

**Buffalo Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting  
NEWSLETTER - FALL/WINTER 2011**

**Serving:  
Boy Scouts of America  
Girl Scouts of the USA**

**The Buffalo Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting**

Chaplain:	Rev. Michael J. Putich, O.F.M.
Chairman:	Jim Smyczynski
Vice Chairman:	Howard Morgan (Representing Iroquois Trail Council & Girl Scouts of Western New York)
Vice Chairman:	Stephen Stewart (Representing Allegheny Highlands Council)
Religious Emblems Chairman:	Jim Pasek
Vocations Chairman:	Deacon Tim Chriswell
Co-Chair of Religious Activities:	Sue Vermeulen & Sandy Gworek
Co-Chair of Communications:	Sandy Gworek & Al Kelley
Secretary:	Sandy Gworek
Treasurer:	John Finucane
Staff Advisor:	Patrick Roy

**Committee Purpose:**

The purpose of the Buffalo Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (the Committee) is to give guidance, vitality and leadership in the Spiritual phase of Scouting to all Catholic Scouts and Scouters in the Diocese of Buffalo.

The Committee endeavors to make the entire Scouting program available to increasing numbers of youth in Parish Units and Units operated by Catholic Organizations.

**Committee Goals:**

- ◆ Expand contact with Scouts and Scout Units (including Venturing Crews)
- ◆ Expand contact with other Councils
- ◆ Maintain Strong Religious Emblems Program
- ◆ Promote Religious Activities, such as Footsteps of American Saints, Duty to God and Rosary Patches
- ◆ Promote awards of all Faith Traditions
- ◆ Reinforce Scouting as a Youth Ministry
- ◆ Promote Scout Sunday, Vocations Sunday and Priest Recognition Sunday

**New Vice Chairmen:**

The Committee is pleased to announce that Howard Morgan, representing Boy Scouts of America Iroquois Trail Council and Girls Scouts of Western New York (**hmorgan@niagara.edu**) and Stephen Stewart, representing Boy Scouts of America Allegheny Highlands Council (**steve@subwayofwny.com**) have accepted appointments as Vice Chairman of the Committee. A major part of their responsibility is to maintain good communications and relations with clergy, laypersons and Scouting Units in their respective Councils.

## **IMPORTANT DATES - 2012 – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

- ◆ General Meetings of the CCS: (held at GNFC at 7 PM)
  - ◆ Wednesday, January 18, 2012
  - ◆ Thursday, April 19, 2012
  - ◆ Thursday June 7, 2012
- ◆ Adult Award Nominations Due - February 1, 2012
- ◆ Catholic Quality Unit Award Due – February 1, 2012
- ◆ Diocese of Buffalo Youth Convention – February 17 -19, 2012
- ◆ Day of Reflection – February 25 (see pg. 2)
- ◆ Religious Emblems Board of Review – March 15 & March 17 (see pg. 3)
- ◆ Religious Emblems Ceremony - March 31
- ◆ Ten Commandment Hike - April 28
- ◆ Annual Recognition Dinner – Saturday, June 2

**ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS** – Please consider recognizing the adults that serve the youth involved in the Catholic religious emblems programs. Bronze Pelican, St. George, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Anne, and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Sierakowski applications are available from the Buffalo Diocese website. Applications **MUST** be post-marked by February 1, 2012 to be considered in the 2012 class of recipients. ([www.buffalodiocese.org/youth](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/youth)).

## **Catholic Quality Unit Award - Pope Paul VI**



*This patch can be worn on the Scout shirt right button.*

### **About this Award**

Cooperation, development, and program are the key words in the recognition of Catholic chartered units in earning the National Catholic Quality Unit Award - Pope Paul VI. The adult leadership responds to training not only in Scouting lores, but training in Catholic Scouter Development, and religious counseling. The Scouts in each Pack, Troop, Team, and Crew/Ship respond by participating in the religious emblems program respective of their status in Scouting.

### **Eligibility:**

- ◆ Unit must be chartered by a Catholic institution (parish, Knights of Columbus).
- ◆ The award criterion is for one calendar year.

### **Completion of the Application**

Does your unit qualify for the Pope Paul VI Award? Fill out the application and forward it to Jim Pasek, Religious Emblems Program Chairman, [jgpasek@aol.com](mailto:jgpasek@aol.com) by **February 1, 2012**.

After completing the application, the Committee will review all the applications in their Diocese to determine if the unit meets the criteria for this award. **(Application Attached)**

**100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA:** See the attached article by Howard Morgan. Congratulations to the Girl Scouts!

