THE BRIDGE

The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

VOLUME 31 NO. 1— SPRING 2022

Meeting scheduled for April 21-24

NCCS returning to Chicago for 47th Biennial meeting

The 47th Biennial Conference of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting will return to Chicago this April. The meeting will run from April 21-24 at the Hilton Rosemont/Chicago O'Hare Hotel in the Convention Center/Entertainment district of Rosemont, adjacent to O'Hare airport. Our last conference in Chicago (Schaumburg) was 16 years ago and an exciting program has been prepared by the conference committee and the local archdiocesan committee of Chicago.

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.

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 speaker for the Advisory Board session will be Paul E. Jarzembowski – Associate Director for the Laity, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In this position he is responsible for coordinating the U.S. bishops' national work around laity and lay leadership, ecclesial movements, youth, young adults, and World Youth Day. He is also the author of the book *Hope from the Ashes* (Paulist Press, 2022) and has been a featured speaker, consultant, trainer, writer, and teacher across the United States and around the world, including the Vatican.

Paul Jarzembowski

The NCCS General Business Meeting is on Saturday morning, April 23 with remarks from Roger Mosby – Chief Scout Executive Boy Scouts of America.

Roger Mosby

Roger was a Scout as a youth and served for more than 33 years as a volunteer in the Mid-America and Sam Houston Area councils, in addition to positions with the Southern Region and National Committees of the Boy Scouts of America, as well as the World Organization of the Scout Movement. He has received the Silver Antelope Award and the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honors for volunteers at the regional and local levels, respectively, and is a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's honor society. He was the 40th American honored by the Bronze Wolf, presented by the World Scouting Movement.

The afternoon Plenary Assembly Address will be presented by Darius A. Villalobos, who serves as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). He previously served in the Archdiocese of Chicago in a variety of ministry roles, including youth ministry, young adult ministry, and catechesis. He currently serves on the National Advisory Team for Young Adult Ministry of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He has also served as a parish RCIA director, liturgical music minister, retreat director, catechist, and youth minister. This will be followed by break-out workshops.

Darius Villalobos

A reception and banquet will follow the Saturday Vigil Mass for the third Sunday of Easter. Father Matt O'Donnell will be the keynote speaker for the banquet. He was named as the winner of the 2018 Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award, sponsored by

(Continued on page 2)

Rev. Matt O'Donnell

NCCS meeting (continued from Page 1)

the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the anti-poverty program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He says he was inspired to be a part of a cohort of other young Catholics who desired to spread the message and work of CCHD as interns, and it was during my time as a CCHD intern that he discerned his vocation to the priesthood. As a seminarian at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, Father Matt was a part of the Peace and Justice/Gospel of Life Apostolate, which exists to spread the Good News of God's love for all mankind by promoting human life in all stages, especially for the most vulnerable, poor, and marginalized. He also volunteered with Kolbe House Jail Ministry, spending time visiting the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. He also volunteered with Kolbe House Jail Ministry, spending time visiting the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.

His dedication to the poor as a seminarian even took him to the Archdiocese of Jos in Nigeria, where he lived for one month with the Our Lady of Apostle Sisters in the village of Zawan, volunteering at the orphanage and hospital there.

The meeting ends with a Sunday Prayer Breakfast, followed by the Executive Board meeting.

For more information go to **http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/biennial-meeting**

National Catholic Committee on Scouting

FROM THE CHAIR
Jim Weiskircher

It has been 3 years since we last met in person. I would encourage everyone to consider joining us in Chicago for the 47th biennial conference. With all that has gone on with the bankruptcy of the BSA, some dioceses going with facility use agreements, along with the challenges of the pandemic, it is important to come together to chart our future course.

We have assembled an incredible group of speakers to help address current issues in youth ministry and Scouting. Eagle Scout Father Matt O'Donnell will be the keynote speaker Saturday night. He was named as the winner of the 2018 Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award, sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the anti-poverty program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Roger Mosby, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts will speak on Saturday, along with Darius Villalobos, Director of Diversity at the NFCYM. Paul Jarzembowski, from the USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth will speak on Christus Vivat on Friday and give us an update on the forthcoming bishops pastoral letter on Christus Vivat.

As the NCCS, it is our job to provide the resources for the diocesan committees to have a vibrant youth ministry program. The NFCYM captures the essence of our program entitled "Empowering young people to be missionary disciples by equipping adults as they accompany youth."
I hope to see you in Chicago in April.

