# National Catholic Committee on Scouting

®

# Annual Report

## Boy Scouting in the Catholic Church

**(April 2013 – March 2014)**

**Edward P. Martin**
**National Chair**

**Reverend Michael P. Hanifin**
**National Chaplain**

**The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone**
**NCCS Bishop Liaison**

**Lee Shaw Jr.**
**Team Leader, Community Alliances, BSA**

## About the National Catholic Committee on Scouting

**Mission.** The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) exists to utilize and ensure the constructive use of BSA programs as a viable form of youth ministry with Catholic youth of our nation**.**

**Authority.** The NCCS is a committee of concerned Catholic laity, consecrated religious, and clergy, advisory to the Boy Scouts of America, and relates to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) through its NCCS Bishop Liaison.

**Goals of Catholic Youth Ministry** (from *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, http://www.usccb.org/about/laity-marriage-family-life-and-youth/young-adults/renewing-the-vision.cfm)

1. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today,
2. To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.
3. To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

Some of the ways in which the NCCS is addressing these goals (also see Scouting is Youth Ministry, http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/522-451/522-451_low_english.pdf):

- Encouraging the formation and support of Catholic-chartered units.
- Supporting diocesan Catholic Boy Scouting committees.
- Offering Catholic programs complementary to BSA programs.
- Providing formation and activity training for leaders and youth.
- Developing programs and activities to supplement the secular Scouting program and delivering these through the operations of local arch/diocesan/eparchy Scout committees.
- Making NCCS religious emblems literature available at local Scout shops, on BSA National Supply web site, www.Scoutstuff.org, and at P. R. A. Y. website, www.praypub.org.

## Mission of the Boy Scouts of America

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping instill values in young people, and preparing them to make ethical decisions during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we try to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

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National Catholic Committee on Scouting
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April 2014

This past year, the first of our 3-year term, was certainly a challenging one for us and the organization! BSA's decision to add this statement to its youth membership standard, "No youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone", probably created more interest, concern and discussion about the future of Scouting in the USA than any decision since women were allowed to register as members.

The topic drew a record number of hits on our Facebook page. We responded personally to over 200 emails. The effort to identify and respond to the 40 FAQs (see Appendix) required effort from the Executive Board that hadn't been undertaken since a Membership Initiative was launched in 2002. We thank all those who participated! We knew some pastors and others would not agree with us on our understanding of the BSA decision, but the numbers appear to be few. We believe our response in educating the Catholic Scouting community was effective.

The year 2013 was also a year for the BSA National Jamboree and the NCCS St. George Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch. The Jamboree was held for the first time at The Summit, a new high-adventure camp in West Virginia. Catholic priests comprised 13 of about 50 religious from various faith traditions who served as chaplains. Our booth worked with over 1000 youth and adults to make rosaries, to learn the prayers and to understand the practice. The St. George Trek, under the direction of Fr. Gerard Gentleman, took 70 young men and women from across the country into the Sangre de Christo mountains to enhance their spiritual and leadership formation.

These are just a few of the programs and activities we conducted during the past year. Below is a list of some of our other programs and accomplishments. You can read more about these and the rest of our efforts later in the annual report.

- Provided 4 full-time (9 total) Catholic chaplains at Philmont Scout Ranch
- Trained 35 individuals who attended our advanced course, *Scouting in the Catholic Church,* how to use Scouting as Catholic youth ministry
- Awarded $2000 college scholarships to 5 Catholic Eagle Scouts
- Revised eligibility for the Ad Altare Dei program to allow Catholic girls registered in any BSA program to earn the emblem
- Developed 9 new religious activity programs
- Established the Miter Society to provide continued financial support for St. George Trek
- Provided financial and volunteer support to the International Conference of Catholic Scouting (ICCS)

- Used our affiliation with NFCYM to create awareness of our programs at their National Catholic Youth Conference
- Hosted a breakfast at the US bishops' annual meeting to increase awareness of our programs and respond to concerns about the change in BSA's youth membership standard
- Deployed an internet-based tool to enable online registration for meetings, NCCS membership, and acceptance of donations
- Hired a new Program Assistant, Elizabeth Romero-Coca, to replace Nancy Watts, who retired

We have established three key objectives for our 3-year term. They are:

1. Charter 300 new units
2. Double the rate of participation in the religious emblem and religious activity programs
3. Conduct at least one training workshop in every region

Plans of action for each of these have been drafted with some action items already underway. We expect to have more execution during the coming year. With your help and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to pursue and achieve these objectives.

Yours in Catholic Scouting,

Edward P. Martin
National Chairman (2013-2016)

Fr. Michael P. Hanifin
National Chaplain (2013-2016)

## THE CATHOLIC SCOUTING COMMUNITY

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) has been able to provide a Catholic emphasis to over 250,000 youth and 8,000 adult registered members of the Boy Scouts of America for over 80 years.

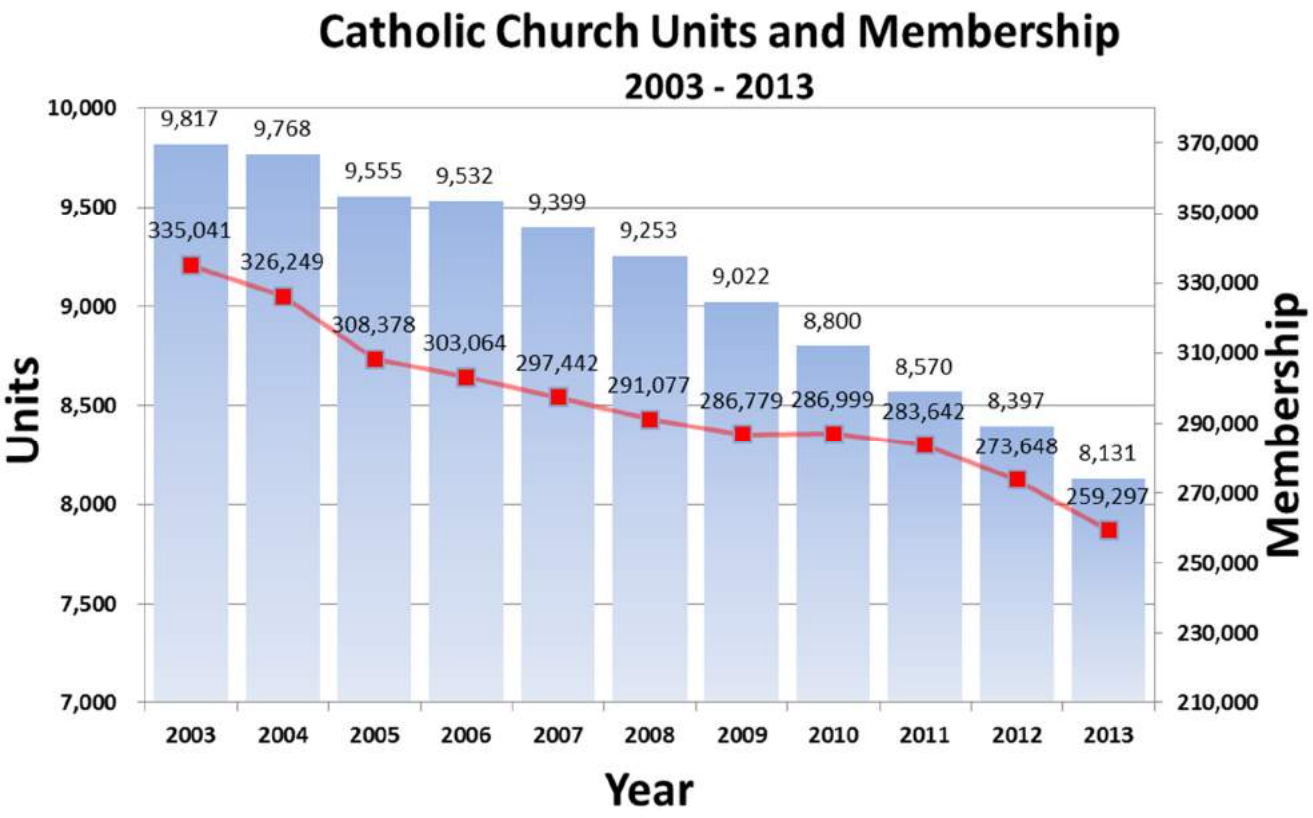
The Boy Scouts of America's change in youth membership standard presented challenges in membership program-wide. We are greatly encouraged because the BSA leadership worked closely with chartered partners (including the Catholic Church) to craft a policy that is not in conflict with Catholic teaching. NCCS Chairman Ed Martin, National Chaplain Fr. Michael Hanifin, and our liaison with the USCCB, Bishop Robert Guglielmone, worked diligently after the decision to seek and provide clarification.

As Ed Martin stated in his May 29th open letter to Catholic Scouters, "After … some prayer and discernment, I have come to the following conclusions:

- Scouting is still the best youth-serving program available to all youth
- We should be encouraged that the change in BSA's youth membership standard is not in conflict with Catholic teaching
- We need to use this opportunity to show our commitment to making Catholic Scouting a safe environment for all youth in which the Catholic faith is taught, practiced and nurtured.

Upon reviewing our membership and unit trends over the past eleven years, we must now recommit ourselves to growing Catholic Scouting throughout the country. It has been ten years since our last major initiative. For the 2014-15 year, the Membership Committee is rolling out a nationwide membership and new-unit initiative.

To assist diocesan committees in promoting membership locally, the NCCS provides them with quarterly membership reports that list all Catholic-chartered units, the chartered organization (parish, K of C council, Catholic school, etc.) and the number of registered youth and adults. These reports are distributed via the regional chairs.




**Catholic Units and Membership Compared to BSA as a Whole and Prior Year**

| | Traditional Membership | | Traditional Units | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | BSA | Catholics | BSA | Catholics |
| **2013** | 2,497,345 | 259,297 | 105,161 | 8,131 |
| **2012** | 2,658,052 | 273,648 | 108,971 | 8,397 |
| **Difference** | -160,707 | -14,750 | -3,810 | -279 |
| **Difference %** | -6% | -5.4% | -3.5% | -3.3% |

# PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

## RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS

**Participation.** Based on sales of religious emblem booklets and emblems, participation in the programs continues its decline. Sales during calendar year 2013 decreased 38% and 14% respectively from 2012. Based on sales of emblems provided by our vendor (Esco) and traditional membership numbers provided by BSA, we can estimate the rate of participation for a given calendar year. For 2012, we estimate only 6% of youth in Catholic-chartered units received a religious emblem. This is a significant drop from 9% 10 years prior. We have set a goal to double the rate of participation.

| | Cub Scouts | Boy Scouts | Venturers | All Youth | Adult |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 Catholic | 10,762 | 2,602 | 922 | 14,286 | 64 |
| 2012 Catholic | 13,831 | 2,368 | 941 | 17,140 | 195 |
| 2011 Catholic | 15,514 | 2,863 | 785 | 19,162 | 224 |
| 2010 Catholic | 15,525 | 3,530 | 1,027 | 20,082 | 865 |
| 2009 Catholic | 18,016 | 2,778 | 897 | 21,691 | 187 |
| 2008 Catholic | 18,527 | 3,674 | 1,125 | 23,356 | 273 |
| 2007 Catholic | 18,184 | 2,841 | 841 | 22,340 | 679 |
| 2006 Catholic | 23,930 | 3,984 | 1,443 | 29,357 | 745 |
| 2005 Catholic | 25,694 | 3,809 | 1,232 | 30,735 | 784 |
| 2004 Catholic | 23,640 | 3,676 | 1,235 | 28,551 | 780 |
| 2003 Catholic | 26,622 | 4,348 | 1,476 | 32,446 | 758 |
| | | | | | |
| 2013 All Faiths | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2012 All Faiths | 30,979 | 5,073 | 2,011 | 38,063 | 740 |
| 2011 All Faiths | 33,098 | 5,617 | 1,853 | 40,568 | 785 |
| 2010 All Faiths | 34,675 | 6,651 | 2,209 | 43,535 | 1,568 |
| 2009 All Faiths | 37,239 | 5,628 | 1,853 | 44,690 | 930 |
| 2008 All Faiths | 18,264 | 2,478 | 1,020 | 21,762 | 645 |
| 2007 All Faiths | 36,874 | 5,648 | 1,874 | 44,364 | 1,257 |
| 2006 All faiths | 56,454 | 13,037 | 5,656 | 75,147 | 5,613 |
| 2005 All faiths | 55,215 | 12,432 | 5,058 | 72,705 | 5,858 |
| 2004 All faiths | 56,637 | 12,830 | 5,384 | 74,850 | 5,821 |
| 2003 All Faiths | 65,148 | 12,812 | 7,263 | 85,223 | 5,604 |
| **Source: ESCO/PRAY Publications** | | | | | |

| Emblems Sold | 2013 | 2004 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Boy Scouts | 3,524 | 4,911 | -28% |
| Cub Scouts | 10,762 | 23,640 | -54% |

| Rate of Participation | 2012 | 2003 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Scouts | 6% | 9% | -33% |

**Ad Altare Dei Program.** The Executive Board approved a motion from the Religious Emblems committee to extend eligibility for the Ad Altare Dei (AAD) program to Scouts who satisfy the following criteria:

- Have been baptized into the Catholic faith
- Are members of the Boy Scouts of America in a Boy Scout troop, Venturing crew, Sea Scout ship, or Varsity team
- Have been registered in their unit for at least 6 months
- Have completed the sixth grade

The content of the program is still designed for 13 to 14 year olds. Youth members over 14 may complete the AAD; however, the Pope Pius XII emblem is recommended instead, as it is designed for youth 15 and older. Adults 18 and older in a Scout troop, or 21 and older in a Venturing crew or Sea Scout ship, are not eligible to work on or receive the Ad Altare Dei religious emblem.

