



THE BRIDGE

The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

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In South Korea

Catholic Scouts active at the 25th World Jamboree

By Phil Krajec
Chair, NCCS International Committee

More than 43,000 participants from 158 countries gathered to attend the 25th World Scout Jamboree in August at Saemangeum, South Korea, with the theme, "Draw Your Dream".

Unfortunately, due to a heat wave and Typhoon Khanun, the South Korean government and the World Organization of the Scout Movement decided to evacuate the attendees less than halfway through the scheduled 12-day event. After the evacuation, visits to cultural and historic sites were arranged for the participants in various places around the country. The 1000-strong arranged Boy Scouts of America contingent withdrew to Camp Humphreys, a U.S. military base about one hundred miles from the Jamboree site.

While still at the Jamboree site, Catholic activities were led by NCCS International Committee member Ynes Ortega with a team of 14 from Italy, France, Japan, South Korea, Czechia and Slovenia. The International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS) tent was in the Faith & Beliefs area along with seven other faith groups facilitating interreligious dialogue.

The ICCS theme was "With Jesus Make Your Dreams Come True" and offered hands-on activities appropriate to various age

groups and interests. Youth enjoyed making the Tao cross, painting and bracelet and ichthus-neckerchief slide making. Well attended by all ages was an area dedicated to reflection and prayer where Scouts could select a scripture reading, pray about it and write a petition or prayer of their own. A video of a letter from Pope Francis to the Scouts was broadcast at the tent and printed in various languages.

Daily Masses were offered at



the tent in various languages, one celebrated by Monsignor Fernando Reis, Charge from the Apostolic Nunciature to South Korea. A large Mass was offered on Sunday

concelebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Job Koo Yobil of Seoul and Bishop Emeritus Vincent Ri Pyung-ho of Jeonju. Ms. Ortega estimates there were more than two thousand in attendance, despite it being the last full day on site. "More than 25 priests from various countries were present. It was packed considering that several large contingents had already left" she said.

Some that evacuated to Seoul had the opportunity to visit Monsignor Reis at the Nunciature. About 100 Scouts regrouped the following Sunday for Mass at Myeongdong Cathedral with Monsignor Reis again at the altar. The Catholic Scouts were recognized at the Mass then treated to a private tour of the cathedral.

Despite the challenges associated with the "Traveling Jamboree," Ms. Ortega is proud that the ICCS team was able educate so many on the Catholic faith. When asked if she would do it again, she responded enthusiastically, "Yes! I'm very grateful to the Korean scouts and leaders and my team for showing Scout Spirit. The South Koreans were outstanding hosts and worked hard to make the Jamboree a great event even after evacuation. This was a unique experience that will be remembered for a long time."

NCCS shares long history with International Scouting's ICCS

By Kathleen Polowski

The International Committee of the NCCS was established as a standing committee with the main objective of the committee to maintain a close relationship between the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) and the International Catholic Conference on Scouting (ICCS).

The ICCS is to WOSM (World Organization of the Scout Movement), as the NCCS is to BSA. Just as BSA belongs to and is represented at the meetings of WOSM, so NCCS belongs to and is represented at the meetings of the ICCS.



The ICCS was founded in 1938, and is organized under the Vatican's Secretariat of the Laity as a universal conference of affiliated national Catholic associations and committees, with a World Chaplain appointed by the Vatican and an internationally elected General Secretary.

Phil Krajec and Fr. Mike Hanifin are the current NCCS International Committee chair and advisor respectively. Fr. Stephen Salvador, Fr. Don Hummel, Scott Harvey, Jerry Scanlan and Bray Barnes have been involved for many years with NCCS and ICCS as well, traveling to many countries for meetings and events. Bray is a past World Chairman of ICCS.

Fr. Don Hummel served on the International Catholic Foundation of Scouting for many years and John Doerr is current chair of the foundation, the financial arm of ICCS. Ynes Ortega is Vice Chair of the Inter-Americas Region of ICCS and Fr. Don served as past chaplain.

Past ICCS World Chaplains include Fr. Richard LaRocque (1989), Bishop Emeritus Robert Guglielmone (2000), Fr. Leo LeBlanc (2009).