Yours in Catholic Scouting as a youth ministry,

Jim

Is now time to review your religious emblems program?

by
John Savage, Chair

I want to share two thoughts today.

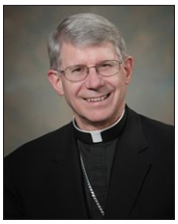
First, our Scout units are starting to return to more normal operations. Now would be a good time to take a look at their participation in the Religious Emblems program. Are your Scouts earning their emblems? What can you do to encourage and help them? A Scout is Reverent. There's no better way to "Do my Duty to God" than by helping each Scout earn the age-appropriate emblem for his or her program.

Second, the Emblems Committee is here to help you. How can we help your Scouts get more out of the programs we offer? What support do you need in order to have a more successful emblems program? We'd like to hear from you. Please send your thoughts to NCCS-Emblems@comcast.net.

New religious activity features Bishop Conlon sharing what it is like to be a Bishop

by
Theresa Dirig

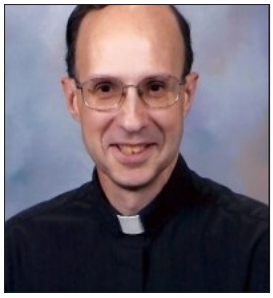
It's always good to see the best in all situations. The COVID lockdown had a very positive impact on the Religious Activities Committee. We learned to use technology in our favor and found individuals who were willing to share their knowledge of our Religious Activities with our virtual audience. Our latest offering was probably one of our best!



We had our own Bishop Liaison – Bishop Daniel Conlon - as our guest, sharing with the Scouts what it's like to be bishop, Shepherd of the Flock. We introduced Bishop Conlon and he went straight to work speaking so gently and lovingly to our youth. He explained how he was called to be a bishop and what the steps are to that calling.

His explanation of the motto on his coat of arms will make you smile – Take Courage. He asked the youth questions, and he also answered questions. I believe he helped the Scouts learn that they could and should talk to their own bishop.

Be sure to go to NCCS-BSA website and watch the Virtual Lesson on "Bishop, Shepherd of the Flock," and learn more about our Bishop Liaison.



The Chaplain's Corner

Father Joe Powers

National Chaplain

The first line in *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens says, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". While "worst of times" might be too strong, BSA has gone through tremendous changes that have affected its membership and chartering organizations. Catholic Scouting has been no stranger to the aftereffects of these changes. During all of this, the "best of times" has come to the forefront in our efforts to promote the benefits of Catholic Scouting. Through the efforts of people past and present, NCCS offers two quality training programs, religious emblems and activities, chaplaincy at Philmont and Jamborees. Our most recent endeavor with the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers (NFCYM) and the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) show that we are forging ahead with the message that "Scouting is Youth Ministry".

Come April 25th at the Executive Board meeting, I will transition from being your National Chaplain to the role of Past National Chaplain for the next three years. When asked in 2016 to serve as Associate National Chaplain, I admit that it was a bit daunting to hear that it was a nine-year term broken into three sets of 3-years each. I remember Col. (Ret.) John Halloran telling me that even the "quiet ones" have a role. It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your National Chaplain, together with Jim Weiskircher, National Chair.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

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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NCCS National Chaplain	**Father Joe Powers**
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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.

The following weblink will take you to other virtual lessons that have been offered on various Religious Activities. **http://nccs-bsa.org/index.php/religious-activities/virtual-lesson-weblinks** These may be used as an alternative to the Actions and Requirements that are listed on the individual Religious Activity. These lessons are offered by individuals knowledgeable on the specific Religious Activity. After viewing the lesson, you may order the associated patch, and/or learn more about that particular specific activity using the trifold for that Religious Activity. New lessons will be added as available.

SCOUTING IN THE DIOCESES

New outdoor Stations of the Cross are ready for this Lenten Season at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Lexington, Kentucky. Station one is located at the Grotto. Stations two through fourteen follow the sidewalk on the school side looping around the church building ending outside behind the altar. Prayer books are available at Station one. There are additional prayer books inside the front entrance of the Church. The Station boxes are custom made using cedar wood, housing a ceramic painted tile from Naples, Italy. The Stations were constructed by a team of Boy Scouts and leaders led by Aaron Falk as his Eagle Scout Service Project.