Scouts of the Eastern Catholic Churches are encouraged to earn the *Light is Life* emblem. This program achieves similar faith growth within their respective ritual experiences. Interested Scouts are encouraged to contact their local eparchy for more information.

**Development of a Fifth Religious Emblem Program**. The Executive Committee has been unable to achieve a consensus on the need or justification to develop a fifth religious emblem. The Executive Committee believes this activity is low on the current list of action items to be undertaken by the Religious Emblems Committee and has directed the committee to discontinue its efforts on that action item.

## RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

**Participation.** Participation in our religious activity programs has remained steady. Based on sales, there was a slight increase of 2% over 2012.

| Rank | Religious Activity Program | Percent of Sales |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Father Michael McGivney | 12.8 |
| 2 | Joyful Mysteries | 12.2 |
| 3 | Pray the Rosary | 10.9 |
| 4 | Sorrowful Mysteries | 8.5 |
| 5 | Luminous Mysteries | 7.9 |
| 6 | Glorious Mysteries | 7.7 |
| 7 | Juan Diego | 6.7 |
| 8 | Saint George | 6.1 |
| 9 | Kateri Tekakwitha | 5.6 |
| 10 | Our Lady of Guadalupe | 4.5 |

**Marian Series**. Four new activities were approved for development. Five other activities were already approved for development and are expected to be released later in 2014:

- Our Mother of Sorrows
- The Immaculate Conception
- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Our Lady of Lourdes
- The Miraculous Medal

**Saints Series**. Four activities were approved for development and are expected to be released later in 2014:

- Mother Theodore Guerin
- Marie-Rose Durocher
- Miguel Augustin Pro
- Philippine Duchesne

**Corporal Works of Mercy**. A few years ago, the World Scout Committee launched the Messengers of Peace initiative to inspire more young men and women to help Scouting create a better world. The Boy Scouts of America joined this effort in 2012 by providing a tool for Scouts and units to record service projects. The Corporal Works of Mercy religious activity is the NCCS contribution to the initiative. This activity has been developed and is expected to be released later in 2014.

**TRAINING**

**Scouting in the Catholic Church Course.** Since its inception in 1974, the focus of this annual training conference has been the formation and training of leaders for diocesan Boy Scout committees. The 2013 *Scouting in the Catholic Church* conference was held at Philmont Training Center (PTC) from July 21 to 27, 2003. Faculty consisted of Ben Feril as Course Director, Fr. Norm Supencheck as Course Advisor, George Sparks and Nancy Watts. Participants included 31 Scouters, 3 priests, 3 deacons and 1 professional Scouter for a total of 38. A big promotional effort resulted in the largest course attendance since moving to week 9 and a significant increase over the course held in 2010, which was also a Jamboree year.

The 2014 course is scheduled for August 3 – 9. The faculty will consist of Ed Martin (National Chairman) as Course Director, Brother Ross Chamberland (Training Committee Advisor) as Course Advisor, along with George Sparks (National Chair-elect); Kathleen Polowski (Chair for the diocese of Phoenix); Jim Weiskircher (Region 14 Chair); and Jim Cordek (a past National Vice Chair and Region 6 Chair).

The NCCS has made scholarships available to cover the cost of registration for those in financial need. In 2013, five scholarships were granted.

**Training Initiatives.** The Training committee is evaluating technology tools that may be employed to make religious emblem counselor training more accessible to Scouters in dioceses where training is not occurring or not frequently enough. They are also investigating ways in which other programs within the NCCS training curriculum can be delivered given a lack of available and knowledgeable trainers. One way it is already fulfilling this need is by providing a day of training in conjunction with our Biennial Conferences. This is in addition to coordinating the preparation of workshops at the Biennial Conferences.

**EMMETT J. DOERR MEMORIAL SCOUT SCHOLARSHIPS.** The Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarship program awarded its 10th year of scholarships and the sixth year of five $2000 scholarships. Over 150 applications were evaluated and the five scholarship winners received a letter of personal congratulations from John and Julie Doerr. For 2013, the recipients were: Neil Almeida, Fremont, California; George Begay, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Jonathan Cunningham, Austin, Texas; Benjamin George Helkey, Montecito, California; and Keith Hurst, Ferdinand, Indiana.

**VOCATIONS PROMOTION**

Since 2003 the NCCS Vocations Committee has promoted Priesthood Sunday, which is sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International. Since 2008, we have used the NCCS web site, The Bridge and our Facebook page to promote the program. Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to send personally created appreciation cards to the priests they know. Priesthood Sunday is celebrated on the last Sunday of October each year.

We have also partnered with Serra Clubs to charter Venturing Crews in Catholic high schools. Five units have been chartered and Catholic committees on Scouting and Serra Clubs in 17 dioceses have teamed up to establish additional units. The relationship between the NCCS Vocations Committee and USA Council of Serra International has produced positive results. We look forward to continued collaboration to create a positive culture for religious vocations through Catholic Scouting.

**BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

In even-numbered years, the NCCS Executive Board conducts its annual meeting and invites all Catholic Scouters to attend to learn more about the work of the NCCS, participate in the work of the committees and network with other active Catholic Scouters. During this Biennial Conference, workshops are scheduled to assist in achieving these objectives. Dioceses and individuals are also encouraged to share activities of which they are proud at an Ideas Showcase held during the Biennial Conference.

Our 2013 annual meeting was conducted successfully in St. Louis, Misssouri. In 2014, we will be meeting at the Hilton Irvine—John Wayne Airport in Irvine, California. Dates and locations for future annual meetings are as follows:

2015 – Tampa, Florida at the Tampa Airport-Westshore DoubleTree by Hilton
2016 – Atlanta, Georgia at the Marriott Perimeter Center (Dunwoody)
2017 – Reno, Nevada at the Peppermill Casino Resort

## MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

**The Bridge**. The NCCS publishes an 8-page newsletter quarterly that is sent to all registered members, diocesan chairs and chaplains, affiliated organizations and other interested parties. A .pdf copy is maintained on the NCCS website (http://www.nccs-bsa.org/national/TheBridge.php) along with several years of past issues.

**Website.** The NCCS website, www.nccs-bsa.org, is used to make available information of a more static nature and a calendar of upcoming events. Information about the organization's structure, Executive Board and diocesan contacts, by-laws, religious activity and emblem programs, training, etc., are to be found here. In addition, all FAQs and references regarding BSA's recent change in youth membership policy are located here.

**Facebook**. The NCCS Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/nccs.bsa, has been used to share news of upcoming events, announcements of interest to Catholic Scouters, and deaths of NCCS members. This past year, the site was used to collect and respond to frequently-asked questions (FAQs) about the change in BSA's youth membership policy. The FAQs were compiled and disseminated to all Catholic-chartered partners and posted on our website. The initial announcement of the NCCS response to BSA's decision generated over 10,000 hits, making it the most popular post in our short history.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

The NCCS is recognized by the USCCB as the authority to represent all Catholic Boy Scout chartered institutions to the BSA. This is recognized as a dual responsibility: first, to build relationships with all youth-serving Catholic institutions that can charter Scout units and second, to properly understand and represent Catholic youth ministry goals and objectives to the BSA. This is best done by building liaison relationships with several Catholic and youth-serving bodies.

**USCCB Committee for Laity, Family Life, and Youth** (Subcommittee on Youth and Young Adult Ministry). The Subcommittee on Youth and Young Adult Ministry assists the bishops to respond to the pastoral needs and concerns of youth and young adults and fosters their participation in the community and mission of the Church. It collaborates with other national organizations also dedicated to these purposes in accord with the bishops' documents *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry* and *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*.

**National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM).** The NFCYM is the professional organization of affiliated dioceses and collaborating members and participates in the mission of the Catholic Church by advocating for and supporting Catholic youth ministry on the national, diocesan, and local level. It functions under the auspices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and cooperates with the USCCB Committee for Laity, Family Life, and Youth.

The NCCS staffed an exhibit at the biennial National Catholic Youth Conference held in November 2013 in Indianapolis. Our purpose is to create awareness among the Catholic youth and their chaperones what Catholic programming the NCCS offers to those in Scouting. It also gives us the opportunity to promote Scouting as a program of Catholic youth ministry and to encourage those who already participate in Scouting. The booth is open for 2 days and was staffed by the following volunteers: Ed Gargiulo, John Halloran, George Sparks, John Ribar, Bill and Kay Davies, and Fr. Dennis O'Rourke.

**BSA Religious Relationships Task Force.** The National Chairman and Chaplain, as well as the Past National Chair, Past National Chaplain, Associate National Chaplain, Chair-elect and Membership Committee Chair are active members of this advisory body consisting of representative from all the major faith-based chartered partners. This committee focuses on chaplaincy, adult training, literature and membership. It is through this committee that the NCCS members can raise Catholic perspectives to the National Council.

**Knights of Columbus.** The Knights of Columbus continue to be a strong supporter of Catholic Scouting. There are approximately 1,300 units chartered by Knights Council with 39,204 youth registered in those units. In addition, 17,054 adults serve as role models in those units.

**USA Council of Serra International.** The USA Council of Serra International has established grants to start Venture Crews in Catholic high schools. There were fewer inquiries in 2013 by Catholic high schools or Catholic Scout leaders about starting Venturing Crews connected with diocesan Catholic committees. Activity in 2013 includes:

- The Archdiocese of Kansas City and the Serra Club of Kansas City began the process of establishing Venturing units in Bishop Ward High School in the spring of 2013 with initial meeting with church, school, Serran and archdiocesan Catholic committee support. Activity has stalled due to a change in school administration.
- At Archbishop O'Hara High School, diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, action has been taken to start a Venturing Crew for women with the Serra Club of Southeast KC, MO, as the chartering organization. The process is awaiting approval from the administration and faculty.
- Two dioceses have started a Bishop's Crew to build a consistent core of youth to serve as acolytes/servers when the bishop is celebrant for Mass at the cathedral, ordinations, annual golden wedding anniversary celebrations, religious jubilee masses, chrism Masses, and to assist with Scout retreats.
- The current balance in the Serra/Venturing Fund is $8800.00.

**USCCB General Assembly.** The US bishops conduct a general assembly for all its members in November of each year. Our Bishop Liaison, Bishop Robert Guglielmone, has arranged for the NCCS to host a breakfast for bishops interested in attending. We use the time to introduce key members of the NCCS, provide a short presentation on a topic of shared interest, and be available for discussion of any topics of interest to the bishops. Over 100 bishops attended the breakfast in 2013.

## DIOCESAN SUPPORT

**Region Services.** Service outreach to Catholic Scouts, Scouters, and Catholic chartered units is handled through local diocesan Catholic committees which fall into one of 15 regions corresponding to the 14 episcopal regions plus one for all Eastern Churches. Each region has an elected Chairman and an appointed Chaplain who support and encourage the use of NCCS programs within their region and are supported by the NCCS Vice-Chairman for Regions. Region Chairs promote to their diocesan committees the effective use of the programs and administrative guidelines developed by the NCCS. They serve as advisors, troubleshooters, and liaisons. To encourage effective programming and leadership at the diocesan level, a couple of incentive programs are available. These include the Pope Paul VI Unit Award and the Quality Diocese Award. Region leadership is encouraged to develop working relationships with diocesan leaders and to host retreat and training sessions with them throughout their term in order to inspire, to train, and to share best practices.