National Catholic Committee on Scouting



At our April's Members Assembly Conference, it was announced that the membership standing committee would be changed to the relationship committee. What's the difference? The new relationship committee will give support to the National Catholic Committee by building relationships with other national organizations. By building strong relations we can share resources to better help young people develop into strong Catholic leaders for local parishes. The following is the list of organizational meetings/conferences that we will be exhibiting at:

2024

National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry conference
February 5- 7 Dallas Texas

National Catholic Education Association conference
April 2-4 Pittsburg, PA

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops conference on youth protection conference
April 21-24 St Louis MO

Eucharistic Revival Congress
July 17-21 Indianapolis, IN

National Catholic Youth Conference
November 14-16 Long Beach CA

At each of these conferences the National Catholic Committee on Scouting will have a exhibit area. We will be distributing information on Catholic Scouting. Catholic Scouting is on the move.

Yours in Catholic Scouting as a youth ministry,

*John Anthony
NCCS National Chair 2022-2025*

The Bridge is an authorized publication of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS). It is published quarterly to provide news and information to members of the NCCS, diocesan Catholic committees, youth ministry personnel and Boy Scout councils.

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NCCS National Chaplain
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To submit items for future editions of *The Bridge* please contact Mike Gannon at scouttrain@aol.com. Photos are acceptable and should be in a jpeg format. Please ensure all people in photos are identified and the subject matter is fully described.



The Chaplain's Corner

Father Gerard Gentleman

National Chaplain



This summer I had the opportunity to serve as a chaplain at the BSA National Jamboree. It was my first experience of a Jamboree as a participant and therefore I was unsure what to expect. First and foremost, I was very impressed with the organization and coordination that allowed 15,000 scouts and leaders from across the country and beyond to come together and celebrate the unity and giftedness of scouts. Unity was particularly evident in the first-time presence of female Scouts BSA participants. I am very grateful to have personally witnessed this traditional scouting encounter.

The highlight of the Jamboree experience for me was the opportunity to welcome and concelebrate Sunday mass with our Apostolic Nuncio. Cardinal Christophe Pierre is the Pope's representative to the United States and the Catholic Church in the U.S. There were approximately 3,000 scouts and leaders in attendance at the mass, at which 3 bishops and 3 priests concelebrated and the Chief Scout Executive, Roger Mosby, was present. Cardinal Pierre was a scout in France before he entered the seminary, and he continues to value the gift that scouting has been to his life. During his homily, Cardinal Pierre spoke about the shared virtues of scouting and Christianity. He specifically spoke of the virtues of **kindness** and **patience**.

In speaking of the virtue of kindness Cardinal Pierre referred to the jamboree experience.

"Here, at this jamboree, we are surrounded by people who are also God's children: our brothers and sisters in the human family. Many of these people we are meeting for the first time. It is easy for us to judge and evaluate others, sometimes in a negative light. That is a temptation. But alongside that temptation, we also have an opportunity. We have the opportunity to live like we really are the children of God. And this means showing to others the kindness that God has shown to us. Not only is kindness fundamental to being Christian; it is also a way of being a good scout."

In the same manner he addressed the virtue of patience, saying...

"Some of the strongest virtues we develop come through struggle and trials. As scouts, you know that. It is also true in our Christian lives.

To accept this message requires patience. But remember we can be patient because God has first been patient with us. He gives us time to mature. He accepts that we make mistakes and commit sins, but he is always there to forgive us when turn to him in repentance. If we have benefitted from God's patience, then we should extend that same patience to others. Parents can be patient with their children, and children with their parents. Siblings can be patient with one another. And here in these days of jamboree: just as we have the opportunity to practice kindness, so too, we have many chances to be patient with one another, and with the circumstances that arise.

The Jamboree provided many blessings, most importantly the opportunity to integrate the values of Scouting with the virtues of our faith. As a new scouting year begins this Fall, I pray that our dens, packs, patrols, troops, crews and ships will seek out opportunities to grow in the virtues and patience.

