleston S.C., was a priest of my diocese and the diocesan Scout chaplain when I was a Scout. I never met him directly, but I remembered him from camporee masses, Scout retreats and the annual convocation. After graduating college and discerning my next steps, an article about the seminary and seminarians was published in our local newspaper. Fr. Bob, now a member of the faculty at the seminary was featured in that article and I saw this as an important sign. As it so happened Fr. Bob conducted my admissions interview and after I told him I remembered him from my youth, he invited me to become involved with the church's ministry to Scouting as a seminarian. In his service as National Chaplain, World Chaplain, and a Bishop he has continued to encourage me to live part of my priesthood ministering to and with Scouts and Scouters.

The insight and example of Mr. Brown and Bishop Bob have guided me as I served as Diocesan Chaplain, Chairman of the NCCS Chaplains Committee, Director of the NCCS Saint George Trek, Philmont Chaplain, and Associate National Chaplain. I take on my new responsibilities as National Chaplain because of the impact they and Boy Scouting have made in my life. In thanksgiving to them I dedicate my ministry as the National Chaplain to them.

Understanding the Scouting program as a ministry for and with youth is essential to evangelization and the fostering of one's vocation. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to work with our bishops, national leaders in Youth Ministry, and the Boy Scouts of America. I ask for your prayers for me, our National Chairman John Anthony, and the ministry of Catholic Scouting. Please know that each one of you who makes the sacrifice and commitment to Catholic Scouting is in my prayers.



# Nine recipients named for 2022 NCCS scholarships totaling \$25,000

By Julie Doerr

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is pleased to announce that nine scholarships totaling \$25,000 have been awarded this year. Originally established as the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship, the program has grown and been renamed the NCCS Scholarship Program. Continuing to be awarded are seven Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarships totaling \$20,000: First Place - \$5,000, Second Place - \$4,000, Third Place - \$3,000, plus four additional \$2,000 awards. New this year is the addition of the \$2,000 Bill and Kay Davies Scholarship and the \$3,000 Frank Parater Scholarship. Since 2005, NCCS has awarded a total of \$218,000 in scholarships to 98 Scouts nationwide.

We are proud of every Scout who applies because each applicant has demonstrated leadership and service in four areas: Church, Community, School, and Scouting, earned the Eagle, Summit, and/ or Quartermaster award, and at least one of the following NCCS Religious Emblems, Ad Altare Dei, Pope Pius XII, or Light is Life (Eastern Rite). From this talented group, nine exceptional Scouts have been identified and awarded NCCS Scholarships in 2022.

Over the next few months, discover more about these incredible, young, service-oriented Scouts through NCCS and Catholic Scouting social media. Also watch for the second annual Scholarship Newsletter *Serving Others* to arrive by email at the end of September. Congratulations to the 2022 NCCS Scholarship Recipients!

## EMMETT J. DOERR MEMORIAL SCOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$5,000 – Joshua Soberano, Tyrone, GA, Archdiocese of Atlanta, Flint River Council**

**\$4,000 – Michael Brierton, Junction City, WI, Archdiocese of Lacrosse, Samoset Council**

**\$3,000 – Thomas Kopasko, Harrison City, PA Diocese of Greensburg, Westmoreland-Fayette Council**

**\$2,000 – Matthew Korf, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Northern Star Council**

**\$2,000 – Anthony Haiduk, Groom, TX, Diocese of Amarillo, Golden Spread Council**

**\$2,000 – Patrick McGreevey, Appleton, WI, Diocese of Green Bay, Bay Lakes Council**

**\$2,000 – Evan Nazareth, Cary, NC, Archdiocese of Raleigh, Oconeechee Council**

## BILL AND KAY DAVIES SCHOLARSHIP

**\$2,000 – Theodore Paul Kariuki, Bloomington, MN, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Northern Star Council**

## FRANK PARATER SCHOLARSHIP

**\$3,000 – Matthew Fries, Bartlesville, OK, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Cherokee Area Council**

## Registration now open for Philmont training and virtual training courses

Each year, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) conducts training in a variety of subjects for religious and lay participants with varying experience in Scouting and the Catholic faith. The goal of these training sessions conference is to help participants understand how Scouting is Catholic youth ministry and how to use the information when talking with Scouters, priests, and youth ministers.