The Archdiocese of Louisville Catholic Committee on Scouting held its annual Prayer Service and Emblem Presentation at the Cathedral of the Assumption Jan. 30. Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz presided at the service and was assisted by Father Troy Overton and Deacon Dan Bisig. More than 60 Scouts and adult leaders were honored.

Fr. Scott VanDerveer celebrated Scout Sunday at St. Mary's Church in Glens Falls, NY.

NCCS 2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the following individuals for being elected to their respective Executive Board positions. These individuals will be recognized and assume their positions at the end of the Executive Board meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2022.

Chair-elect (3-year term): Bill Guglielmi

Vice Chairs (2-year terms) Susan Barriball and Chris Murray

Guglielmi

Barriball

Murray

Regional Chairmen and Chaplains (3-year term):

Region 1 Chair	John Meakin
Region 2 Chaplain	Fr. Frank Zero
Region 3 Chaplain	Fr. Michael Santangelo
Region 4 Chaplain	Fr. Raymond Fecteau
Region 5 Chair	Chris Manning
Region 7 Chaplain	Fr. Mark Augustine
Region 8 Chair	Michael Fratto
Region 10 Chair	Charles Raimond Sr.
Region 11 Chair	Bernie Kilcoyne
Region 13 Chaplain	Fr. Ronald Walters OFM

In addition, Fr. Shawn Tunink, will be appointed to fill the vacant Region 9 Chaplain position.

New Standing Committee and other Leadership Appointments

As John Anthony assumes his position as National Chair in April, he is making the following appointments that will begin at the end of the Annual Meeting in April:

Advisory Board	Chair: Ed Martin	Advisor: Fr. Don Hummel
Vice Chair -Finance	Chair: John Doerr*	Advisor: Fr. Kevin Smith
Membership Chair	Chair: Jon Richers	Advisor: Deacon Lance Weakland
Religious Emblems	Chair: John Savage*	Advisor: Fr. Jason Adams
Religious Activities	Chair: Theresa Dirig*	Advisor: Fr. Eric Groner, SVD*
Training	Chair: Joseph Daniszewski	Advisor: Fr. Ross Chamberland OFM*
Chaplains	Chair: Fr. Joe Weber	Advisor: Fr. Steve Salvador
International	Chair: Phil Krajec*	Advisor: Fr. Michael Hanifin*
Vocations	Chair: Bro. Andrew Kosmowski*	Advisor: Fr. David Friel
Marketing and PR	Chair: Jason Wolz*	Advisor: Fr. Roger Lopez*
Conference	Chair: Fr. Randy Cuevas*	Advisor: Kay Davies*
Parliamentarian	Edward Gargiulo*	
Legal Counsel	Todd Lundquist	
Scholarships	Chair: Julie Doerr	Advisor: Deacon Ben Feril
St. George Trek	Chair: Fr. Michael Santanglo*	Advisor: Deacon Tommy Watts*
Historian	Bob Oldowski*	

* INCUMBENT

Jim Weiskircher and Fr. Joe Powers, as former National Chair and Chaplain, move to the positions of Nominating and Manpower Committee Chair and Advisor respectively.

Did You Know…
by Bob Oldowski
(NCCS Historian)

In 1992, 30 years ago, a group of 63 Scouts from around the country embarked on the first national Catholic Youth Leadership Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. These were young men who had indicated an interest in religious vocations. Their leaders were nine priests and seven seminarians. Thirty-three dioceses were represented. Over a twelve-day period, the Scouts backpacked in the mountains and experienced a new spirituality while learning new leadership skills and discovering that priests and religious have fun too.

In 1995, the trek was re-titled as the Saint George Trek. This became a biennial event that continues today. In 1998, a crew of Venture girls was added, led by two women religious. And many times, a bishop trekked along with the group. At least two young men have gone on to be ordained. Many local diocesan CCS committees provide scholarships to their youth who participate. This year will be the 15th such trek.