NCCS partners with FORMED to provide content for religious emblem programs

By John Savage
Emblems Committee Chair

There is a wonderful new resource for parents and counselors to use along with the religious emblem workbooks (or for your personal spiritual enrichment without working on one of the Emblems). NCCS has partnered with FORMED, a ministry of the Augustine Institute, to provide supplemental content which all will find to be both helpful and informative. Just go to the FORMED link in the Religious

Emblems section of the NCCS website and you can access over a hundred videos and resources which are organized by the appropriate chapter within each emblem. There is also a tab for those working on the many Religious Activity patches. Be sure to check it out.



The Ad Altare Dei Counselor book is being revised and updated to complement the 2023 edition of the AAD youth book. Look for it to be available around the end of the year. How can we help your Scouts get more out of the programs we offer? What support do you need in order to have a more successful emblems program? We'd like to hear from you. Please send us your thoughts to:
NCCS-Emblems@comcast.net.

Diocese of Pittsburgh and Scout Council sponsor trek to Shrines

By Bill Jenkins

In September the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Laurel Highlands Scout Council sponsored an all-day trek to four of the five Pittsburgh Churches designated as shrines. Scouts and Scouters visited St. Anthony's Chapel with its collection of more than 5,000 relics, the most in the world outside of Rome.

This collection also has the most relics in the world that are accessible for viewing. They then hiked to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, which was built in 1897, and was the First U.S. Parish to institute the Divine Mercy Novena. From there the group hiked to St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, founded in 1875, the First Polish Parish in Pittsburgh.

The last stop on the trek was St. Patrick's Church, which is one of three churches in North America with replicas of the Holy Stairs. There they closed the trek there with Mass, celebrated by Father Ken Marlovits. Along the way, they prayed at each church, listened to docents providing history, and discussed Catholic Scouting opportunities and programs, such as the Eucharistic Revival, the St. George Trek, and the available Catholic religious emblems and activity patches.

The organizers said they "felt the Lord blessed us with beautiful weather and allowed all the participants to strengthen their Faith with their fellow Catholic Scouters and meet new friends along the way."



Scouting in the Catholic Church conference helps empower leaders

By Julie Doerr

Philmont Training Center (PTC) in Cimarron, N.M. was again the location for this summer's 2023 Scouting in the Catholic Church (SiCC) conference. A dynamic group of fourteen participants, along with a few family members, travelled from across the country to learn more about Catholic Scouting and participate in Family Adventure Camp. The goals of this conference was to help participants understand the mission of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) and how Scouting is Catholic youth ministry, gain knowledge about Catholic Scouting resources, and use the information in the course to promote Catholic Scouting in their home dioceses and councils.

This year's faculty included, Julie Doerr, 2023 Course Director and NCCS Scholarship Chair, Fr. Mark Augustine, SiCC Advisor, NCCS Region Chaplain and Philmont Chaplain, John Anthony, NCCS National Chair, Joe Daniszewski, NCCS Training Committee Chair, and John Doerr, NCCS Vice-Chair Finance.

The National Jamboree overlapped with the conference this year, so SiCC was the only course at PTC for the week. This enabled the conference to include some unique additions. PTC mini sessions were cancelled so the faculty offered our own mini sessions including viewings from Formed, the premier Catholic streaming service, a craft session about making a one-decade pocket rosary, and a quick lesson on how to teach one of the Religious Activities from the Heritage Series.

Special guests during the week at SiCC included: Roger Mosby, 14th Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America; John Anthony, NCCS National Chair; Fr. Gerard Gentleman, National Chaplain and Philmont chaplain; and Fr. Mike Santangelo, Director of the St. George Trek. The new bishop liaison to the NCCS, Most Rev. R. Michael Fisher, joined the conference by Zoom.

Two years ago, a "Catholic Scouting is Youth Ministry" branding iron was designed for use at PTC's Western Night to help spread the message that Scouting is youth ministry. This year another branding iron was added with the Catholic Scouting logo. Both brands proved popular with SiCC participants and Family Campers. A duplicate set of these brands is being added at both the Philmont Training Center and in the back country where Philmont provides branding opportunities. They will be available to all Scouts and PTC participants next year.