**Quality Diocese Award**. A "Quality Diocesan Committee" Award was developed in 2002 with the assistance of the Regional leadership and was revised in 2003 to reflect updated standards. The promotion of the Quality Diocese Award as a tool for communication, program evaluation, and recognition achieved great success, with the following earning this recognition for 2013:

| Region | State | (Arch)Diocese |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Connecticut | Bridgeport, Hartford, Norwich |
| | Massachusetts | Boston, Springfield |
| | Rhode Island | Providence |
| 2 | New York | Albany, Brooklyn, Buffalo, New York, Ogdensburg, Rochester, Rockville Center |
| | Puerto Rico | Mayaguez |
| 3 | New Jersey | Camden, Newark, Patterson |
| | Pennsylvania | Greensburg, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh |
| 4 | Delaware | Wilmington |
| | Maryland | Baltimore |
| | Virginia | Arlington, Richmond |
| | West Virginia | Wheeling-Charleston |
| | District of Columbia | Washington |
| 5 | Alabama | Birmingham |
| | Kentucky | Covington, Lexington, Louisville, Owensboro |
| | Louisiana | Baton Rouge, Houma-Thibodaux, Lafayette, New Orleans, Shreveport |
| | Mississippi | Biloxi |
| | Tennessee | Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville |
| 6 | Michigan | Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Saginaw |
| | Ohio | Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo, Youngstown |
| 7 | Illinois | Belleville, Joliet, Peoria, Springfield |
| | Indiana | Evansville, Fort Wayne-South Bend, Gary, Indianapolis, Lafayette |
| | Wisconsin | Green Bay |
| 8 | Minnesota | St. Paul-Minneapolis |
| 9 | Iowa | Dubuque |
| | Missouri | Jefferson City, Kansas City-St. Joseph, Springfield-Cape Girardeau, St. Louis |
| 10 | Oklahoma | Oklahoma City, Tulsa |
| | Texas | Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Galveston-Houston, Laredo, San Antonio |
| 11 | Hawaii | Honolulu |
| | California | Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Jose |
| 12 | Oregon | Portland |
| | Washington | Seattle |
| 13 | Arizona | Phoenix, Tucson |
| | Colorado | Colorado Springs, Denver |
| 14 | Florida | Miami, Palm Beach, St. Augustine |
| | Georgia | Atlanta |
| | North Carolina | Charlotte, Raleigh |
| | South Carolina | Charleston |

## MEMBER RECOGNITION

**Silver St. George.** Four NCCS members were honored at the Bishops Liaison's Luncheon by receiving the Silver St. George emblem. This recognition is given to Scouters who serve at the national level of Catholic Scouting and are nominated by their peers. The 2013 recipients are:

Harvey Carter – Diocese of Nashville
Margaret Matarese – Diocese of Arlington
Father Joseph Powers – Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph
Father Michael Santangelo – Diocese of Trenton

**New Executive Board Members**. The following individuals were inducted into their positions on the NCCS Executive Board:

| Name | Position |
|---|---|
| Edward P. Martin | National Chairman |
| Fr. Michael Hanifin | National Chaplain |
| George Sparks | National Chair-elect |
| Susan Barriball | Vice Chair |
| Margaret Matarese | Vice Chair |
| Ray LaLuna | Chair, Region 1 |
| Msgr. James Lang | Chaplain, Region 2 |
| Fr. Michael Santangelo | Chaplain, Region 3 |
| Msgr. John B. Brady | Chaplain, Region 4 |
| Charles Hulsman | Chair, Region 5 |
| Fr. Roger W. Strebel | Chaplain, Region 7 |
| James Rice | Chair, Region 8 |
| Fr. Benjamin Little | Chaplain, Region 8 |
| Charles Raimond Sr. | Chair, Region 10 |
| Chris Manning (replaced by Jim Shivers) | Chair, Region 11 |
| Jack Coughlin | Member-at-large |
| Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger | Member-at-large |
| Bishop James Tamayo | Member-at-large |
| Fr. Leo LeBlanc | Member-at-large |
| Bray Barnes | Member-at-large |
| Fr. Joseph Weber | Member-at-large |

## CHAPLAINCY

**Philmont Scout Ranch**. The NCCS has provided chaplains at Philmont Scout Ranch for over 50 years. Two to four chaplains serve at any given time during the summer months. Besides celebrating Mass each evening, they also serve a rotation in different areas of the ranch. They make themselves available not only to those going on treks but also to ranch staff and those attending courses at the Philmont Training Center. Some of our chaplains come back year after year.

From May 14 through August 22 of 2013, the following individuals served as chaplains:

- Most Reverend Gerald "Padre" Gettelfinger
- Fr. Dennis O'Rourke
- Fr. Donald Hummel
- Fr. Raymond L. Fecteau
- Fr. Michael P. Hanifin
- Fr. Kevin Smith
- Fr. Gerard Gentleman
- Fr. Jeffrey Kirby
- Seminarian John Kuchera

**BSA National Jamboree.** The NCCS provided twelve chaplains to the BSA National Jamboree. The volunteers consisted of the following individuals: Father Michael L. Hanifin, Father Mark Carr SJ, Father Glenn Harris, Father Frank Basa, Monsignor John B. Brady, Father Thomas Brown, Father Leo McDowell, Father Joe Powers, Father Mark Spring, Deacon William White, Deacon Charles Hiebler, and seminarian Alexander Albert.

**By Tim Bishop**
**Catholic News Service**
MOUNT HOPE, W.Va. (CNS) -- Nearly 10,000 Boy Scouts from throughout the United States braved heavy rain and thunderstorms July 21 for an outdoor Mass celebrated by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States. The Mass was part of the 10-day National Boy Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in Mount Hope. Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston concelebrated and served as the homilist for the Mass. In his homily, Bishop Bransfield welcomed the Scouts to the Mountain State for the national jamboree marking its significance to the church. "It is a pleasure," he said, "to welcome you and Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano to our state. You now can see firsthand why it is called wild and wonderful."

Bishop Bransfield acknowledged the hard work of the many people it took to make the national jamboree a reality for West Virginia. "For many months," he said, "a great deal of planning and labor has gone into preparing for this jamboree. When I visited here earlier this year, in the middle of winter, I was impressed with the beauty of the place and I wondered if it would be ready for you by summer. "As I look out now, I see a trans-formed place, made more wonderful by your presence and your enjoyment of all that nature has to offer you. It is especially good to be with you as we gather around the altar, led in prayer by our apostolic nuncio, and take part in Lord's Eucharistic sacrifice."

Bishop Bransfield told the Scouts that their Catholic faith and participation in the Eucharist bind them together with the entire church throughout the world. He reminded them that their active participation in Scouting, in parishes across the country, flows from and is directed by their Catholic faith. "The oath you take as Scouts," he said, "explicitly mentions God: The promise you make echoes the promises at baptism and repeated at confirmation, as you pledge to do your best to do my duty to God and to keep yourselves, in his sight, morally straight."

Likewise, the 12th point of the Scout law invites you to be 'reverent,'" he continued, "and as we gather this Sunday morning to celebrate our faith in this Mass, you fulfill your Scout promise and keep your Scout law in a wonderful way. I thank you for the choice you have made to be involved in Scouting and to actively celebrate your Catholic faith as people committed to reverence of God and service of others." The first duty of people of faith, Bishop Bransfield said, is to listen to God and, like the Gospel for the day teaches, put things in their proper order." Each of you Scouts knows how essential it is to perform the steps of a task in their proper order," he said. "If you don't, a sturdy tent cannot be erected, a bow cannot be strung and its arrow shot, a boat cannot be properly steered."

Bishop Bransfield said he prayed the Scouts "will continue to enjoy this jamboree and that, during the many activities and adventures ahead, you will continue to listen for the Lord God and experience His presence in the wonder of nature around you, in the goodness of the people you are with, and in the joy that you experience throughout these days."
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**Jamboree Chaplains**
(front to back, left to right)

Msgr. James B. Brady
Fr. Tom Brown
Fr. Leo McDowell
Fr. Mark Spring
Fr. Frank Basa
Fr. Joseph B. Powers
Deacon Charles Hiebler
Fr. Michael Hanifin
Bishop Robert Guglielmone
Alexander Albert (Seminarian)
Deacon William White
Fr. Mark Carr SJ
Fr. Glenn Harris

**Bishop Michael J. Bransfield**
(Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston)

**Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano**
(apostolic nuncio to the US)

**Bishop Robert Guglielmone**
(Diocese of Charleston, SC and
Bishop Liaison to NCCS)

**NCCS Booth at BSA National Jamboree**

## St. George Trek.

**By Mary-Kate Smith**
**PhilNews**

The St. George Trek is a special trek, held every two years at Philmont beginning in 1992. The goal of the trek is to bring together young Catholic Scouts from across the country to experience Philmont from a different perspective.

This summer the St. George Trek sent out six male crews and one female crew. The 72 youth participants met each other and their advisors at a retreat in Albuquerque a few days before they hit the trail. "We meet everyone within 24 hours, so that is pretty different," said participant Matt Gonzalez, from Troop 1776 in Marietta, Ga. "I think there is just a different feeling about it. We are all here for different purposes. Some people just want to go to Philmont. Some people are looking for the retreat, but I think it is different because most Philmont treks come out here just for the hiking, to shoot shotguns and go to Abreu and drink root beer. We are out here to experience God through the beauty of nature."

The participants apply and are selected for the Trek by their local diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. "The local Catholic Committee selects them and sponsors them, hopefully, pays their fee," Trek Director Father Gerard Gentleman said. "That is the ideal but sometimes we have to do some scholarships. They are selecting people that they believe personally it would be a good experience for, but also someone they believe will come back and assist with the work of Catholic Scouting in the diocese. That is why they get chosen."

Five of the male crews were led by a priest and a seminarian. One male crew was led by two priests, and the female crew was led by two Benedictine nuns. The Catholic faith was incorporated in the Trek in a variety of ways. "The male crews had at least one priest, so we typically had Mass every-day on the trail which is pretty cool," crew advisor Deacon Adam Carrico said. "We found a nice sized rock to use as an altar or something like that. Then, of course, we did grace before meals. We try to find ways of praying the litany of the hours or the rosary – that kind of thing, to add to the extra sense of spirituality.

For participant Connor Nielson, of Charlotte, N.C., having Mass in the Philmont backcountry was a very new and unique experience. "I actually go to the largest Catholic Church in the country, so we have like a 30-foot cross on the altar and more than 2,000 seats that fill up every time," Nielson said. "Being here with 12 people just sitting around, sometimes literally just a rock with a cross and chalice on it was really cool. We sat in a circle and would have Mass, or would sit at a picnic table at a staff camp. It was just a much more intimate experience. Being able to have eye contact during the homily was weird, but it's been really cool."

Some of the crews held Mass on the base of the Tooth of Time and on Window Rock. In the middle of the trek each of the seven crews met at Cimarroncito for two days to celebrate the Trek and the Eucharist together. According to Katie Morgan, of Aiken, S.C. one of the Masses experienced massive rain storms. Instead of bells to signify the transubstantiation we had lightning." The female Venture Scouts were unable to have Mass every day, but they said the rosary each day.

For Morgan, the St. George Trek was full of unexpected surprises. "One morning I felt like it was the craziest thing I have ever done in my life," she said. "We woke up at 3 a.m. and left camp by 4 a.m. We hike up the stockade trail in the dark with 55 pound packs on our backs and with two nuns. I never thought I'd do anything like that."

The 86 participants and advisors on the trek definitely experienced Philmont in a different way. “On the Tooth of Time I did a 360 in that little top rock,” Gonzalez said. “I did a 360 and I thought God made all of this, and it’s amazing. That’s one of the main things. It’s experiencing God through the beauty of Philmont. “Philmont is a spiritual, magical place already, and going there with people who really are immersed in their faith and in their relationship with God really taught me a lot about my relationship with God,” Neilson said. “It’s really helped me to appreciate the land so much more.”

## GLOBAL ADVOCACY

### INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

**Liaison Activity**. The NCCS International Committee continues its mission to "maintain relationships with the international Scouting and Catholic Youth Movement to ground programs in the Universal Church." A cooperative relationship is maintained through the participation of Fr. Joe Weber, Chaplain for the Americas Region, and Bray Barnes, the World Chairman.

**International Awareness Activity Award**. This program of ICCS was developed to raise awareness of Catholic Scouting around the world. Royalties earned from the sale of awards are used to support the work of the ICCS. The NCCS continues to be the largest purchaser and presenter of these awards. During 2013, $619 in royalties were paid to ICCS on sales during 2012 of 223 medallions, 396 pins and 738 patches.

### FINANCIAL AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Bray B. Barnes, a past NCCS National Chairman, continues to serve as World Chairman of the ICCS. Fr. Leo LeBlanc's term as World Chaplain ended on January 1, 2014 when he was replaced by Fr. Jacques Gagey of France. Fr. Leo had served 8 years. ICCS was represented at the BSA National Jamboree at The Summit in July at the NCCS booth in the Faith and Beliefs Zone by Scott Harvey. Meetings were held with the WOSM Messengers of Peace staff during the Jamboree. NCCS Chairman Ed Martin hosted a meeting with the leaders of the contingent from the Japanese Catholic Scout Association to provide information that they might be able to use at the 2015 World Jamboree in Japan.

Fr. Joe Weber serves as Chaplain of the ICCS Inter-Americas Region and attended World Youth Day in Buenos Aires and the September ICCS Inter-Americas conference in South America, where he was joined by Fr. Stephen Salvador, Immediate Past NCCS National Chaplain.

This is the start of the 100th year of International Catholic Scouting started by Pere Jacques Sevin SJ in France. The title of this ICCS celebration is "KEEP THE LAMP BURNING". It is being celebrated by different events around the world until the conclusion of the celebration at the World Jamboree in Japan in 2015. An African centenary celebration, "Blessed are the Peace Makers", was held this past February in Uganda and was attended by Scott Harvey, who is also serving as chair of the ICCS 100th Anniversary.

Anne Lederman serves as chair of the Education Working Group. Jerry Scanlan is an active member of the Finance working group.

Last February the St. Paul Fellowship was launched to raise funds to support ICCS directly in addition to the International Foundation for Catholic Scouting (IFCS) whose corpus provides funds into the future. Bray Barnes serves as chair and Jerry Scanlan (also Vice-Chair of FICS) serves as Vice-Chair. This fellowship has already raised almost $70,000 with more than half coming from USA donors.

This past year, with financial assistance from the NCCS, Bray Barnes visited Catholic Scouting Associations in the Asia Pacific Region. On January 25, 2014, along with Fr. Jacques Gagey, ICCS World Chaplain and Roberto Cociancich, ICCS World President, he had a private audience with Pope Francis to discuss Catholic Scouting throughout the world. Then, in late February, Bray, Fr. Jacques and Roberto joined Scott Teare, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, and Rabbi Peter Hyman, past Chair of the Jewish Scout Committee, at the WOSM Interreligious Scout symposium in Vienna.