**SCOUT SUNDAY February 5, 2012 SCOUT SUNDAY:** Boy Scout of America Scout Sunday is on Sunday, February 5 and Girl Scout of the USA Scout Sunday is on March 11, 2012. Units may want to consider celebrating on the Girl Scout date in honor of the Girl Scouts' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Enclosed is a Scout Sunday Planning Guide for your use. The Guide can also be found on the GNFC's website at: <http://www.wnyscouting.org/> under Resources/Religious Relationships. **(Flyer attached)**

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION** - This will be held **On Saturday, February 25, 2012** at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Youngstown, NY. The speaker of the day will be Carol Mullins, President and Founder of Silent Whisper. The Theme of the Day will be *Experiencing God's Mercy*. The day will include a tour of the Shrine and Lunch. Registration deadline is February 17. For more information you may call Sue Vermeulen (716-778-8887) or e-mail - [sue1221@aol.com](mailto:sue1221@aol.com). **(Flyer attached)**. Register at <http://www.wnyscouting.org/>.

The day will also include earning the Committee's new Divine Mercy Activity Patch. The Committee presents the Divine Mercy Patch to everyone, especially Catholic Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, who want to learn more about St. Faustina and The Divine Mercy. The purpose of the Activity is to continue St. Faustina's mission of spreading the message and devotion of The Divine Mercy. As Jesus said to St. Faustina: "*Do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My mercy. Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace (Diary, 1074).*" For a copy of the Advisor Guide and Activity Materials, please contact Jim Pasek, Religious Emblems Program Chairman, [jgpasek@aol.com](mailto:jgpasek@aol.com) .

**ATTENTION - ATTENTION! EMBLEMS BOARD OF REVIEWS** – In 2012, there will be two opportunities for Emblems Board of Reviews: Thursday, March 15, 2012 - St. Gabriel's Parish Hall, 7:00 p.m. 5271 Clinton St., Elma; and Saturday, March 17 at a location in Lockport.

**Ten Commandment Hike** – The Committee is working with the Protestant Committee on Scouting on a Ten Commandment Hike for **Saturday, April 28, 2012** to be held in the Kenmore/Tonawanda area. Register at <http://www.wnyscouting.org/>.

**Saint George Trek** – Raphael de Rosa was selected by the Committee as our participant for the July 2011 Saint George Trek, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting's high adventure leadership program for older Catholic Boy Scouts and Venture Crew members at Philmont Scout Ranch. Raphael's reflection on his experience is attached. The next Saint George Trek will be in 2014.

**2011 NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS BIRCHBARK TREK** - Was held **Saturday, July 9 to Saturday, July 16 2011**. This was a physically active religious retreat, specifically designed for high school age young men. Stephen Pasek participated and his reflection on the experience is attached.

**SPIRITUAL OVERNIGHTER** - For Youth 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and up was held at St. Leo the Great RC Church on **Friday, October 21 to Saturday, October 22**. On Friday evening the Youth all made Rosaries, once that was completed, it was Movie & Popcorn time!

Saturday, a Youth Retreat was held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Retreat Program was facilitated by Jennifer Belock from the Diocese of Buffalo Youth Department. The theme for the day was on the Footprint of the American Saints, the St. John Neumann Patch was handed out on completion. Also on Saturday, there was a condensed version of Counselor Training by Jim Pasek. In addition, a Scouter Development Program for Adults was conducted by Deacon Dan Golinski on the revisions to the Mass beginning this Advent. There were two presentations from Boy Scout, Raphael de Rosa on his St. George Trek & Boy Scout, Stephen Pasek on the North American Martyrs Birchbark Canoe Trek. At 4:30 PM the Youth and Adults all attended Mass at St. Leo's.

**Centennial Scout Law Patch** – The Seattle Archdiocese Catholic Committee on Scouting developed this patch. See page 5 for details.

**Emmett J. Doerr Scout Scholarship** – Information on this Scholarship is included on page 6.

**Information on Scout Religious Emblems** – See page 7 for information of Catholic Religious Emblems.

**NOTE TO EAGLE SCOUTS** – You can obtain a congratulatory letter from Bishop Edward Kmiec at ([www.buffalodiocese.org/youth](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/youth)).

Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year

## Scout Law Activity & Commemorative Patch 1911 ~ 2011

### BSA Scout Law Centennial

1908, when Lord Baden-Powell first published *Scouting for Boys*, he included only nine points of the Scout Law. In 1910, when the Boy Scouts of America was founded, the early leaders began with the original British version of the Scout Law, but desired to adapt the Law "to conditions in America", and "to the boy himself." (*History of the Boy Scouts of America*, W. D. Murray, p. 52)

To that end, they carried on lengthy deliberations, finally arriving at the familiar twelve points that we know today by adding the last three points: *Brave, Clean and Reverent*.

The official current version was adopted in August, 1911.



### Scout Law Activity and Patch Available

The Scout Law Activity and patch are ways to recognize the uniqueness of our Scout Law and to give our Scouts some understanding of how the Scout Law is expressed in other countries.