The first is the *Scouting in the Catholic Church* training which will be held at the Philmont Training Center in New Mexico from July 17-23, 2022. See the NCCS website for more information about the course and accommodations. Designed for any adult interested in using Scouting to help support Catholic youth ministry in a Catholic chartered unit or other unit, this conference is especially appropriate for Scout chaplains, clergy, diocesan or parish youth ministers, and council, diocesan, regional and national Catholic committee leadership and members.

Registration is open!! For information about the Training Center, conferences, family programs and registration please visit the Philmont website at [www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc.aspx](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc.aspx). For further information or questions, please contact the NCCS Program Administrator, Elizabeth Olivas, email [NCCS@Scouting.org](mailto:NCCS@Scouting.org) or call 214-714-6950.

For those who can't travel, the Committee has the *Scouting in the Local Church* training scheduled for August 21-27 in a virtual format. See the full schedule and registration information at:

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E349400&id=44>. This course will be helpful for Diocesan Chairs and Chaplains, Diocesan and Council staff and youth ministers.

## Partners in Mission: NCCS and NFCYM

Over the past three years, we have been working to build a closer relationship with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministers (NFCYM). The first step was being the title sponsor at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis last November with the theme: Catholic Scouting: Faith, Family, Adventure. The next step is to make every regional chair a member of NFCYM and to work closely with their regional chairs. Our effort at the 2022 NCYC in Long Beach is being led by Bernie Kilcoyne, Region 11 regional chair. NCCS is not just an organizational member or a sponsor of NFCYM, but a *partner in mission* to support and strengthen those who accompany young people as they encounter and follow Jesus Christ.

NFCYM will strive to:

Make adults aware of Catholic Scouting as Youth Ministry through:

Webinars – Create a webinar that explains what Catholic Scouting is and its relationship to parish youth ministry.

Add Catholic Scouting content to “First Things First” online training targeted to new youth ministers.

Develop diocesan-level workshop to bridge the gap between youth ministers, pastors, and Scout leaders.

NFCYM newsletters

“Connected” (quarterly) goes to full membership

“Engaged” (bi-annual) goes to diocesan membership

Annual Report

Print version sent to all bishops

Digital version sent to membership

NCYC Livestream

Catholic Scouting cohost

Branding opportunities

Commercials

NCYC booth



Build Catholic Scouting – NFCYM relationship in the youth ministry community

Create project team for Catholic Scouting webinar

Integrate NCCS training team into “First Things First” project team

Open dialogue with the NFCYM new communications manager for NFCYM newsletter content.



The Brother Barnabas Founders Award is one of the highest recognitions that the NCCS can give and is for long and meritorious service. The award was presented to Father Michael Hanifin at the 47<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, becoming the 21st person to receive this award.



The National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Boy Scouts of America renewed their Memorandum of Understanding at the 47<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference. Pictured are Fr Gerard Gentleman, John Anthony and BSA Chief Scout Executive Roger Mosby.

## Did You Know... by Bob Oldowski

As we approach the century marks of the growth of national Catholic Scouting, let's look back on early history. The impetus began in New York City, headquarters location of the recently founded Boy Scouts of America.

Through the efforts of Brother Barnabas McDonald, F.S.C., and Victor F. Ridder, and with the support of Chief Scout Executive James E. West, the approbation of Cardinal Farley was given to Scouting and a Scout troop was organized in St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish in 1912.

About this time, Brother Barnabas was named Director of the Catholic Bureau of the BSA, working to expand Scouting across the country. Hundreds of Boy Scout troops in parishes from Boston to Richmond were organized by 1919. In the next few years, he and Victor Ridder would establish a Catholic Committee on Scouting.

