

**Buffalo Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting  
NEWSLETTER - FALL/WINTER 2009**

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

**The Buffalo Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting**

Chaplain:	Rev. Michael J. Putich, O.F.M.
Chairman:	Jim Smyczynski
Vice Chairman/Membership:	Gary Hyla
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:	Tom Johnston

**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.

**Our Committee** has set some goals for 2009-2010:

- ◆ 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 Vocations Chairman:** We have been blessed that Bishop Kmiec has appointed Deacon Tim Chriswell to the Committee as his Ministry of Charity. One of his duties will be Chaplain-Aide training. More info on this as it becomes available.

**NOTE TO EAGLE SCOUTS** – You can obtain a congratulatory letter from Bishop Edward Kmiec at ([www.buffalodiocese.org/youth](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/youth)) and from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Knights of Columbus.

**SPIRITUAL OVERNIGHTER** - For Youth 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and up was held at St. Leo the Great RC Church on **Friday, October 23 to Saturday, October 24**. Saturday, a Youth Retreat was held from 9 AM to 3 PM. The Retreat Program was facilitated by Venture Crew #416, their Advisors. Also on Saturday, a condensed version of Counselor Training by Jim Pasek and a Scouter Development Program for Adults was conducted by Deacon Dan Golinski & Deacon David McDermott.

On Friday evening, Anthony De Marco III talked and showed a slide presentation of his St. George Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron New Mexico. Also, on Friday, PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY cards were signed by all the Scouts and Scouters. Tom Messana, Scoutmaster of Troop 431, made a presentation before Mass at St. Leo's on Saturday evening and presented the cards to Rev. Msgr. Robert Zapfel.

### **IMPORTANT DATES - 2010 – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

- ◆ General Meetings of the CCS: (held at GNFC at 7 PM)
  - ◆ Thursday, January 7, 2010
  - ◆ Thursday, April 22, 2010
  - ◆ Thursday, June 10, 2010
- ◆ Adult Award Nominations Due - February 1, 2010
- ◆ Day of Recollection – February 20, 2010
- ◆ Religious Emblems Board of Review – March 13, 2010
- ◆ Religious Emblems Mass & Ceremony - March 27, 2010

**Also see important 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dates on the next page**

**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, 2010 to be considered in this year's class of recipients. ([www.buffalodiocese.org/youth](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/youth)).

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION** - This will be held **On Saturday, February 20, 2010** at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Lewiston. Speaker for the day will be Carol Mullins, President and Founder of Silent Whisper. The day will include Lunch and a Patch. Registration deadline is February 13th. For more information you may call Sue Vermeulen (716-778-8887) or e-mail - [sue1221@aol.com](mailto:sue1221@aol.com). **(Flyer attached)**

**EMBLEMS MASS & CEREMONY** - This year at our annual Emblems Ceremony, Bishop Kmiec has agreed to say Mass. This is due to the 100th Anniversary of Scouting. After the Mass & Ceremony there will be a reception to honor those who have received emblems. The Reception will be held at St. Anthony of Padua RC Church Hall, 160 Court St., Buffalo (behind City Hall). Tickets must be purchased in advance either at the Scouts Board of Review (March 13) or at the GNFC. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR. (Flyer attached)**

**100 ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUTS** – The Buffalo Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting has been working on various projects for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010. A few of these projects are:

- ◆ St. George Activity Patch
- ◆ Commemorative Neckerchief
- ◆ Scout Sunday Program Cover
- ◆ Mass at the Annual Awards Ceremony
- ◆ Ten Commandment Hike
- ◆ Camporall Mass

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – 2010**

- Scout Sunday: February 7, 2010
- Award Ceremony & Mass: Saturday – March 27, 2010
- Ten Commandment Hike: Saturday – April 24, 2010
- Camporall: May 14-16, 2010 – Mass & Midway – **A Scout is Reverent**
- Annual Recognition Dinner – June 5, 2010

**St. George Activity Patch** - A 100<sup>th</sup> BSA Catholic Committee St. George Anniversary Activity Patch has been designed to promote a year's worth of activities. We hope that these activities and patch will encourage Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, with their families and leaders, to participate in four religious activities during Scouting's Centennial. The patch is available in the Scout Shop. **(Flyer attached)**

**2010 SCOUT NECKERCHIEF** – The GNFC Religious Committees, in recognition of 100 years of Scouting...100 years of Duty to God, are offering a **Religious-themed neckerchief**, to commemorate the events of 2010. Our specific aim is that units purchase these neckerchiefs for their Scouts & Scouters and have them wear them for **Scout Sunday**, February 7, 2010 as well as other religious-based events next year. The neckerchief is available in the Scout Shop.

**SCOUT SUNDAY February 7, 2010** – At the Program Launch at GNFC on June 24<sup>th</sup>, a packet of information for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scout Sunday was distributed. The packet is also included on the CD handed out at the Program Launch. Any information on this please contact Lou Saad at [scouterlou@gmail.com](mailto:scouterlou@gmail.com) A Program folder for Scout Sunday is available by contacting Gary Hyla.

**Ten Commandment Hike** – The Religious Relationships Committee is organizing a Ten Commandment Hike for **Saturday, April 24, 2010 (Flyer Attached)**.

## **100 ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUTS (continued)**

**GNFC Centennial Camporall: May 14-16, 2010 – Mass & Midway** – There will be a Midway Display – *A Scout is Reverent* - at the Camporall on May 14-16, 2010. On **Saturday, May 15**, Bishop Kmiec will preside at the Mass at 6:30 p.m. Do not miss this special event.

**THE BUFFALO DIOCESAN CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING ANNUAL DINNER** – Please come to this special recognition dinner in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scouting. It will be held on **Saturday, June 5, 2010 at St. Gabriel Church, 5271 Clinton Street, Elma**. We will first attend Mass as a group at 4:00 p.m. then proceed to the Parish Center for the dinner. This year's Chairman and Chef will be Jim Pasek. **(Flyer attached)**

**CATHOLIC COMMITTEE HISTORY:** Sandy Gworek has volunteered to write the history of the Catholic Committee on Scouting. If anyone has any information, stories, pictures, newspaper clippings, etc., please notify Sandy: [gworekusa@roadrunner.com](mailto:gworekusa@roadrunner.com) or 773-1338

# **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 \$2000 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 our [National Catholic Committee on Scouting](#) website or email us at [NCCS@scouting.org](mailto:NCCS@scouting.org).

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## 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 Gary Hyla, (BDCCS Vice-Chairman/Membership), at 681-5220 (Home #) or email at: [ghyla@e1b.org](mailto:ghyla@e1b.org). If you would like to find groups forming in September 2009 for the upcoming Ad Altare Dei, or Pope Pius XII emblems, please contact either myself or Jim Pasek, (the BDCCS Religious Emblems Chairman), who can be reached at: 681-3309 or email 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.

Good Luck! We look forward to many scouts in our Council earning their Religious emblems in 2010, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scouting. Remember, the Twelfth point of the Scout Law is: "A scout is Reverent"! Live your faith. God Bless!