Each Troop can decide for itself how the patch might be earned/presented or use the activity prepared by the Seattle Archdiocese Catholic Committee on Scouting (ACCS).

To order, please contact:

Seattle ACCS  
c/o Julia Fogassy  
5530 S. Orcas Street  
Seattle, WA 98118  
julia-ofh@msn.com

Price includes printed activity pages and shipping costs:

1 - 2    \$3.50 each  
3 - 25   \$3.00 each  
26+    \$2.75 each

# Emmett J. Doerr Scout Scholarship

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting® has established the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarship to be awarded to five outstanding Catholic high school seniors who are Scouts in a BSA program and continuing their education in college.

## Scholarship Awards:

- Five separate awards of \$2,000 each.
- Must be used for the year awarded unless approved by Scholarship Committee.
- Disbursement from the scholarship fund will be made directly to an accredited institution of higher learning at the beginning of the enrollment period.
- The scholarship will be used to defray necessary costs of the awardee's tuition, room or board.

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a practicing Catholic.
- Be a full time High-School Senior.
- Be a registered young man or woman actively involved with a Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team or Venturing Crew.
- Held or is currently holding a leadership role in his or her unit.
- Earned the Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII Religious Award.
- Earned the Eagle Scout or Silver Award.
- Provided service to his or her home parish (Altar Server, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, staffing youth retreats, etc.)
- Held or is currently holding a leadership role in a school or community organization other than scouting.
- Submit an application with four (4) letters of recommendations. One letter each must come from a religious institution, Scouting Unit, School, and Community.
- Submit official high school transcript.
- Submit an acceptance letter from an accredited institution of higher learning, if selected as a Scholarship recipient.
- Provide a 3 X 5 picture with application.

**Application:** (Click on the links below)

- [Applications](#) must be received by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Visit our [National Catholic Committee on Scouting](#) website for more details about the selection process.

For more information about NCCS, visit the National Catholic Committee on Scouting website at [www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org) or e-mail them at [NCCS@scouting.org](mailto:NCCS@scouting.org).

Join the National Catholic Committee on Scouting network on Facebook by becoming a Fan.

## What should I know about the Cub Scout/Boy Scout/Venture Scout "Catholic Religious Emblems" programs?

The first thing you should know is that there are a total of FOUR emblems available throughout a Scout's career.

The first two emblems are available as a Cub Scout.

- 1) The "**Light of Christ**" emblem may be earned by those youth who are currently Tiger Cubs or Wolves, (Grades 1 & 2); and complete the program BEFORE they begin Third Grade.
- 2) The "**Parvuli Dei**" emblem is earned by those Cubs who hold the rank of Bear or Webelos (Grades 3-5).

These emblems are worked on by the Cub Scout, his family and his pastor. They can be worked on anytime throughout the year, (preferably starting in September), but they are usually awarded at a Scout ceremony, (Scout Sunday-February), held in the youth's home church.

The next two emblems are available as a Boy Scout/Venture Scout.

- 3) The "**Ad Altare Dei**" emblem may be earned by Boy Scouts who have completed Grade 6, usually ages of 13-18.
- 4) The "**Pope Pius XII**" emblem is usually earned by Boy Scouts who are entering Grade 9 and whose ages range from 15-18. Venture Scouts, male or female, entering Grade 9 whose ages range from 15-21 may also earn this award/emblem.

These two emblems require the Scout to work with a trained "Religious Emblems counselor", followed up by a Diocesan Board of Review. The time frame for these two awards is to begin in early fall, or late summer, with the completion date to fall sometime in February of the following year. Presentation of these awards takes place at the St. Joseph's Cathedral, on Franklin Street, in the city of Buffalo, just prior to the Easter time frame.

If ALL FOUR of these emblems are earned by a Boy Scout, or a Venture Scout, they are eligible for the **Buffalo Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting's "Bishop's Award"**, which is a limited edition patch presented by Bishop, Edward U. Kmiec, the Buffalo Catholic Diocese's 13<sup>th</sup> ordained bishop. (This award is also available to Girl Scouts).

Please keep in mind that there exist FOUR Catholic Religious emblems for the **Girl Scouts of America** units that might exist at your chartered organization. Please make the leaders of those units aware of this information and ask that they contact me, if they would like specific information pertaining to Girl Scouts and what awards they can earn.

If you have any further questions about any of these programs, please contact Jim Pasek, (the BDCCS Religious Emblems Chairman), who can be reached at: 681-3309 or e-mail him at: [jgpasek@aol.com](mailto:jgpasek@aol.com).

If you are interested in becoming a "Religious Emblems counselor", we welcome you and ask that you also contact Jim Pasek.

We look forward to many scouts in our Diocese earning their Religious emblems.

Remember, the Twelfth point of the Scout Law is: "A scout is Reverent"! Live your faith. God Bless!