Training Committee to focus on refining four levels of NCCS training

by
Chris Murray
Training Chairman

The training committee continues to reflect on the activities of the last two years and in this coming year we will focus on the refinement of the four levels of NCCS training:

Scouting in the Catholic Church - JULY 17 TO 23

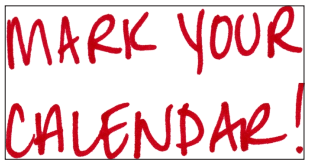
Scouting in the Catholic Church (SiCC) will be delivered in person at Philmont by trained senior NCCS members to Regional and Diocesan CCOS leaders, Council scout leaders and staff, as well as diocesan staff ad youth ministers. This weeklong program will be in person at Philmont Scout Training Center starting on Sunday and ending Friday evening. Registration is available online at **nccs-bsa.org.**

Scouting in the Local Church - JUNE 5 TO 11

Scouting in the Local Church (SiLC) will be delivered virtually again possibly followed by a one day in-person session at sites around the country as an optional "advanced" training. This weeklong program will be held virtually starting on Sunday from 3-4:30 PM, evenings from 6-8:30 PM on Monday to Friday and ending on Saturday from 3-5:00 PM. Registration will be posted by March on the NCCS website at **nccs-bsa.org**

National Catholic Leadership Development (NCLD) -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 staff and promoted as a supplemental "basic" training. Targeted date of the availability of the integrated program is August 2022. Check with your Diocesan leaders for dates.

e-Learning (Fast Start for Catholic Leaders): individual, online, basic "fast start" training which will be expanded from COR's to all unit and district leaders, parents, pastors and parish staff, Youth Ministers, Council staff, and Diocesan staff. Targeted availability of the additional programs is September 2022. Access will be listed on the NCCS website by September 1.



NCCS to award nine scholarships this year, totaling $25,000

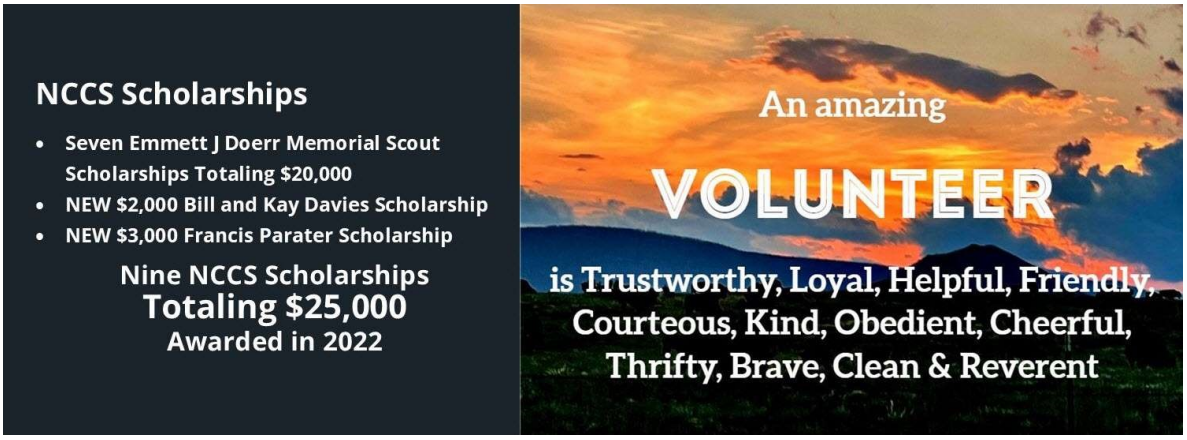
by
Julie Doerr

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting will award nine scholarships this year, totaling $25,000. Applications for this year's scholarships were due March 1st. Originally established as the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship, the program has grown and is continuing as the NCCS Scholarship Program. Awards this year include seven Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarships: $5,000 for first-place, $4,000 for second-place, $3,000 for third, plus four additional $2,000 scholarships. Also being awarded are the new Bill and Kay Davies Scholarship of $2,000 and the new Frank Parater Scholarship of $3,000. Applicants only need to fill out one application to be automatically considered for all awards. Scholarships are awarded to service-oriented high school seniors who are Catholic Scouts in a BSA Program and continuing their education in college. All scholarships are based on service to Church, Community, School and Scouting. For more information and the 2022 application, go to the NCCS Website at https://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/college-scholarship.