Mid-week provided a one-day break from the conference and allowed participants to experience some of the other opportunities at Philmont. These included visiting Philmont museums, taking a short back country hike and venturing outside of Philmont to see other sights.

The highlight of the week occurred Thursday evening when the group celebrated Mass at the historic Chapel of the Holy Child located at Rayado, about seven miles south of PTC. A bison steak dinner, catered by PTC director Danny Tucker and staff, awaited everyone across the road. Vespers followed dinner. The evening ended with a private candlelit tour of Philmont's Kit Carson Museum.



A VOCATIONS REFLECTION

By
Bro. Andrew J. Kosmowski, SM

One of the more interesting efforts for vocations of the NCCS is the St. George Trek. As you may recall, this is a trek for Scouts and venturers who are thinking about religious life or diocesan priesthood to meet, chat freely with someone about this, and listen to the vocation stories of the advisors who are, or are studying to be, priests, brothers, or sisters.

You may know a Scout with traits you believe are those of a good priest, brother, or sister. If you do, encourage that Scout to apply. Many Scouts have appreciated seeing priests and religious outside the context of school or church. The Scouts see them as regular people, though in an extraordinary setting.



New resources available for religious emblem facilitators

By John Savage,
Emblems Committee Chair

There is a wonderful new resource for parents and counselors to use along with the religious emblem workbooks (or for your personal spiritual enrichment without working on one of the Emblems). NCCS has partnered with FORMED, a ministry of the Augustine Institute, to provide supplemental content which all will find to be both helpful and informative. Just go to the FORMED link in the Religious Emblems section and you can access over a hundred videos and resources which are organized by the appropriate chapter within each emblem. There is also a tab for those working on the many Religious Activity patches. Be sure to check it out.

The Ad Altare Dei Counselor book is being revised and updated to complement the 2023 edition of the AAD youth book. Look for it to be available around the end of the year.

As a reminder there are five Religious Emblem programs available for Scouts to earn. Each emblem requires that a Scout obtain a manual for earning that emblem with the goal of completing requirements over the course of several weeks.

Light of Christ - Designed for 6 or 7-year-old Cub Scouts

Parvuli Dei - Designed for 8 to 10-year-old Cub Scouts

Ad Altare Dei - Designed for 13 to 14-year-old Scouts

Light of Life - Designed for a 12 or 13-year-old Scouts who are Eastern Rite Catholics

Pope Pius XII - Designed for any young person 15 years of age or older

It is important to understand that Religious Emblems are not merely awards for completing a set of requirements. Instead, they recognize a young person's growth in faith and how they live out their Catholic faith. When a Scout completes the requirements for

an emblem, the Scout is entitled to wear the BSA Religious Knot in addition to the earned emblem. The goal of Religious Emblem is to provide a structure where Scouts can grow in faith and apply what they learn to their everyday life.

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



Did You Know...?
By Bob Oldowski
(NCCS Historian)

In conjunction with the National Eucharistic Congress next year in Indianapolis, we can participate in or even organize a mini-pilgrimage! As a prelude to the event, there will be four major USA pilgrimage routes and many local pilgrimages, all leading to adoration of the Eucharist. By the way, such could qualify you for the Activity 7 rocker patch, "Eucharistic Procession". (Refer to the Summer 2023 Bridge.)

So how do I make such a pilgrimage? Access the Revival web site, **www.EucharisticRevival.org**, then scroll down to the last page, column 3 and select PLAN YOUR OWN PILGRIMAGE. There you will find a 7-point Mini-Pilgrimage Guide. You can do it!

Also at this web site is detailed information about this event and several opportunities to keep current with Revival plans via e-mail. So, we can participate in groups or individually, even while staying close to home.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

Now easier than ever to apply for NCCS Scholarships

By Julie Doerr

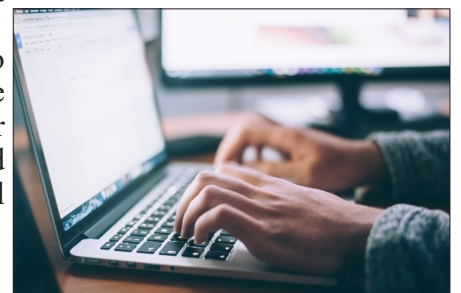
For the first time, NCCS Scholarship applicants will be able to submit their applications online. Letters of recommendation will also be requested and sent through the online process. This will make it easier for Catholic Scouts to apply, recommenders to return their responses and for scholarship committee members to evaluate the applications.