The Emmett J. Doerr Scout Trust Fund was established to provide support for ICCS activities out of its earnings. In February 2013, the NCCS made a donation in the amount of $5,346.15 and paid annual dues of $4,000 for a total of $9,346.15.

The NCCS established a fund to support Catholic Scouting in the inter-Americas in 2004 with an initial corpus of $100,000. The balance in the ICCS Inter-Americas Fund as of December 31, 2013 was $182,711. The NCCS International Committee may submit applications for the use of earnings from this fund to serve Catholic Scouts in the Inter-Americas Region.

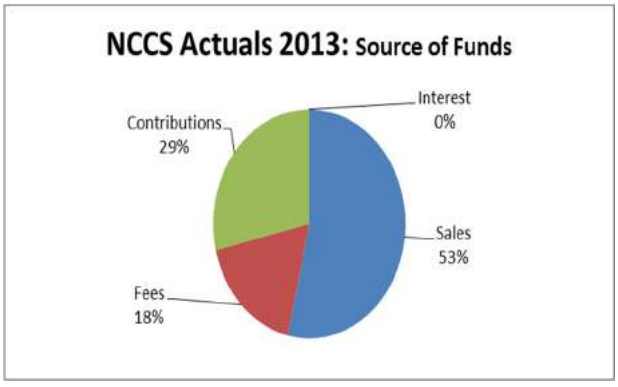
## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

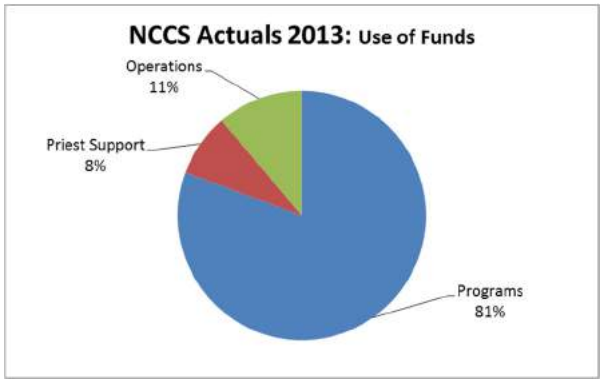
# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

BSA Operating Account (Unaudited)

| | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| **Balance as of January 1** | **112,227** | **176,253** | **193,945** | **157,304** | **134,118** |
| | | | | | |
| **RECEIPTS** | | | | | |
| Sales | 662,070 | 262,325 | 211,349 | 227,654 | 188,764 |
| Fees | 67,570 | 43,554 | 86,879 | 86,003 | 62,530 |
| Contributions | 73,250 | 123,833 | 85,330 | 116,646 | 100,979 |
| Interest | 777 | 253 | 207 | 387 | 0 |
| **Total Receipts** | **803,667** | **429,965** | **383,765** | **430,690** | **352,273** |
| | | | | | |
| **EXPENSES** | | | | | |
| Programs | 279,213 | 325,319 | 306,911 | 309,264 | 322,676 |
| Priest Services | 29,670 | 45,131 | 29,246 | 28,663 | 32,779 |
| Operations | 89,304 | 49,298 | 48,104 | 44,409 | 44,880 |
| **Total Expenses** | **398,187** | **419,748** | **384,261** | **382,336** | **400,335** |
| | | | | | |
| **Net Increase (Decrease) in Operating Account Before Transfers** | **405,480** | **10,217** | **(496)** | **48,354** | **(48,062)** |
| | | | | | |
| **TRANSFERS** | | | | | |
| Scout Trust (ICCS) | 8,546 | 7,475 | 6,355 | 5,960 | 5,346 |
| Scout Trust (Spes Mundi) | 0 | 0 | (15,000) | (2,500) | 0 |
| Priest Support (Golden Ad Altare Dei) | 0 | 0 | (7,500) | 0 | 22,500 |
| Holding | (350,000) | 0 | (20,000) | (75,000) | 0 |
| **Net Transfers** | **(341,454)** | **7,475** | **(36,145)** | **(71,540)** | **27,846** |
| | | | | | |
| **Net Increase (Decrease) in Operating Account After Transfers** | **64,026** | **17,692** | **(36,641)** | **(23,186)** | **(20,216)** |
| | | | | | |
| **Balance as of December 31** | **176,253** | **193,945** | **157,304** | **134,118** | **113,902** |

**Note:** Due to a restructuring of accounts, some totals reported in prior years may not match those reported here (see Highlights). For accounting purposes, years begin January 1 and end December 31.



# FUND ACCOUNTS ACTIVITY SUMMARY

| Account | Value (12/31/09) | Value (12/31/10) | Value (12/31/11) | Value (12/31/12) | Value (12/31/13) | 2013 Account Increase/ Decrease | 2013 Percentage Increase/ Decrease |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scout Trust | 246,038.74 | 256,117.88 | 250,955.17 | 263,636.65 | 299,809.73 | 34,570.43 | 13.00% |
| St. George | 209,869.77 | 226,821.26 | 226,665.84 | 248,540.77 | 297,890.77 | 49,350.00 | 19.90% |
| Holding | 541,022.42 | 558,127.88 | 480,077.41 | 290,569.82 | 270,856.82 | -19,713.00 | -6.80% |
| NCCS | 503,663.26 | 544,347.39 | 544,026.66 | 596,641.27 | 706,294.27 | 109,653.00 | 18.40% |
| Committee | 116,668.88 | 126,189.61 | 126,036.64 | 138,341.76 | 164,158.76 | 25,817.00 | 18.70% |
| Golden AAD | 482,465.32 | 519,518.45 | 526,783.77 | 579,709.68 | 670,160.68 | 90,451.00 | 15.60% |
| Inter-Americas | 114,053.84 | 122,693.97 | 136,913.12 | 149,869.61 | 182,711.61 | 32,842.00 | 21.90% |
| Scholarship | 0.00 | 0.00 | 99,980.28 | 130,510.97 | 164,477.97 | 33,967.00 | 26.00% |
| Administrative | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 256,377.22 | 300,147.58 | 43,770.36 | 17.10% |
| **Total** | **$2,213,782.23** | **$2,353,816.44** | **$2,391,438.89** | **$2,654,197.75** | **$2,756,698.46** | **366.137.36** | **15.30%** |
| Increase/Decrease | 32.63% | 6% | 1.60% | 10.99 | 15.10% | | |

**HIGHLIGHTS**

1. Changes in Receipts
   a. Sales. Sales of religious activity patches increased $1,400, up 2% over 2012. Sales of religious emblem booklets and royalties from sales of religious emblems continued their annual decline with drops of 38% and 14% respectively over 2012. Efforts are underway to reverse this trend.
   b. Fees. A reduction from 2012 in fees occurred due to decreased attendance at the annual meeting and less than expected receipts of St. George Trek participant fees.
   c. Contributions. Contributions were 13% less than 2012 contributions. An incentive program is offered in the even-numbered years creating the variance. The Miter Society was established late in 2013 following the loss of a major sponsor to raise funds for the St. George Trek. Membership is granted to donors who contribute at least $1000. As of December 31, eight individuals have become members.
   d. Overall, revenues were $78,000 (18%) less than the prior year and $48,000 (12%) less than budget.

2. Changes in Expenses
   a. Total expenses were $18,000 (5%) higher in 2013 compared to 2012. In 2013 there were two non-annual events that were scheduled: a BSA National Jamboree (held every 4 years) and a St. George Trek (held every other year).
   b. Spent $4,000 more on priest expenses than 2012. Priest participation at annual meeting and at ICCS events accounted for the increase.

3. Changes in Fund Accounts
While the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) manages our operating accounts, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney (MSSB) continues to manage our other nine NCCS fund accounts.

| Fund/Account | Purpose |
|---|---|
| Scout Trust | Endowed by Emmett J. Doerr; supports ICCS only |
| St. George | Supports St. George Trek |
| Holding | Temporary holding account for major upcoming purchases |
| NCCS | Supports general funding |
| Committee | Supports committee activities |
| Golden AAD | Supports clergy activities |
| Inter-Americas | Supports ICCS activities |
| Scholarship | Provides academic scholarships |
| Administrative | Supports employee compensation |
| Operating | Annual operating revenues and expenses |

a. Three individuals contributed stock in the amount of $5,500 which was deposited directly into the St. George fund.
b. $25,000 was transferred out of the Golden AAD fund to cover priest expenses. $2500 was transferred into the Golden AAD fund from a donation.
c. $20,000 will be transferred to the Scholarship Fund from our BSA Operating Account.
d. Earnings on the Scout Trust fund in the amount of $5,346 were forwarded to ICCS in compliance with rules of that fund.

4. Support for the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarships.
The Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarship program awarded its 10th year of scholarships and the sixth year of five $2000 scholarships. Over 150 applications were evaluated and the five scholarship winners received a letter of personal congratulations from John and Julie Doerr. For 2013, the recipients were: Neil Almeida, Fremont, California; George Begay, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Jonathan Cunningham, Austin, Texas; Benjamin George Helkey, Montecito, California; and Keith Hurst, Ferdinand, Indiana.

5. Support for the International Catholic Committee on Scouting (ICCS)
a. Emmett J. Doerr Scout Trust Fund provides support for ICCS activities. In February 2013, the NCCS made a donation in the amount of $5,346.15 and paid annual dues of $4,000 for a total of $9,346.15.
b. Inter-Americas Fund. Established in 2004 to support youth activities in the Americas region. This fund had a balance of $182,711.61 as of December 31, 2013, an increase (gain) of $32,842.00 over 2012.
c. International Awareness Activity Emblems. NCCS raises additional funds to support ICCS through the sales of International Awareness Activity emblems purchased from ICCS. Royalties amounted to $140.00 on sales of medallions and pins during 2013.
d. In 2012, the ICCS established a St. Paul Fellowship fund to support its global operations. The NCCS provides support by collecting and forwarding contributions from U.S. donors. To date, $22,750 has been received and forwarded to ICCS headquarters.
e. NCCS funds the expenses of the U.S. Chaplains serving ICCS (Fr. Leo LeBlanc, Fr. Joe Weber and Fr. Donald Hummel), along with some support for the World Chairman, Bray Barnes. This support amounted to $19,686.19 in 2013. Mr. Gerard Scanlan, the Vice

Chair of FICS, Scott Harvey, Chair for the ICCS 100th Anniversary of World Catholic Scouting, and Ann Lederman, Chair of the ICCS Education Working Group, donate their own expenses.

6. **Vendor Management**. During 2013, we contracted with a new print services vendor because the original vendor was exiting the printing business. The new vendor, Omega Printing Incorporated of Bensenville, Illinois, has produced their own first run copies of the NCCS-produced booklets and received the remaining inventory from the previous vendor. As of December 31, 2013, they held $40,791.80 in inventory (at cost).

   Bluegrass Business Forms, Inc., a printing company owned by John Ribar Jr. of Louisville, Kentucky, has been maintaining inventory and fulfilling orders at very little cost to the NCCS. NCCS reimburses Bluegrass for postage and pays a small fee to cover insurance and packing materials. Over 40 different items are stocked. As of December 31, 2013, Bluegrass held $29,280.91 in inventory (at cost).

   Erffmeyer & Son Co. Inc. (ESCO), based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, produces our religious emblems. NCCS owns the dies. Esco pays us royalties quarterly on emblems sold.

   The NCCS had purchased a 2-year license ending in 2014 to use Doubleknot as an automated tool to ease the workload on processing annual meeting registrations. At the end of 2013, BSA approached us about using a different tool from BlackBaud that would be provided gratis and would be supported by BSA. It has replaced Doubleknot and is being used not only for meeting registration but also membership registration and donations.

7. **Tax Status.** The NCCS is considered by the IRS subsidiary to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and, thereby, is allowed to assume the 501(c)(3) tax status of that organization (see IRS Group Ruling at http://www.usccb.org/about/general-counsel/group-tax-exemption.cfm). The NCCS is listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* published by P.J. Kenedy & Sons. Additionally, because the NCCS maintains an operating account with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), BSA has its own 501(c)(3) status, and BSA processes NCCS financial transactions, any donation made in the name of the National Catholic Committee (NCCS) or the Boy Scouts of America intended for the NCCS, may be considered a tax-deductible contribution.

