



TO: All Pastors and Administrators

FROM: Larry Boland, Chief Operating Officer

CC: Rich Donovan, Associate Director, Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry

DATE: February 26, 2021

RE: Guidebook for Pastors on Chartering Boy Scout Units

You may recall my memo of January 29th, regarding chartering / rechartering agreements between our parishes / schools and the Boy Scouts of America, requesting that you temporarily hold-off on any re-chartering documents until additional guidance was given. I want to thank you for your cooperation, support, and patience in the last few weeks. At my direction, the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry has been working diligently to develop such guidance for pastors and parishes who choose to charter / recharter.

As a result of those efforts, today I am happy to share with you the attached booklet **“Catholic Scouting in the Archdiocese of Newark.”** **For pastors who choose to charter/ recharter Boy Scout Units at the parishes (including Cub Scout Units), this guidebook offers operational and programmatic guidance, consistent with protocols for other youth ministry programs that already exist in the Archdiocese.** I thank those pastors and parishes who have sent us their pending chartering agreements; however, please note that we are not proposing any changes to the language of those pending charter / recharter agreements at this time. But as indicated in the attached guidebook, **pastors and parishes who choose to charter / recharter are asked to incorporate this guidance.** Specifically, pastors should work to weave chartered Boy Scout Units into their broader youth ministry programs at their Parish. As detailed within the guidebook, that involves pastors being actively engaged in the oversight of scout troop activities (both on and off parish property) and the selection of troop leadership, coordinating closely with local councils, and **making sure that the requirements for councils under the chartering agreements are being implemented satisfactorily.** In addition, along with following all Boy Scout requirements and striving to continually protect the children of our Archdiocese, pastors of chartering organizations are to ensure that all adult leaders and adult volunteers of chartered Scout Units meet all the requirements of the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Protocol. Please know that this is a change from the previous safe environment requirements.

I would like to thank the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry for their time and effort to put this guidebook together. It is our hope that this guidebook, and the engagement with the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry to support pastors, will help serve to create a better experience for all our Catholic Scouting Units here in the Archdiocese.

Should you have any further questions on Chartering or the Guidebook you can contact Rich Donovan at richard.donovan@rcan.org or via his office at 201-998-0088, ext. 4150.