Have you ever wondered how the scholarship recipients are chosen? Being unable to meet for the past two years due to COVID, members of the Scholarship Committee are once again gathering at the Biennial meeting in Chicago to determine the 2022 scholarship recipients. Each application is read three times by three different judges, then each section is scored on a 1-to-5-point scale. This process takes two or more full days depending on the number of applications received. New this year, the scholarship application now includes a system of check boxes for each of the four areas of service. This makes the application easier to fill out for those applying and easier for the judges to compare. Judges also read the two short essays submitted by the applicants. The first question asks why volunteering is important and why they should be selected as a recipient of an NCCS Scholarship. The second essay requires a description of the Eagle Scout, Summit and/or Quartermaster Project(s). In addition, the Scout's high school transcript is checked over for passing grades and four letters of recommendation, one from each area of service are read to get a better understanding of the applicant's service, character and leadership abilities.

Scholarship committee members have commented on how very rewarding it is to read about the wonderful accomplishments these young people have achieved. They are also impressed by the countless hours of service provided to their churches, communities, schools and Scouting. If you are interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee during the Biennial Meeting in Chicago, please email Elizabeth Olivas at **Elizabeth.Olivas@scouting.org.** There will be a short training session the first day to prepare everyone for the judging process.

Thank you to everyone involved in Catholic Scouting for helping to mentor and encourage these incredibly talented Catholic Scouts. These young people are certain to enrich our future.



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

One position of responsibility that many of our units have is the Chaplain's Aide. If your units are like mine, this Scout becomes a prayer leader and a server for Scout camp Mass. This position can be more with some encouragement.

If your unit camps near your parish, your chaplain's aide can invite the pastor to visit, even if it is for a short time, so the pastor can better appreciate how Scouts work. This might be fantastic for summer camp. Your pastor might even be willing to say Mass during that week for your troop. Consult with your local Catholic Committee on Scouting to prevent duplicative efforts. Also, invite other units to join you.

If your unit is camping away from home and you might need to find Mass near your campsite, your chaplain's aide can assist in researching this. Masstimes.org is a wonderful tool in finding out where Mass is celebrated and when. Obviously, your chaplain's aide needs to verify the time with the parish. This is especially important to fulfill the Sunday obligation.

If your unit is very far away and cannot attend Mass, your chaplain's aide should develop a special prayer service to assist in fulfilling the Sunday obligation. This prayer service needs to support the faith of all Scouts, so a rosary might not work. However, a service like a Liturgy of the Word with reflection and intercessions can work. Philmont has prepared a trail prayerbook with services that touch upon many different faiths. If no one in your unit has this, asking around the district and council may yield results. With these in hand, your chaplain's aide can lead your unit in prayer.

NCCS major donors will be recognized at Biennial Meeting

by
John Doerr

Every day, NCCS members and volunteers support Scouting as Youth Ministry through donations of their time, talent, and treasure. NCCS will recognize those making a significant financial impact at the ***Breakfast of Champions*** during our Chicago Biennial meeting in April.

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 **NCCS Scholarship** fund endows college scholarships for service-oriented Scouts.

The **St. George Memorial** fund recognizes individuals who made a significant impact on Scouting and have passed away. Minimum donation is $1,000.

We would like to thank these individuals for their outstanding support:

Miter Society: 2020 - John Doerr, Julie Doerr, Fr. Ray Fecteau, Lance Hirsch, George Hyde, William Jenkins, Bernie Kilcoyne, Thad Podbielski, Harry Thoms, Tony Williams, Davis Wright. **2021** - Michael Brault, Kyle Brendel, Barbara Dudek, Mark Glaudini, William Guglielmi, Todd Lundquist, David Maffey, Anne Moskal, Scott Reid, Sean Stech.

Golden Ad Altare Dei: 2020 – Frank Falbey, Brian Girskis, George Hyde, Paul Maffey, Ed Martin, Davis Wright. **2021 -** Fr. Gerard Gentleman, Bill Jenkins, Scott Reid, Sean Stech.

NCCS Scholarship: Bill Davies, Kay Davies, Hunter Piper.

St. George Memorial: **2020** – George Hyde (in memory of M. Hyde). **2021** - John Anthony (in memory of John P. Anthony, Irene A. Anthony, Evelyn M. McAlevey, J.Henry McAlevey, and Dennis M. McAlevey), Phil Krajec (in memory of Barb Krajec), Marie Reintjes Simons (in memory of Reverend Thomas E. Gallenbach), Jim Weiskircher (in memory of Chuck Swoope).

Please join them in supporting the NCCS by visiting us at **www.nccs-bsa.org**