## APPENDICES

# Executive Board

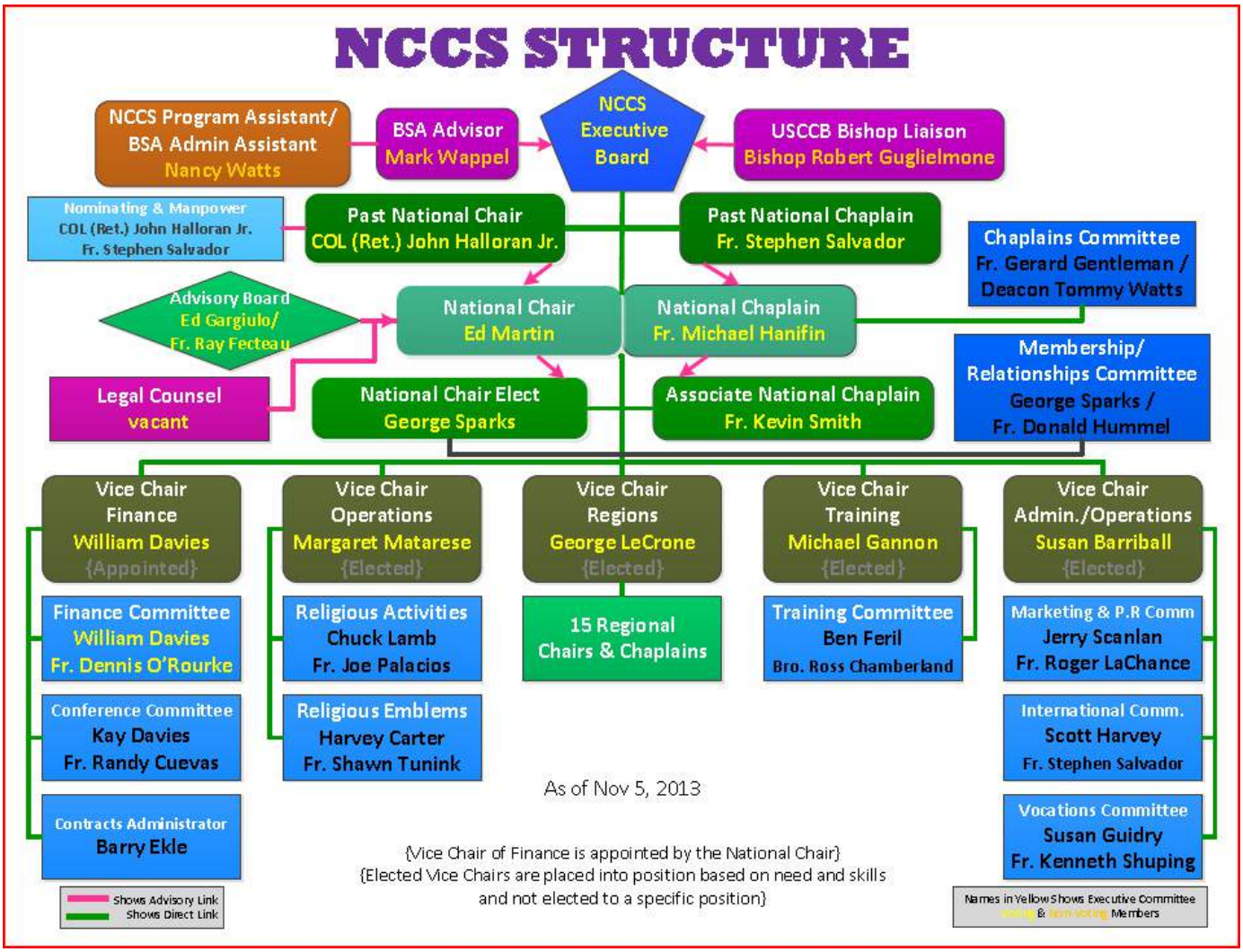
**Edward P. Martin - Chairman**
**Rev. Michael P. Hanifin – Chaplain**
**Most Rev. Robert Guglielmone – Bishop Liaison, USCCB**

Nancy Watts
Bray B. Barnes
Susan Barriball
Very Rev. John B. Brady
John M. Coughlin
William E. Davies
Margaret Dillenburg
Rev. Raymond L. Fecteau
Ben Feril
Michael R. Gannon
Rev. Pat Garrett
Edward P. Gargiulo
Most Rev. Gerald A. Gettelfinger
Col. (ret) John J. Halloran Jr.
Rev. Mr. Roy C. Harrington
Kevin Hennessey
Charles Hulsman
Charles Keskel
Rev. Jeffrey Kirby
Very Rev. James R. Kolp
Ray LaLuna
Very Rev. James Lang
Rev. Leo LeBlanc
Rev. Benjamin Little
George C. LeCrone Sr.
Margaret Matarese
Richard Mathews
Rev. Leo McDowell
Rev. Arthur Nave
Rev. Dennis J. O'Rourke
Rev. Joseph B. Powers
Rev. Nicholas Rachford
Charles Raimond Sr.
James Rice
Rev. Stephen B. Salvador
Rev. Michael Santagelo
Fred Shetter
Jim Shivers
Rev. Kevin Smith
George Sparks
Rev. Roger W. Strebel
Rev. Norman Supencheck
Most Rev. James Tamayo
Alan I. Tarlo Sr.
Mark Wappel
Rev. Joseph A. Weber
Rev. Michael Weglicki
Nancy Welton
James Weiskircher
Edward Winterkorn

# Advisory Board

**Edward P. Gargiulo - Chair**
**Rev. Raymond L. Fecteau – Advisor**

Rev. James E. Blaine
Sam Bridgeman
Austin E. Cannon Jr.
Very Rev. Joseph A. Carroll
William Harvey Carter
Brother Ross Chamberland OFM
Rev. Randy M. Cuevas
Kay Davies
John G. Doerr
Rev. Michael Donald
John C. Eastman
Don Ellefsen
Thomas Faller
Rev. Jerome Fehn
Robert Freville
Rev. Gerard Gentleman Jr
G. Cecile Greene
Susan Guidry
George Hanna
Scott Harvey
Jill Heink
Irene W. Herring
Rev. Donald K. Hummel
Russ Koch
Michael J. Kosiba
Rev. Roger LaChance
Charles (Chuck) Lamb
Very Rev. Richard P. LaRocque
Americo Lopez
Tony Madonia Jr.
Chris Manning
Robert McCarty
Kevin F. Mitchelson
Daniel L. Mode
David Moskal
Michael L. Murphy
Carol A. Oldowski
Robert Oldowski
Rev. Joseph Palacios
Jack Peterson
Homer Radford
Gerard O. Rocque
Frank P. Rossomondo
Rev. Stephen B. Salvador
Gerard A. Scanlan
Rev. Ken Shuping
Joseph L. Simon
Marie Simons
Marvin L. Smith
George Sparks
Loren Stach
Most Rev. James Tamayo
Chip Travers
Rev. Shawn P. Tunink
Rev. Mr. Thomas Watts
James Witzman


NCCS STRUCTURE
NCCS Program Assistant/ BSA Admin Assistant Nancy Watts
BSA Advisor Mark Wappel
NCCS Executive Board
USCCB Bishop Liaison Bishop Robert Guglielmone
Nominating & Manpower COL (Ret.) John Halloran Jr. Fr. Stephen Salvador
Past National Chair COL (Ret.) John Halloran Jr.
Past National Chaplain Fr. Stephen Salvador
Chaplains Committee Fr. Gerard Gentleman / Deacon Tommy Watts
Advisory Board Ed Gargiulo/ Fr. Ray Fecteau
National Chair Ed Martin
National Chaplain Fr. Michael Hanifin
Membership/ Relationships Committee George Sparks / Fr. Donald Hummel
Legal Counsel vacant
National Chair Elect George Sparks
Associate National Chaplain Fr. Kevin Smith
Vice Chair Finance William Davies {Appointed}
Vice Chair Operations Margaret Matarese {Elected}
Vice Chair Regions George LeCrone {Elected}
Vice Chair Training Michael Gannon {Elected}
Vice Chair Admin./Operations Susan Barriball {Elected}
Finance Committee William Davies Fr. Dennis O'Rourke
Religious Activities Chuck Lamb Fr. Joe Palacios
15 Regional Chairs & Chaplains
Training Committee Ben Feril Bro. Ross Chamberland
Marketing & P.R Comm Jerry Scanlan Fr. Roger LaChance
Conference Committee Kay Davies Fr. Randy Cuevas
Religious Emblems Harvey Carter Fr. Shawn Tunink
International Comm. Scott Harvey Fr. Stephen Salvador
Contracts Administrator Barry Ekle
Vocations Committee Susan Guidry Fr. Kenneth Shuping
As of Nov 5, 2013
{Vice Chair of Finance is appointed by the National Chair}
{Elected Vice Chairs are placed into position based on need and skills and not elected to a specific position}
Shows Advisory Link
Shows Direct Link
Names in Yellow Shows Executive Committee Voting & Non-Voting Members

| EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | |
|---|---|
| **POSITION** | **NAME** |
| National Chairman | Edward P. Martin |
| National Chaplain | Rev. Michael P. Hanifin |
| Immediate Past National Chairman | Col. (ret) John H. Halloran Jr. |
| Immediate Past National Chaplain | Rev. Stephen B. Salvador |
| Associate National Chaplain | Rev. Kevin Smith |
| National Chair-elect | George Sparks |
| Vice Chair (Finance) | William E. Davies |
| Advisor, Finance Committee (non-voting member) | Rev. Dennis J. O'Rourke |
| Vice Chair (Marketing & Public Relations, International, Vocations) | Susan Barriball |
| Vice Chair (Religious Emblems, Religious Activities) | Margaret Matarese |
| Vice Chair (Regions) | George C. LeCrone Sr |
| Vice Chair (Training) | Michael R. Gannon |
| Bishop Liaison (non-voting) | Most Rev. Robert Guglielmone |
| Team Leader, Community Alliances, BSA (non-voting) | Mark Wappel |
| Chair, Advisory Board | Edward P. Gargiulo |
| Advisor, Advisory Board | Rev. Raymond L. Fecteau |
| Program Assistant (non-voting) | Elizabeth Romero-Coca |
| Legal Counsel | vacant |
| Contract Administrator (non-voting) | Barry Ekle |
| | |

| REGION LEADERSHIP | | |
|---|---|---|
| **REGION** | **CHAIR** | **CHAPLAIN** |
| 01 – CT, MN, MA, NH, RI, VT | Ray LaLuna | Rev. Leo LeBlanc |
| 02 – NY, PR | Edward Winterkorn | Very Rev. James Lang |
| 03 – NJ, PA | Fred Shetter | Rev. Michael Santangelo |
| 04 – DC, DE, MD, VA, WV | Ben Feril | Very Rev. John B. Brady |
| 05 – AL, KY, LA, MS, TN | Charles Hulsman | Rev. Michael Weglicki |
| 06 – MI, OH | Alan I. Tarlo Sr. | Very Rev. James R. Kolp |
| 07 – IL, IN, WI | Charles Keskel | Rev. Roger W. Strebel |
| 08 – MN, ND, SD | James Rice | Rev. Benjamin Little |
| 09 – IA, KS, MO, NE | Kevin Hennessey | Rev. Joseph B. Powers |
| 10 – AR, OK, TX | Charles Raimond Sr. | Rev. Pat Garrett |
| 11 – CA, Guam, HI, NV | Jim Shivers | Rev. Norman Supencheck |
| 12 – ID, MT, OR, WA | Rev. Mr. Roy C. Harrington | Rev. Leo McDowell |
| 13 – AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY | Nancy Welton | Rev. Arthur Nave |
| 14 – GA, FL, NC, SC | James Weiskircher | Rev. Jeffrey Kirby |
| 15 (Eastern Churches) | Margaret Dillenburg | Rev. Nicholas Rachford |
| | | |

| STANDING COMMITTEES | | |
|---|---|---|
| **COMMITTEE** | **CHAIR** | **ADVISOR** |
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| Conference | Rev. Randy M. Cuevas | Kay Davies |
| Finance | William E. Davies | Rev. Dennis J. O'Rourke |
| International | Scott Harvey | Rev. Stephen B. Salvador |
| Marketing & Public Relations (M&PR) | Gerard A. Scanlan | Rev. Roger LaChance |
| Membership | George Sparks | Rev. Donald K. Hummel |
| Religious Activities | Chuck Lamb | Rev. Joseph Palacios |
| Religious Emblems | Harvey Carter | Rev. Shawn P. Tunink |
| Training | Ben Feril | Brother Ross Chamberland OFM |
| Vocations | Susan Guidry | Rev. Ken Shuping |
| Nominating | Col. (ret) John J. Halloran Jr. | Rev. Stephen B. Salvador |
| | | |

| AD HOC COMMITTEES and SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS | |
|---|---|
| **POSITION** | **NAME** |
| ICCS Inter-Americas Region Chaplain | Rev. Joseph A.Weber |
| ICCS World Chaplain | Rev. Leo LeBlanc |
| ICCS Chairman | Bray B. Barnes |
| Vice-Chair FICS | Gerard A. Scanlan |
| Webmaster | Roselito De Los Reyes |
| e-Bridge Editor | Michael R. Gannon /<br>Tony Madonia Jr. |
| Director, Scouting in the Catholic Church course | Ben Feril |
| Advisor, Scouting in the Catholic Church course | Rev. Norman Supencheck |
| Director, St. George Trek | Rev. Gerard Gentleman Jr. |
| Historian | Robert Oldowski |
| Representative to NFCYM | Edward P. Gargiulo |
| Representative to Serra USA Council | Col. (ret) John J. Halloran Jr. |
| Representative to Knights of Columbus | Col. (ret) John J. Halloran Jr. |
| | |

National Catholic Committee on Scouting
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane • P.O. Box 152079 • Irving, TX 75015-2079 • 972-580-2114

November 11, 2013

My fellow Catholic Scouters,

The time has come for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) to report back to you as promised from last May. In that time, we have done the following:

- Collected questions and concerns from our Facebook page and emails sent to us
- Sought responses to questions and concerns about intent and meaning of the youth membership standard of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA)
- Sought responses to questions and concerns about applicable Catholic teaching
- Shared activity with, and responded to questions from, US bishops
- Been affirmed in our conclusions about the acceptability of BSA's youth membership standard

This work has resulted in the attached set of Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQs). These constitute our "guidelines". They have been reviewed by BSA, the NCCS Executive Committee, and Bishop Robert Guglielmone, the NCCS Episcopal Liaison from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The FAQs are posted, along with links to statements from bishops and the BSA FAQs, on our website (www.nccs-bsa.org). This letter is also being sent to every Catholic-chartered unit leader, committee chairperson, and executive head.