A further note on Brother Barnabas: In 1923, at the prompting of Br. Barnabas, the Knights of Columbus established a "Boy Life Bureau". He was appointed the bureau's first executive secretary. Although KC councils were involved in Scouts, it was decided to establish a youth section within the Order. Under Br. Barnabas' guidance, the first Columbian Squires circle was instituted in 1925. This would become the KC's national youth program.

In 1927, Brother Barnabas was recognized for his service with the BSA's Silver Buffalo Award.

He died in 1929 at age 64.

## 47th Biennial focused on the importance of Catholic Scouting in Scout's lives

By Jim Weiskircher

After a three-year hiatus, we were able to meet in Chicago for the 47<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference. With all of that has gone on with the BSA bankruptcy, we focused on the importance of Catholic Scouting in the lives of our youth.

Our first speaker was Paul Jarzembowski. Paul is the Associate Director for the Laity at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Washington DC, coordinating the U.S. bishops' national work around the laity and lay leadership, ecclesial movements, youth, young adults, and World Youth Day. Paul was heavily involved in the synod which led to Pope Francis's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*, or Christ is Alive! It deals with young people, faith, and vocational discernment in today's world. His presentation dealt with how Catholic Scouting plays a pivotal role in the lives of our Scouts and how to use *Christus Vivit* as a tool in reaching out to young people. Paul went on

to work with the training committee as well as the Advisory Board to help them understand how to incorporate the findings of *Christus Vivit* into our programs.

Father Gerard Gentleman, Associate National Chaplain, followed up on Paul's presentation on how the themes of *Christus Vivit* and Youth Ministry are an integral part of everything that we do.

We were fortunate to have Roger Mosby, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in attendance. This was the first time that the Chief Scout Executive has spoken at a Biennial Meeting. He spoke on the bankruptcy and the importance of Catholic Scouting in the BSA. "God must always be a part of Scouting and without duty to God, there is no Scouting."

Darius Villalobos serves as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and is the newest member at large on our Executive Board. Mr. Villalobos spoke on

changes in demographics of the Catholic Church and how we need to reach out to those communities to bring the message of Catholic Scouting and youth ministry to them.

In certain countries, Scouting is only for the wealthy and we need to look for ways to be inclusive to all Catholics. He also spoke on the new diversity merit badge and how it can be used as a positive if used correctly for our Scouts.

Our keynote speaker for the banquet was Father Matt O'Donnell from St. Moses, a Black inner-city parish in Chicago. He is an Eagle Scout and pulled together all that we had spoken about for the weekend with his talk on *Christus Vivit* and diversity.

Throughout the weekend the committees were working to build on their programs and plan for the coming year and beyond. I think that all of us missed the personal contact of fellow Catholic Scouters and the high level of energy felt at the conference.



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

I was at my conclave relaxing and enjoying the company of my fellow troublesome brothers and sisters in the Order of the Arrow the weekend before I sat to write this article. In the chaos that is a conclave my lodge hosts, I had many pleasant conversations. I was able to nurture relations with past members of my archdiocese's Catholic Committee on Scouting, which is helpful when your diocese contains parts of five councils. I was able to get answers to questions that my NCCS region needed. Most importantly, I was able to be with Scouts who were not solely from my troop.

I remember one conversation I had Saturday evening with one of the youth of my lodge. We share common acquaintances as some of his fellow students are in my troop and some of the faculty are in my order. We had a chance to speak about his studies, which flowed from theology into prayer quite naturally. As he ended the conversation, he thanked me for being able to have a chat about our faith lives at a Scouting event.

As Catholic Scout leaders, we need to be able to have these conversations with our scouts. One question on which we can share is how scouting has brought us closer to God. Many of my more powerful encounters with God have stemmed from scouting. If we can tell our Scouts how Scouting has brought us into a deeper relationship with Jesus, then they will be able to better see how He is calling them to a deeper relationship through the camping trips and the meetings. Indeed, as scouters, Pope Francis challenges us to do what is easy for us (*Christus vivit* #228).