This process is now possible because the new NCCS website (**www.cognitoforms.com/NCCS4/NCCSScholarshipApplication**) has updated security protocols, and the Cognito Forms software used for the online application complies with US and international regulations. To follow youth protection requirements, applicants will need to provide a parent or guardian's email address so they can be included in any replies to the applicants. When applications are sent to NCCS, multiple members will receive the submissions.

Ten NCCS Scholarships totaling \$27,000 will again be awarded this year. Applicants need to only complete one application to be considered for any of the scholarship awards. For eligibility requirements and more information go to the NCCS website.

How can you help with NCCS Scholarships? Pray for the success of the program, help us identify qualified applicants and encourage them to apply and donate to the Scholarship program at **nccs-bsa.org/contribute**.

All amounts are welcome. Donors who contribute \$5,000 or more will receive the new Christus Vivit Scholarship donor recognition award, which will be presented for the first time at the NCCS Biennial Conference in April 2024.



Catholic Scouting message communicated in many ways

By Jason Wolz

In our important mission of keeping our key audiences informed on the Catholic Scouting program, we are primarily focused on providing information, as well as the guidance and structure for the integration of Catholic teaching into BSA programs at parishes and Catholic schools nationwide, helping reinforce Catholic Scouting is a form of Youth Ministry. Guided by the USCCB's Secretariat on the Laity and Family Life, we work closely with Catholic organizations to provide faithful and useful Church-sanctioned programming and guidance to Catholic Scouting units. We now have four formal ways to communicate our key messages to the varied interested audiences, including the Bridge, which is the quarterly newsletter. This electronic publication is aimed at highlighting programs and activities to registered Scouters, Diocesan committees, and other Scouting audiences.



Other key tools are:

Catholic Scouting Wire



Reaching more than 12,000 Catholic Scouters is the new Catholic Scouting Wire, an e-newsletter intended to provide regular communication to all those engaged with Catholic Scouting or who have expressed an affinity for our programs. The Catholic Scouting Wire differs from The Bridge in that its content is more snackable, small bite-size articles that can be read casually from a mobile phone, connecting families and leaders to all the programs that we are offering across a broad spectrum of areas, from our traditional programs to our newer partnerships with nationally recognized Catholic organizations.

The engagement thus far has been remarkable, and when supported by our local Diocesan committee, we expect to see continued growth. Please encourage all those who might be interested in subscribing to visit The Catholic Scouting Wire at <https://tinyurl.com/2w4u3kd8>

CatholicScouting.com

The public-facing brand of the NCCS is Catholic Scouting. This easy-to-remember and highly relevant brand connects the NCCS to those not yet enrolled in a Catholic Scouting unit, parents, educators, youth ministers, and clergy seeking to learn more about how Scouting and the church can offer an outstanding program for their youth. Since the launch of CatholicScouting.com, we have continued to see month-over-month increases in visitation, with users spending more time on the site and exploring more pages. In August, we saw something remarkable: more than 10% of those who visited CatholicScouting.com clicked out the BSA's unit finding site, and they actively sought a Catholic unit for their child to join!

NCCS-BSA.org

This is the internal NCCS website with information for Catholic Scouters. Scouts, partner organizations use to find information on the NCCS organization, program resources and Catholic activities, awards, and recognitions. It also includes a repository of forms and documents needed for program administration.

On the topic of analytics and results, in September, more than 287 users engaged with the Ad Altare Dei specific information page on the NCCS site, and an additional 263 users read the Priesthood Sunday page. Both the NCCS and CatholicScouting.com pages saw year-over-year growth, and we continue to celebrate the success these outlets are having in reaching our current members, future members, and those supporting our mission.