We expect that you may have additional questions and concerns that arise regarding the BSA membership standards, especially as time goes on. You may direct these to our Facebook page or our Program Assistant (nccs@scouting.org) and we will respond appropriately.

Our recommendations to you are the same as before: seek understanding of the membership standard and how Catholic teaching applies, and pray for wisdom. In addition, we ask that you continue to pursue the goals of diocesan Catholic committees on Scouting, which include new unit formation, increasing participation in the religious emblem and religious activity programs, provide for adult and unit recognition, and insure your leaders are trained. Our ability to influence Scouting's future and that of our youth may be determined by our ability to achieve these goals.

If you are like us, you joined Scouting to make a difference in the lives of others. Our youth don't want to leave Scouting. Scouting is still the best program around. Catholic Scouters like you are still very much needed. Let's continue this important journey together! Thank you for all you do to promote Scouting as Catholic youth ministry!

Yours in Catholic Scouting,

Edward P. Martin
National Chairman (2013-2016)

Fr. Michael Hanifin
National Chaplain (2013-2016)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
# REGARDING BSA's YOUTH MEMBERSHIP STANDARD

**BSA's Youth Membership Standard**

1. What was actually approved by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA)?

The membership standard for youth members of the Boy Scouts of America is as follows, effective January 1, 2014:

Youth membership in the Boy Scouts of America is open to all youth who meet the specific membership requirements to join the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Sea Scout and Venturing programs. Membership in any program of the Boy Scouts of America requires the youth member to (a) subscribe to and abide by the values expressed in the Scout Oath and Law, (b) subscribe to and abide by the precepts of the Declaration of Religious Principles (duty to God), and (c) demonstrate behavior that exemplifies the highest level of good conduct and respect for others and is consistent at all times with the values expressed in the Scout Oath and Law. No youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone. [From *Membership Standards Implementation—Frequently Asked Questions for Unit Leaders*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 2)]

2. How does the BSA define "morally straight"?

The *Boy Scout Handbook* continues to define "morally straight" as "Your relationships with others should be honest and open. Respect and defend the rights of all people. Be clean in your speech and actions and faithful in your religious beliefs. Values you practice as a Scout will help you shape a life of virtue and self-reliance." [From *Membership Standards Implementation—Frequently Asked Questions for Unit Leaders*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 2)]

3. What comprises "sexual conduct"?

BSA defines sexual conduct as follows:

Scouting is a youth program, and any sexual conduct, whether homosexual or heterosexual, by youth of Scouting age is contrary to the virtues of Scouting. Leaders have the responsibility and authority to set boundaries and address them with youth members. The *Boy Scout Handbook* tells boys that "Your religious leaders can give you guidance for making ethical choices. Youth parents, guardian, or a sex-education teacher can provide the basic facts about sex." [From *Membership Standards Implementation—Frequently Asked Questions for Unit Leaders*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 2)]

4. Is the BSA endorsing homosexuality and forcing its chartered organizations to do the same?

No. The BSA is reinforcing that Scouting is a youth program, and any sexual conduct, whether heterosexual or homosexual, by youth of Scouting age is contrary to the virtues of Scouting. Scouting is not the place to resolve divergent viewpoints in society, and no member may use Scouting to promote or advance any social or political agenda. This policy rightly recognizes there is a difference between youth and adults while remaining true to the long-standing virtues of Scouting. [From *Fact vs. Fiction*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 3)]

5. Is this merely the first step in a process that will fundamentally change the BSA?

No. This policy change was the result of an internal Scouting discussion, not because of pressure from external groups. The adult membership standard remains unchanged, and within the framework of this policy, chartered organizations continue to have the right and responsibility to choose their own unit leaders according to their own values and Scouting values. The Boy Scouts of America fully supports its

chartered organizations. As the BSA just completed a lengthy review process, there are no plans for further review on this matter. The youth membership standard was not intended to be, or to be seen as, a "first step". [From *Fact vs. Fiction*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 3)]

6. Why was the policy amended to include only youth and not adults?

The resolution adopted by the members of the BSA national council was the result of the most intensive listening exercise ever conducted within the Boy Scouts of America. The exercise involved all facets of the organization, the different chartered organization constituencies, volunteers, and all aspects of the program. Based on the feedback received during the exercise, the BSA National Executive Board determined that this policy change would be the most beneficial and acceptable to the organization, if adopted by the members of the national council. As a national organization, the BSA needs to consider the impact of any policy change across the organization, and not within a single demographic segment or within a single area in the country. While there were segments of the BSA's constituencies that felt the policy change went too far, other segments felt it did not go far enough.

See also http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/MembershipStandards/Resolution/FAQ.aspx.

7. Why is it not considered “just discrimination” to deny membership in programs of the BSA to youth who disclose same sex attraction?

As a private membership organization, as affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in Dale v. Boy Scouts of America, the Boy Scouts have the right to establish its own membership policies and standards. While the Boy Scouts could have excluded youth members who expressed a same sex attraction (by reaffirming the former policy), the members of the national council adopted a resolution which changed these policies. As a private organization, it would not have been unlawful to continue to exclude youth with same sex attraction. Based on the concerns expressed within their various constituencies, the members of the national council voted for a change.

8. What will the BSA do when a youth member becomes an adult?

As in the case with every member, when individuals are no longer youth participants, they must reapply as, and meet the requirements of, adult leaders. [From *Membership Standards Implementation—Frequently Asked Questions for Unit Leaders*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 2)]

9. Will the new policy result in greater risk of liability for chartered organizations? Does BSA provide legal support for any chartered organization or individual sued based on perceived discrimination arising from implementation of the BSA youth membership standard?

BSA members are not required to be members of a chartered organization, and the chartered organization cannot deny BSA membership solely on the basis of sexual preference.

As a result, the BSA has and will continue to be the responsible organization for establishing and defending its membership standards. The BSA has and will continue to assert its constitutional right as a private organization to define the moral standards embraced by its members. Duty to God, duty to Country, duty to others, and duty to self, as expressed in the Scout Oath, and the Scout Law are the fundamental tenets of Scouting and always have been. The BSA respects the rights of other organizations to disagree or to have their own moral standards, which may be different from the BSA’s. However, the BSA has and will continue to oppose any action that threatens the BSA’s right to define its own moral standards for membership.

In addition to taking the lead in opposing any effort to force the BSA to surrender its core values, the BSA remains committed to defending its chartered organizations threatened by litigation solely because of their support of the Scouting program. Membership standards are determined by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The BSA will continue as it has in the past, to bear the cost of the defense of

BSA membership standards, even if the claims are asserted against chartered organizations. [From *Fact vs. Fiction*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 3)]

It was clarified that there will be no change in BSA's defense and indemnification of claims arising out of any claim related to a denial of membership or participation in Scouting activities because of a failure to meet the BSA's membership standards. [Voting Member Information Packet found at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/MembershipStandards/310-561_WB.pdf (Page 11) and at http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/MembershipStandards/Resolution.aspx (See FAQ 10, Item 1)]

10. Where can I find more information on BSA's change in youth membership standard?

1) http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/MembershipStandards.aspx
2) http://www.scouting.org/Training/Membership_Standards.aspx
3) http://nccs-bsa.org/comment/Fact_vs._Fiction.81513.pdf

**The Response of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS)**

11. What is the relevant teaching of the Catholic Church?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) teaches that individuals who disclose a same-sex attraction are to be treated with the same dignity due all human beings created by God (CCC 2358). This teaching is followed in enrollment policies for Catholic schools, for Catholic sports programs, and for all programs of Catholic youth ministry. Scouting, as Catholic youth ministry, allows us to provide a safe environment in which the Catholic faith can be taught, practiced and nurtured. Scouting, as a program for all youth, gives us, as Catholics, the opportunity to meet youth in an activity they enjoy and evangelize them in faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church also teaches that engaging in sexual activity outside of marriage is always immoral (CCC 2396).

In particular, see the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) document, *Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care* (2006), available at: http://www.usccb.org/about/doctrine/publications/upload/ministry-to-persons-of-homosexual-iInclination.pdf.

12. What were the situations the resolution was intended to resolve?

The NCCS understood the situations to be the following:

- A youth will not be prevented from receiving a rank award or religious emblem simply for having a same-sex attraction.
- A youth will not need to hide the fact that he or she has or experiences this attraction, but a youth also will not be encouraged or pressured to disclose publicly the experience of such attraction.
- A youth, thinking or knowing he or she has a same-sex attraction, should not be afraid that he or she will be bullied or expelled by the Scouting community should it be disclosed.

13. In the USCCB document, *Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination* (http://www.usccb.org/about/doctrine/publications/upload/ministry-to-persons-of-homosexual-iInclination.pdf), is the statement: "The Church cannot support organizations or individuals whose work contradicts, is ambiguous about, or neglects her teaching on sexuality." Does BSA's change in youth membership standard conflict with this statement?

The new membership standard states that "No youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone." Accordingly, a youth stating an attraction to the same sex, but not engaging in sexual activity or advocating for a homosexual lifestyle, does not make the youth ineligible for membership. Further, the new BSA policy states that "Any sexual conduct,

whether homosexual or heterosexual, by youth of Scouting age is contrary to the virtues of Scouting". It also states that "The Boy Scouts of America does not have an agenda on the matter of sexual orientation, and resolving this complex issue is not the role of the organization, nor may any member use Scouting to promote or advance any social or political position or agenda".

These public statements by the BSA would indicate that the organization's work neither contradicts, is ambiguous about, nor neglects Catholic teaching on sexuality. The NCCS accepts these statements by the BSA at face value.

14. Is the NCCS confident that the BSA National Office will enforce the policy that was just voted on? What about recent reports that a BSA troop marched in a Gay Pride parade or that a council in New York State has said it allows openly homosexual leaders?

Under the BSA's rules and regulations, a youth member may appear in uniform at a nonpartisan and nonpolitical gathering in a way that gives the youth the opportunity to render service in harmony with his or her training in the Scouting program. However, the BSA is required to avoid involving the Scouting movement in any activity of a political character, and Scouts and their leaders may not participate in single-issue or social advocacy events or activities outside of the Scouting program in a way that suggests the BSA endorses that activity or event. Each youth member is free as an individual to express his or her thoughts or take action on political or social issues but must not use Scouting's official uniforms and insignia when doing so.

BSA has reported that it wasn't a "troop" that marched in a Gay Pride parade on the West Coast; there were certain adults – including former, unregistered adults – who participated in the Gay Pride parade in uniform. They were reprimanded and it was made clear that such activity was and is inappropriate in Scout uniforms.

The NCCS has also been informed that the website for the council in New York State does not indicate that it is welcoming "openly homosexual leaders"; what it says is that they have never denied membership to a youth or adult because of their sexual orientation, and that they do not unlawfully discriminate. All local councils adhere to BSA's membership policies, and that includes the membership policy for adults that BSA does not grant membership to "open or avowed" homosexual adults. Scouting represents millions of youth and adult members in diverse communities across the nation, each with a variety of beliefs on this topic. All local councils and chartered organizations agree to follow BSA national policies. Any time BSA is aware of an inconsistency in the administration of a Scouting policy, it works with the local council to reiterate the policy and ensure compliance.

15. Does BSA's change in its youth membership standard encourage the promotion of a so-called gay "identity" among youth?

No. The NCCS does not see this change in membership policy as promoting an acceptance of "gay identity" among youth in Scouting. Catholic teaching presumes an important distinction between person, inclination, and action. Persons are always to be affirmed and respected—everyone has inviolable dignity. A homosexual inclination, while not sinful in itself, is not ordered to the true good of the person and thus cannot be affirmed as something good or neutral. Lastly, all people are called to live chastely, and all sexual conduct outside of marriage is always wrong.

Youth in Scouting who experience same-sex attraction or a homosexual inclination need support, guidance, and formation that will help them live a happy, healthy, and holy life and not feel alienated from the community. This support includes helping them to recognize their identity as a beloved child of God and to avoid reducing their identity to an inclination, no matter how strong it might be. Certainly, any promotion of a homosexual lifestyle or sexual conduct outside of the conjugal life of marriage cannot be approved. If a youth discloses the experience of same-sex attraction to a leader or peer, care should be taken to ensure that the disclosure is met with compassion and appropriate support that upholds the intrinsic dignity of the young person, fosters an environment where the youth is accepted and respected, and avoids celebrating or affirming the inclination as something good or neutral in itself.

BSA states that, “while a youth member may acknowledge his or her sexual preference, that acknowledgment may not reach the level of distraction, which may include advocacy, promotion, or the distribution of information of a sexual nature.” [From *Fact vs. Fiction*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 3)]

16. How is the new policy consistent with the need to “avoid the near occasion of sin”?

The new youth membership policy of the Boy Scouts of America does not present a “near occasion of sin” because youth members are expected to conduct themselves in a chaste and celibate manner in accordance with the BSA Membership policy and Catholic teaching. The content of discussions or conversations, as well as youth activities, necessitate youth conduct to be in compliance with the Scout Oath and Law.