I invite you to reflect on your entire scouting career, including your days as a scout if applicable, and reflect on how your participation has brought you to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

## **NCCS approves \$25,000 donation to Polish Scouts for Ukrainian refugee support**

Catholic Polish Scouts, as part of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association or ZHP, have been on the front lines of the Ukrainian refugee relief effort since its inception. Since the first day, ZHP has been engaged, reacting to this situation by providing help to citizens of Ukraine seeking shelter in Poland, collecting money, and distributing supplies. It has also launched the Scouts for Scouts platform, an online tool which helps match Scouts and families coming from Ukraine with guide and scout families in Poland.

In 2020 a \$20,000 Chairman and Chaplain's Disaster Relief fund was created to aid in situations like these. At that time, NCCS donated \$5,000 to the Scouts du Libon (Catholic Lebanese Scouts) to support relief efforts of the Beirut explosion. This past March, the Executive Committee approved a \$5,000 grant to ZHP from this fund. Jim Weiskircher, past National Chair, also led an effort to raise funds to support the Catholic Polish Scouts.

Thirty-one individuals responded raising over \$8,000. During the Chicago Biennial meeting the Executive Committee approved an additional \$12,500 to go towards Ukrainian refugee relief efforts through ZHP. In total, over \$25,000 will go to help the refugees, Scouts, and their families. Join us in praying for these refugees and the Scouts supporting them.



**For more information go to:**

**<https://sdgs.scout.org/project/scouts-ukraine-0>**

*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](mailto: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.

# Quality Diocese Award recognizes those dioceses that promote and achieve quality Catholic Scouting programs

## REGION 1

Archdiocese of Boston; Archdiocese of Hartford; Diocese of Bridgeport; Diocese of Norwich; Diocese of Portland, Maine; Diocese of Providence; Diocese of Springfield, Mass.; Diocese of Worcester.

## REGION 2

Archdiocese of New York; Archdiocese of San Juan, Puerto Rico; Diocese of Albany; Diocese of Brooklyn; Diocese of Buffalo; Diocese of Rockville Centre.

## REGION 3

Archdiocese of Philadelphia; Diocese of Allentown; Diocese of Camden; Diocese of Greensburg; Archdiocese of Newark

## REGION 4

Archdiocese for the Military Services; Archdiocese of Baltimore; Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.; Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; Diocese of Wilmington

## REGION 5

Diocese of Knoxville; Diocese of Memphis; Diocese of Owensboro

## REGION 6

Archdiocese of Cincinnati; Diocese of Cleveland; Diocese of Grand Rapids; Diocese of Kalamazoo; Diocese of Lansing

## REGION 7

Archdiocese of Chicago; Archdiocese of Indianapolis; Archdiocese of Milwaukee; Diocese of Belleville; Diocese of Evansville; Diocese of Ft. Wayne-South Bend; Diocese of Gary; Diocese of Green Bay; Diocese of Joliet; Diocese of Lafayette, Ind.; Diocese of Madison; Diocese of Peoria; Diocese of Rockford; Diocese of Springfield, Ill.; Diocese of Superior

## REGION 8

Archdiocese of St. Paul – Minneapolis; Diocese of St. Cloud

## REGION 9

Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph

## REGION 10

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; Diocese of Austin; Diocese of Brownsville; Diocese of Victoria

## REGION 11

Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Diocese of Oakland; Diocese of Sacramento; Diocese of San Bernardino; Diocese of San Diego; Diocese of San Jose

## REGION 12

Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon

## REGION 13

Diocese of Colorado Springs; Diocese of Phoenix; Diocese of Tucson

## REGION 14

Archdiocese of Atlanta; Diocese of Charleston; Diocese of Raleigh; Diocese of Savannah; Diocese of St. Augustine; Diocese of St. Petersburg

