



Piercing Arrow

February 2015

Published by the Catholic Committee on Scouting
Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph, Missouri

Chairman's Report

A belated but still Happy New Year! As the chairman of the Catholic Committee for a second year, it is my pleasure to wish everyone happy new year yet again.

I have agreed to serve as chairman of the committee for a second term and I look forward to helping all Catholic units have a great scouting year. I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities that will present themselves throughout the year that will help the Catholic youth in our diocese grow closer to our Lord.

I invite you to the Catholic Awards Ceremony. It will be held Sunday, February 15th, at 3:00pm, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 416 W 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri (Corner of 12th and Broadway). Bishop Finn will present adult awards to some very deserving leaders from throughout the diocese.

Any youth, who received their religious awards this past year, are invited to attend. If these boys arrive and check in before the ceremony, their names will be read and they will be recognized for their accomplishments.

There will be a reception following the ceremony at Donnelly Hall, next door to the Cathedral. We all look forward to seeing as many of you as possible that day.

There will be other happenings throughout the year and future editions of this newsletter will let you know more as the year goes on. Once again, I am looking forward to this year as your Chairman and hope that if you have any questions or concerns, you will present them to the committee. All leaders are invited to attend our bi-monthly meetings. We

meet at the Knights of Columbus hall at St. Francis Regis Parish on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Our next meeting will be on March 18. I hope that many of you can make it and help make our Catholic Scouting program a success.

Dan Brink

Changing of the Guard

We have once again shuffled the chairs on the deck at the Catholic Committee on Scouting, resulting in Joe Griggs being elected Treasurer.

Many thanks to Jim Olshefski for his years of service as treasurer.

You are encouraged to consider becoming more involved in the Catholic Committee. Every organization benefits from new blood and the fresh ideas which come with other perspectives.

If you haven't attended one of our meetings, please do.

Volunteer Troops Needed At Bartle

Troops are needed to cut the grass and clean the Church for Masses this Summer. Contact Father Joe Powers: powersjoe79@gmail.com

Meeting Schedule Has Changed

To better serve Catholic youth of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, and to accommodate those leaders who would like to attend and have Monday night scouting conflicts, the meeting times of the Committee have been changed.

The Committee now meets every other month at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, except June, July and August, at St. John Frances Regis Convent, 8941 James A. Reed Rd., KCMO.

You are cordially invited to attend.

Chaplain's Report

The last few years have seen new Scout leaders attending and accepting committee positions. We need your active participation and ideas in order to better serve Catholic Scouting. Come to one of our meetings!

I have made good progress in recruiting deacons and priests to serve as chaplains and Mass presiders for the upcoming sessions at Scout Camp. We can always use help with mowing the grass and cleaning the chapel before Sunday Mass, especially 1st session. Some work may accomplished during Tribal Celebration weekend but the grass and dirt are ever-present. Let me know if your troop can help.

Fr. Joe Powers

Non-Scouting Catholic Religious Programs Available

Did you know that your Catholic youth can learn about their Church in addition to the religious emblems programs? The programs for the emblems have age/grade restrictions but not so with a host of other activities that are available to members in any youth organization, not just Scouts.

These include:

- the Rosary series
- the Marian series
- Footsteps of American Saints
- Footsteps of Modern Saints (2015)
- Faith series on the Corporal Works of Mercy (2015)
- International Catholic Awareness
- Blessed are the Merciful – Keep the Lamp Burning

For more information, go to www.nccs-bsa.org and click on "Religious Activities".

Retreat News– Need Ideas and Help

Venture Crew 875, which has been responsible for the annual Catholic retreat, will not be re-chartering. Joe LaScala, Crew Advisor, has moved to Topeka and the few remaining youth are now adults and busy with school and work. This is sad news because the Crew has been around for many years and has proved to be a tremendous force in planning and presenting our retreats. Many thanks to Joe for his years of serving as Advisor.

Please know that we want to continue the retreat experience in some format and will be exploring various options and dates. If you have ideas, please let Father Joe Powers know. You can reach him at: powersjoe79@gmail.com

Membership Report

Membership cards were mailed to 176 members of the Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCS) at the end of January. Please detach and return the slip enclosed with your membership card to confirm your current contact information. This will ensure that you will continue to receive the Piercing Arrow newsletter, and will be kept up to date on critical CCS issues. If you have not received your 2015 CCS membership card in the mail, please contact me.

Thomas Jewitt, CCS Membership Chair

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Who are We and What do we Do?

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph's Catholic Committee on Scouting covers 46 Catholic affiliated units within the Heart of America Council including: 21 Cub Scout Packs, 20 Boy Scout Troops and 5 Venturing Crews. In addition, the CCS also makes all of its services available to the large number of Catholic scouts and scouters that are registered with other scouting units throughout the diocese. If you are interested in starting a pack, troop or crew at your parish, the CCS membership team would be thrilled to assist you in any way that we can.

Adult and Unit Religious Awards

The Bronze Pelican Emblem is a diocesan recognition defined by the Catholic Committee on Scouting with the approval of the bishop. It may be presented to any adult working in the Scouting Programs under Catholic auspices, to Catholics in Units not partnered by the Church, and to those who have made significant contribution to Scouting in the field of Catholic relationship. It may be given to Catholic men and women, including priests and religious, or to non-Catholics.

The purpose of this emblem is to recognize an outstanding contribution to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in the Scouting Programs.

Our 2015 honorees will be:

- Jerry Adams
- John Baccala, Troop 80
- David Denfeld
- Jim Engelman, Troop 221
- Jeff Martin, 221
- Kristen Perez, Pack 865
- Connie Revers
- Laura Safley
- Jerald Spooner, Troop 221
- Delmar Swindle, Troop 362
- Aaron Wright, Troop 118

The St. George Emblem is awarded by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and qualifies for the adult square knot.

For each (arch)diocese/eparchy, the National Catholic Committee can award one emblem annually plus one additional emblem for every 20 Catholic-chartered units or fractions thereof within the diocese.

Our 2015 honoree will be:

- Doug Warrens, Troop 84

National Catholic Quality Unit Award – Pope Paul VI

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 National Catholic

Leadership 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.

This year, the National Committee is honoring Troop 221 – St. Mary Parish located in Independence.

Four Scouts in Troop 118 Earn Ad Altare Dei

Four scouts from St. Peter's troop 118 earned Ad Altare Dei emblems this school year. The scouts attended weekly sessions at the parish learning about the sacraments.

Under the direction of Assistant Scoutmaster Aaron Wright with help from Tim Castillo and John Swartz, the team gathered each Sunday afternoon to discuss the lessons and activities. Participants ended each meeting with attendance at the parish Sunday evening Mass. One of the scouts also earned the St. John Bosco religious emblems for attending twelve Masses in uniform. Culmination of the program was a retreat held in the church on a Saturday night. Steve Cook, the pastor, discussed ordination and held a reconciliation service for the attendees. The group then spent the night in the church reflecting on the program.

Pictured at right are the boys making communion bread prior to the Sunday morning parish service. The parish Knights of Columbus were very generous in paying all expenses for the four boys and participating in the final Board of Review.

Thank you Fr. Cook and Knights for promoting Catholic Life with our scouting program.



**CATHOLIC COMMITTEE
ON SCOUTING NEWSLETTER
3411 Shady Bend Drive
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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