17. What role has the NCCS played in the decision to change the BSA youth membership standard?

The NCCS exercises its advisory capacity as a member of the BSA Religious Relationships Task Force. The NCCS is not a voting member of the BSA. During the listening period, we expressed our concerns and provided references on Catholic teaching to BSA. The resolution appeared to respect those teachings and BSA's responses to our concerns were satisfactory. We felt that the Catholic Scouters who were selected as voters could, in good conscience, vote either for or against the Resolution.

18. What amount of influence did the bishops have in the development of Mr. Martin’s (NCCS National Chairman) letter of May 29?

Mr. Martin consulted the NCCS Episcopal Liaison from the USCCB, Bishop Robert Guglielmone, who contributed to the overall review and to the clarification and use of terminology.

19. There have been a few reported incidents where pastors have chosen not to recharter units due to the new membership standard. What are the rights of pastors in such cases? What role does the local bishop play in the decision?

The bishop has ultimate authority in these matters and all decisions are made within the diocese. Bishops and pastors have the responsibility to determine how best to minister to the youth of their parish(es). The relationship between a pastor and his bishop is not the purview of the NCCS.

20. If the membership standard itself is not against Catholic teaching, why would a bishop decide to forego utilizing Scouting in his diocese?

Acceptance or lack of acceptance of Church teaching is not the sole criterion by which a bishop judges whether or not to allow a program. A bishop may have many reasons for allowing or disallowing various youth programs. A bishop is free to minister to youth in the ways that he deems appropriate.

21. Will there be efforts to standardize the response of each individual diocese to supporting the resolution and current teaching as referenced in the NCCS National Chairman’s letter?

The NCCS is always ready to offer its support to provide information to each diocese and to seek support for the value of the programs of the BSA. Bishop Robert Guglielmone, the NCCS Bishop Liaison from the USCCB, has written to every bishop in the United States concerning the issue and has made himself available to assist them in doing what is best for our young people. Remember, each diocesan bishop is free to minister to youth in the ways that he deems appropriate in his diocese.

22. Given the stated agenda of some organizations to promote a homosexual lifestyle and the acceptance of adults who are “open and avowed homosexuals” within Scouting, what are the Church and the NCCS doing in response?

The Church's teaching and pastoral outreach, faithful to Christ and the freedom of the Gospel, remain steady and clear. At this time, the NCCS sees it as most prudent to view Scouting as it is now, to continue to infuse Catholic teaching and values into it, and to avoid speculation as to what may or may not be in the future.

23. Would a similar change to the BSA adult membership standard be in conflict with Catholic teaching?

The USCCB, in its document *Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care* (http://www.usccb.org/about/doctrine/publications/upload/ministry-to-persons-of-homosexual-iInclination.pdf), has the following statements which should be applied to adults serving as leaders in Catholic-chartered units:

- Persons who experience same-sex attraction and yet are living in accord with Church teaching should be encouraged to take an active role in the life of the faith community. However, the Church has a right to deny roles of service to those whose behavior violates her teaching. Such service may seem to condone an immoral lifestyle and may even be an occasion of scandal.
- Special care ought to be taken to ensure that those carrying out the ministry of the Church not use their position of leadership to advocate positions or behaviors not in keeping with the teachings of the Church. They must not belong to groups that oppose Church teaching. It is not sufficient for those involved in this ministry to adopt a position of distant neutrality with regard to Church teaching.
- For some persons, revealing their homosexual tendencies to certain close friends, family members, a spiritual director, confessor, or members of a Church support group may provide some spiritual and emotional help and aid them in their growth in the Christian life. In the context of parish life, however, general public self-disclosures are not helpful and should not be encouraged.

Any changes to the BSA adult membership standard would need to avoid being in conflict with these guidelines if BSA wants to retain the support of the Catholic Church for its programs.

## The Mission of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS)

24. What purpose does the NCCS serve for the Catholic Church?

The purpose or mission of the NCCS is to utilize and ensure the constructive use of the program of the BSA as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation. To do this, we cooperate with the bishops of the United States, relating to the USCCB through a Bishop Liaison. Each diocesan bishop must decide how Scouting will be used in his diocese.

25. What is the relationship of the NCCS to the USCCB?

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is a Church committee of concerned Catholic laity and clergy which is advisory to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and relates to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) through its Bishop Liaison with the NCCS. The NCCS seeks to sustain and strengthen the relationship between the BSA and the Catholic Church and to work cooperatively with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and various other groups involved in youth ministry in the United States.

26. Are the leaders of the NCCS affiliated or compensated by the BSA in any way? Are the leaders of the NCCS strictly voluntary positions? Are the leaders of the NCCS solely focused on BSA activities or do they have other duties within the Catholic Church for which they are compensated?

Members of the NCCS Executive Board, of which there are about 50, are all required to be registered members of the BSA. They all serve voluntarily without compensation; some in elected positions. NCCS members consist of laity, clergy and vowed religious. (See also http://www.nccs-

bsa.org/national/Bylaws.php for more details.) There are the following exceptions, all of whom are non-voting members:

1. The NCCS Episcopal Liaison from the USCCB
2. The NCCS employs a Program Assistant that works out of the BSA National Office.
3. A liaison from BSA's Community Alliances Division
4. The NCCS Legal Counsel

27. What assistance might an alternative youth-serving organization receive from the NCCS for its Catholic members?

The mission or purpose of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is to utilize and ensure the constructive use of the programs of the BSA as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation. This mission is authorized by a Plan of Cooperation between the BSA and the Catholic Bishops of the United States (now USCCB) in 1934. We have no intention of extending this liaison role to other youth serving institutions at this time. As such, training and religious emblem programs (see links 1 and 2 below) developed by the NCCS are specifically for, and made available only to, programs of the BSA. The NCCS materials are protected by copyright. However, our religious activity programs (see link 3 below) are such that anyone may participate in them. Diocesan Catholic committees on Scouting use the programs of the NCCS with Catholics registered in the BSA.

1) NCCS Training Programs: http://www.nccs-bsa.org/training/DiocesanTraining.php
2) NCCS Religious Emblem Programs: http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems/index.php
3) NCCS Religious Activity Programs: http://www.nccs-bsa.org/activities/index.php

28. What assistance might an alternative youth-serving organization receive from a diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting for its Catholic members?

In some dioceses, the chaplain appointed by the bishop to work with the Catholic Committee on Scouting may also work with Catholic Girl Scout committees and other diocesan Catholic representatives of youth-serving organizations. These organizations, as members of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry, have access to programs developed by the NFCYM.

29. Is it appropriate for Catholics to use Scouting to evangelize youth in the faith?

When an organization chooses to charter a unit, it does so because its values match those of Scouting and it wants to take advantage of the youth-serving programs the BSA offers. The Scouting program, when chartered to a Catholic organization, should take on the values of the Catholic faith. Scouting fulfills all the characteristics of a program of Catholic youth ministry (see http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/522-451/522-451_low_english.pdf). While the program may be open to youth of other faiths, the experience should be similar to that of someone attending a Catholic school or participating in a Catholic sports program where the Catholic faith is practiced. It's our calling as Catholics to practice our faith and thereby evangelize all those with whom we come into contact. This isn't the same as encouraging someone to convert. The NCCS offers the program *Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate Formation for Scouting* to prepare Catholic Scouters to better offer their talents and charisms in the service of the Church.

30. How is Scouting a program of Catholic youth ministry?

See the document *Scouting is Youth Ministry* (http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/522-451/522-451_low_english.pdf)

31. What have been the responses of bishops to-date to BSA's new youth membership standard?

From the conference of Catholic bishops in the state of Washington (written by the Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson, Bishop of Yakima): http://www.yakimadiocese.org/index.php/618-washington-bishops-issue-scout-statement

From the Archdiocese of Atlanta (The Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta): http://www.nccs-bsa.org/comment/Memo-9-23-13.pdf

From the Archdiocese of Denver (The Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, Archbishop of Denver): http://www.archden.org/index.cfm/ID/10186

From the Archdiocese of Miami (The Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski, Archbishop of Miami): http://www.miamiarch.org/ip.asp?op=Article_1310902431597

From the Archdiocese of Washington (His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington): http://www.cathstan.org/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=2&ArticleID=5699

From the Diocese of Duluth (The Most Reverend Paul D. Sirba, Bishop of Duluth): http://www.dioceseduluth.org/index.php?PageID=1215

From the Diocese of Richmond (The Most Reverend Francis X. DiLorenzo, Bishop of Richmond): http://hovc.org/articles/2013/05/catholic-diocese-of-richmond-statement-on-the-boy-scouts-of-america-may-2013/

From the Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr, Archbishop of Cincinnati: http://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/archbishop-schnurr-statement-scouting-is-compatible-with-church-teaching/14916

From the Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde, Bishop of Arlington: http://arlingtondiocese.org/newsdetails.aspx?Pageid=422&id=5304

From the Most Reverend Richard J. Malone, Bishop of Buffalo: http://www.dobyouth.org/Portals/11/PDF/Catholic%20Scouting/BSA%20Statement%206%201%2013.pdf

From the Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston and Bishop Liaison to NCCS: http://www.themiscellany.org/index.php/news/4505-bishop-responds-to-decision-to-allow-gay-youth-in-boy-scouts

From the Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend: http://www.todayscatholicnews.org/2013/06/boy-scouts/

From the Most Reverend Michael Jarrell, Bishop of Lafayette: http://www.theind.com/news/indreporter/14015-bishop-jarrell-new-policy-not-an-obstacle-to-support-of-boy-scouts

From the Most Reverend David J. Malloy, Bishop of Rockford: http://www.rockforddiocese.org/BSA

From the Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, Auxiliary Bishop of Dallas: http://www.texascatholic.com/2013/11/08/catholic-scouting-truly-a-treasure-in-our-parishes/

Dealing with Disclosure

32. How should Scout leaders react when a youth discloses a same-sex attraction?

BSA provides the following guidance, which the NCCS comments upon below: “It is an individual’s choice how public they wish to be about their sexual orientation. As always, Scouting teaches respect and courtesy for all people. It is the Scout leader’s responsibility to address the issue with concern and sensitivity, while ensuring the member understands the boundaries. The leader should emphasize that

there is no place in Scouting for any sexual conduct by youth of Scouting age." [From *Membership Standards Implementation—Frequently Asked Questions for Unit Leaders*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 2)]

First and foremost, a Scout leader should treat the disclosure situation with utmost concern, respect, charity and confidence. There should be nothing in any leader's response that would give rise to any evidence of perception of unjust discrimination. Also, care must be taken that any communication used in these situations would not give accord to any moral justification of acting upon this attraction. In a Scout unit chartered by a Catholic parish or Catholic institution, it is the responsibility of the unit's adult leaders to supervise and to insist that the conduct of youth members comply with Catholic moral teaching and the Boy Scouts of America membership policy.

Secondly, we must remember and respect that it is the parents who have the primary moral responsibility of education, formation, and nurturing in matters of human sexuality, and any role that Scout leaders fill is done only with a parent's consent. Should Scout leaders be uncomfortable with the situation, they should consider consulting with their pastors.

Lastly, it must be noted that the first sentence in the above excerpt from the BSA document, *Membership Standards Implementation—Frequently Asked Questions for Unit Leaders*, gives cause for some concern and needs to be modified. It states, "It is an individual's choice how public they wish to be about their sexual orientation." Because human sexuality per se is usually not an issue at a Scout activity, there should not be any reason or motivation deriving from Scouting that would encourage or necessitate an individual to express the experience of a homosexual inclination publicly within the context of Scouting. . As the USCCB document *Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination* (2006) rightly cautions, "general public self-disclosures are not helpful and should not be encouraged."

33. Why would a youth feel the need to disclose a same-sex attraction?

Youth disclose all kinds of personal information to those with whom they have developed a relationship or see often. These individuals include friends, teachers, coaches, religious and Scout leaders. Youth are still developing their ability to be discreet and, sometimes, there are things on their minds about which they need to talk to someone. An experience of same-sex attraction—given the deeply personal nature of such an experience, the questions it brings, and the cultural climate—could motivate a youth to communicate with someone seen to be safe and trusted. As individuals who have regular contact, who have developed a trusting relationship, and who are serving in leadership roles, Scout leaders are prime individuals to whom these youth might make personal disclosures.

34. If a chartered organization does not agree with allowing youth members who disclose a same-sex attraction, can it deny them membership or refer them to another unit?

No. As the BSA indicates, effective January 1, 2014, "no youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone." However, as the BSA also indicates, "any sexual conduct, whether homosexual or heterosexual, by youth of Scouting age is contrary to the virtues of Scouting." As they always have, chartered organizations can require members to demonstrate behavior that exemplifies the highest level of good conduct and respect for others and is consistent at all times with the values expressed in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

35. Under the new BSA youth membership policy, is the approach to dealing with a youth who discloses a same-sex attraction different if the youth is not a member of the Catholic faith but is registered with a unit chartered to a Catholic institution?

No. The Catholic Church recognizes moral principles as universally beneficial and applicable to all people. The demands of the natural moral law are the same for all. In order to foster consistent communication and understanding in Catholic units with non-Catholic members, the NCCS encourages all Catholic units to have written policies on acceptable and unacceptable conduct, and to have each

youth member and the custodial parents acknowledge that they have read and understand the guidelines on acceptable and unacceptable conduct for youth.

36. Can a Catholic chartered organization remove a youth who is known to be sexually active from that particular unit? Can a chartered organization set moral standards by which they expect their members to abide as criteria for membership?

The BSA policy change approved in May states that sexual activity among Scout-aged youth is contrary to Scouting virtues. Under the new policy, Scouting's chartered organizations continue to have the right to establish and discuss behavioral expectations regarding all forms of sexual abstinence as a condition of membership within the units they sponsor. Moreover, a Scout may be removed from a local unit due to behavior inconsistent with those rules. [From *Fact vs. Fiction*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 3)]

Removal from a unit may or may not be the basis for revocation of BSA membership – that will have to be addressed on a case by case basis by the Scout Executive, as has always been the case.

37. How does one deal with an individual who disrupts a unit program with speech and conduct that is at odds with Catholic teaching and not appropriate for a parish youth ministry?

Scouting teaches respect and courtesy for all people. The leader's responsibility is to address the issue with concern and sensitivity, while ensuring the member understands the boundaries and potential consequences. [From *Membership Standards Implementation—Frequently Asked Questions for Unit Leaders*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 2)]

38. What are Catholic units to do when a Scout has same-sex "parents"?

Youth and adult members of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) are expected to conduct themselves according to the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. Youth and adults who belong to Scout units chartered by Catholic churches and Catholic institutions are also called to follow Catholic teaching. Catholic teaching says that youth and adults who experience a homosexual inclination or a same sex attraction are to be treated with respect recognizing the dignity of all persons. Catholic teaching is also clear that engaging in sexual activity outside of marriage is immoral. Youth and adults who are open and avowed homosexuals promoting and engaging in homosexual conduct are not living lives consistent with Catholic teaching.

Scouting activities are open to observation by parents, whether they are registered members of the BSA or not. A Scout with same-sex parents is not prohibited from membership and the parents are not prohibited from observing Scouting activities. However, unit leaders are responsible for ensuring that the Scouting environment is appropriately maintained. Should the conduct of a parent become disruptive or inappropriate, the parent may be asked to modify the behavior or refrain from attending Scouting events. In the rare instance that a parent refuses to comply with reasonable limits placed on observation of Scouting activities, then the parent may be prohibited from attending. It would then be the parent's decision as to whether the son or daughter is allowed to attend without the parent in attendance.

**Dealing with Outdoor Activities**

39. Should there be special arrangements made for showering, swimming, lifeguarding and change areas?

Personal activity involving bathrooms, showers, hygiene, and dressing are respected as private. A general move toward individual toilet and shower facilities is already underway and individuals needing additional privacy can take appropriate actions on their own or request others to be respectful of their needs. As always, the adult leaders have the discretion to arrange private showering times and locations, as needed. The privacy and security of our youth members is among our top priorities. [From *Membership Standards Implementation—Frequently Asked Questions for Unit Leaders*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 2)]

40. Will there be any changes to current policies regarding sleeping arrangements on Scout activities? We know that separate accommodations must be provided for members of the opposite sex in the Venturing program.

Current practices allow for unit leaders, in consultation with parents, to use their discretion to ensure the safety and comfort of the youth members in their charge. In the past, there have been a variety of issues that required these conversations and this will follow that process. The training materials will reflect this direction. [From *Membership Standards Implementation—Frequently Asked Questions for Unit Leaders*, August 2013 (See FAQ 10, Item 2)]

**ADDITIONS**

41. You state in the FAQ 23 that "The Church has a right to deny roles of service to those whose behavior violates her teaching." In the context of a Catholic Troop, does that mean Troops have the authority to deny membership to divorced parents, or those who advocate for birth control?

Situations may arise involving adults serving as leaders or applying for service as leaders in Catholic-chartered units that appear to be in conflict with the statements referenced in FAQ 23. These situations should be referred to the Institution Head who is responsible for approving the membership of the unit's leaders.

42. Question 36 states, "The BSA policy change approved in May states that sexual activity among Scout-aged youth is contrary to Scouting virtues." However, Venturing-age youth are 14-20 years old. Some of these youth are married. Does BSA expect these married couples who are Venturers to refrain from sexual activity? If not, does the BSA view homosexual couples in the same manner as heterosexual couples? If so, how does the NCCS view the BSA membership policy in light of the CCC?

BSA has responded that they are aware of the concerns expressed by your questions and have been preparing a response. The process is still underway with resolution not expected until early 2014.

The *Guide to Safe Scouting* (http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss01.aspx#f) currently provides the following guidance:

1. Male and female leaders must have separate sleeping facilities. Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available.
2. Male and female youth participants will not share the same sleeping facility.
3. When staying in tents, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his or her parent or guardian.

As it is today and will be after the new policy takes effect, there is no place for sexual activity in Scouting, whether married or not. Further, couples are not to engage in sexual activity during any Scouting program and, in many instances, married couples do not even sleep in the same tent. For example, at the Jamboree, housing was segregated by gender.

# A Brief History of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting

**A Time Line of Scouting in the Catholic Church 1910-2011**

*In 1976 Truman Stacey prepared and printed "A Short History of N.C.C.S." for the NCCS biennial meeting. That article and updates through 1977 were serialized in three issues of the NCCS Newsletter prior to the 1978 meeting. The following account lists significant events pursuant to that with subsequent updates provided by Bob Oldowski. Additional information will eventually be available on the NCCS web site, www.nccs-bsa.org.*

1910 Boy Scouts of America is founded
1910 Troop 1 in St. Paul, Minnesota is the BSA's first Catholic chartered troop
1914 BSA creates a Catholic Bureau with Victor Ridder as National Commissioner
1922 The first Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCS) was created in New York by Victor Ridder and Brother Barnabas with Bishop Conroy as chairman
1932 Bishop Kelley expands the committee to include bishops from across the country
1933 The Plan of Cooperation is approved between BSA and the Bishops' Committee
1939 The Bishops' Committee becomes part of the bishops' conference
1939 The NCCS adopts the Ad Altare Dei - the first religious emblem. approved by BSA
1954 The St. George emblem is approved for adults
1956 The Parvuli Dei is approved as a Cub Scout religious emblem
1960 The Pope Pius XII emblem for older Scouts is presented for the first time
1960 The Scouter Development program is adopted
1969 Josef P. Kessler (BSA) is named NCCS Executive Secretary
1970 Bishop Michael McAuliffe becomes Episcopal Moderator for NCCS
1974 Pope Paul VI national unit recognitions first presented.
1974 First NCCS course at Philmont (funded by Knights of Columbus for 10 years)
1976 Ben Hauserman and Father John Rice become National Chairman and Chaplain
1977 The Plan of Cooperation and Organization is revised
1978 Bishop Joseph Hart becomes Episcopal Moderator
1978 Henry Murphy arranges funding for an NCCS Hispanic Outreach program
1979 BSA hires Raul Chavez as director for Hispanic Outreach
1980 The National BSA moves its headquarters from New Jersey to Irving, Texas
1980 Ellie Starr is hired as NCCS Administrative Secretary
1980 Terms for NCCS national officers lengthen from 2 years to 3 years
1980 Henry Murphy and Father Dick LaRocque become National Chairman and Chaplain
1980 The Eastern Catholic "Light is Life" religious emblem is approved
1981 NCCS Vocations Committee is created
1982 The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) is formed
1982 Luis Gallegos replaces Raul Chavez as Hispanic Director BSA/NCCS
1983 Bishop Michael H. Kenny becomes new Bishop Advisor
1983 Gerard Rocque and Father Greg Weider become National Chairman and Chaplain
1984 First ICCS conference in the United States is hosted by NCCS
1985 BSA Relationships announces 1986-87 Catholic Membership emphasis
1986 Marv Smith and Father Joe Carroll become National Chairman and Chaplain
1986 The Spes Mundi-O'Connell award is established; trust revenue goes to support ICCS
1986 Josef P. Kessler retires from BSA and as NCCS Executive Secretary
1987 Dann Cooke (BSA) becomes NCCS Executive Secretary
1988 Bishop George Fitzsimons becomes Episcopal Moderator

1988 Award For Excellence instituted by the Activities Committee
1989 John Turo and Father Bob Guglielmone become National Chairman and Chaplain
1989 50th Anniversary of the Ad Altare Dei
1989 The Golden AAD recognition is approved by NCCS board to help support chaplain activities
1989 Father Richard LaRocque is appointed World Scout Chaplain
1990 NCCS regional organization changes from 6 to 14 regions
1990 NCCS revises the Plan of Cooperation
1990 Cabrini Project created - Scouting for disadvantaged youth
1990 Guy Eichsteadt (BSA) becomes NCCS Executive Secretary
1991 Brother Barnabas recognition is approved for meritorious service to NCCS
1992 Frank Rossomondo and Father Leo LeBlanc become National Chairman and Chaplain
1992 The Light of Christ religious emblem for Tiger and Wolf Cubs is approved
1992 National BSA downsizes. The position of "Associate Director of Catholic Relationships" is eliminated. No longer an NCCS Executive Secretary. Dave Worley of BSA becomes liaison person to NCCS.
1992 First NCCS Youth Leadership (St. George) Trek at Philmont
1993 Board establishes NCCS Associate Membership and dues
1993 Father Joe Carroll and Bob Oldowski head up Scouting at World Youth Day, Denver
1993 Don Townsend (BSA Relationships) becomes liaison to NCCS
1994 Bishop Robert Carlson becomes Episcopal Moderator
1995 Bob Runnels and Father Randy Cuevas become National Chairman and Chaplain
1995 Two-year Membership Initiative kicks off
1995 Bob Runnels initiates the Golden Bow program
1995 The International Awareness activity is introduced
1995 Tom Deimler (BSA Relationships) becomes liaison to NCCS
1996 Chaplain Certification program is started by Chaplains Committee
1996 NCCS Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate is approved
1996 Bob Oldowski creates first web site for Region 8, then for NCCS
1996 Ballot for the first time lists two candidates for one position—national chairman.
1997 The Silver St. George is approved for national Catholic Scouting service.
1997 The Millennium patch program begins
1997 Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger becomes new Episcopal Liaison
1997 The Gold Medallion is approved to recognize top Catholic units in each region
1998 Bob Oldowski and Father Dennis O'Rourke become National Chairman and Chaplain
1998 An unofficial NCCS Handbook is made available to accompany the bylaws
1998 First Silver St. George emblems presented (6 for 1997 and 6 for 1998)
1999 Don Oblander becomes liaison to NCCS
2000 The Advisory Board is created with 47 charter members
2000 Ellie Starr retires in May. Barb Nestel is new NCCS Administrative Secretary
2000 NCCS has contingent of 45 at World Youth Day in Rome
2000 NCCS name & emblem are registered with U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
2000 Msgr. Bob Guglielmone appointed World Scout Chaplain
2001 Ed Gargiulo and Father Don Hummel become National Chairman and Chaplain
2001 NCCB and USCCB merge into the USCCB
2001-Scouter Development updated and renamed Scouter Development: Lay Apostolate Formation for Scouting
2002 The completely rewritten Pope Pius XII requirements are approved
2002 The Rosary Patch series is approved
2002 Membership Initiative is kicked off. "Scouting is Youth Ministry"
2002 Don York becomes Director of BSA Relationships Division and NCCS liaison
2003 CD-ROM for Membership Initiative is distributed

2003 First Quality Diocese Award is presented for the year 2002
2003 Term of national vice-chair is extended from two years to three years, renewable
2003 Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei books are printed in English and Spanish
2004 Bray Barnes and Father Roger LaChance become National Chairman and Chaplain
2004 Emmett J. Doerr Scholarships established. First presented 2005
2004 Celebrate 50 Years of Catholic Chaplaincy at Philmont
2004 The Jerusalem Cross program is initiated for Philmont participants
2005 NCCS opens Smith Barney Investment account
2005 Board initiates $100,000 ICCS Americas endowment program to support with $80,000 seed money
2005-*Scouting in the Catholic Church* revised and repositioned as NCCS's advanced training program
2005 Knights of Columbus' Initiative with Scouting begins
2006 The first edition of the monthly e-Bridge is published, with Tony Madonia as editor
2006 NCCS and USCCB establish Region XV comprising Eastern Catholic Churches
2006 SERRA arranges grant money to help fund Venturing in Catholic high schools
2007 Bill Davies and Father Ray Fecteau become National Chairman and Chaplain
2007 Board votes to use consultant SMI to help with Long Range Planning, Oldowski to chair Renewal committee
2007 Board drops Eagle Regalia and signs with ESCO as emblems provider
2007 Bob Mazzuca is named Chief Scout Executive replacing Roy Williams
2008 "Footsteps of American Saints" is approved. First five available June 2008
2008 Barb Nestel leaves as NCCS Administrative Secretary and is replaced by Nancy Watts as NCCS Program Assistant
2008 Don York retires as BSA Director of Relationships
2008 National BSA reorganizes. George Sparks is NCCS Liaison
2009 Father Leo LeBlanc is appointed ICCS World Scout Chaplain
2009 Msgr. Bob Guglielmone is named bishop of Charleston (SC) Diocese
2010 COL (ret) John Halloran and Father Stephen Salvador become National Chairman and Chaplain
2010 Bishop Bob Guglielmone becomes Bishop Liaison of USCCB to NCCS replacing Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger
2011 Matthew Budz replaces George Sparks as BSA Advisor to NCCS
2012 Wayne Brock succeeds Bob Mazzuca as Chief Scout Executive
2013 Chair Elect (George Sparks) begins three year term. Lee Shaw Jr replaces Matt Budz as Community Alliances Team Leader