



## Scouting Stories of Catholic Priests, Deacons, and Religious

Volume 1, Issue 1-2005

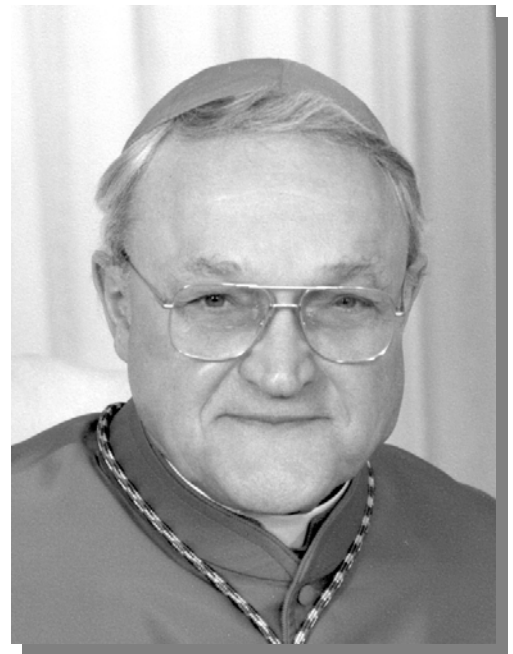
**N**ational  
**C**atholic  
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***Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger, Episcopal Advisor to NCCS, clearly states the link between Scouting and Catholic leaders for the Church.***

***"The Catholic Church is fortunate to have in the Scouting movement so apt a vehicle for Christian development. It can be noted that many church leaders today, clerical, religious, and lay, have come from the ranks of Scouting."***



*+ Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger*

### **A Time for New Discovery**

Collecting the Scouting stories of Catholic priests, deacons, brothers and religious began at the NCCS Biennial Conference in St. Louis in April 2004. The theme of the Conference was "A Time for New Discovery." This theme, and work of the Vocations Committee launched the gathering of stories showing strong ties between Scouting under the auspices of the NCCS, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Chartered Units of the Boy Scouts of America. Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger, Diocese of Evansville, IN, is the Episcopal Advisor to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

## Mission of the NCCS Vocation Committee

Develop an awareness of Catholic Church Vocations in Catholic youth through activities of Catholic Scouting Units using NCCS Programs and Religious Emblems.

***The Most Rev. Roger Schwietz*** of Anchorage, Alaska, is Episcopal adviser of the North American Continental Congress for Vocations and chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Vocations. He wrote a extensive article on Church Vocations in June 03, 2003. One of many points from Bishop Schwietz:

- *Children of every age need to hear about vocations.* Vocation seeds germinate early. Ten-year-olds know what doctors, police, mechanics and cashiers do. They ought to know what priests and sisters do, too. Field trips to the seminary or convent may be in order.
- We need priests and religious deeply involved in campus ministry and in other youth and young adult programs.
- *We need to pray...*at the minimum, a petition for vocations should be a part of every Mass offered in a parish or religious house and in every Catholic school and religious education class."
- We also need to include prayers at home from the hearts of children, parents and grandparents.

## USCCB Vocation Committee's Pastoral Plan and the NCCS Vocations Committee Goals

- Provide support and encouragement for each DCCS to be a part of the Pastoral Plan .
- Focus through Catholic Scouting programs for youth to discern vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life.
- Build on existing programs by adding a vocation oriented activity to support the NCCS national quality award, Pope Paul VI Unit Award.

***What better program is there in the USA to reach thousands of Catholic youth and what better program is there to support the Catholic family than Scouting under the auspices of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting?***

## Catholic Scouting Leaders Can Create a Positive Culture of Vocations

- Together we can create a positive environment in which a Scouts may hear God's Call and begin their vocation discernment process. See page 24 for Pope Paul VI Unit Award.
- Continue to provide a vehicle for Catholic faith development for youth and adults.
- Each DCCS can play an important role in diocesan youth ministry.
- Work with other Catholic lay organizations that collaborate with Diocesan Vocation Office.

## **Wayne H. Arnold an Eagle Scout who earned AD ALTARE DEI Religious Emblem.... Fr. Wayne H. Arnold, a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting**

Troop 160 in Natchez, Mississippi, gave Wayne many opportunities to grow in many ways and he said,

“I wouldn’t trade for anything in the world!  
I’d love to do it all over again.”

Wayne became an Eagle Scout in 1968 and earned the Ad Altare Dei Catholic religious emblem.

“My scout leaders in the 1960’s were very good Christian men. They were excellent examples of what I wanted to do when I grew up and I hope that I have had the same success!” The Troop was chartered to a Methodist Church.

“I have a wonderful time working with a great Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting in Memphis, Tennessee. I enjoy saying Mass at Campouts and other Scouting activities. I’m proud of our Scouts and their tireless leaders!”

Fr. Arnold is pastor of the Catholic Church of the Incarnation in Collierville, Tennessee.

Rev. Wayne H. Arnold, Pastor  
Diocese of Memphis, TN  
360 Bray Station RD  
Collierville, Tennessee 38017  
e-mail: Warnold@incarnationchurch.com  
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## **Rev. William M. Costello, Diocese of Fall River, MA**

I attained the rank of Eagle Scout through Boy Scout Troop 103 and Explorer Post 103 which are chartered through Annunciation Church in Florence, MA in the Diocese of Springfield MA. While in Scouting I received the religious emblem Ad Altare Dei.

I remember that our Scoutmaster would always encourage guys to consider a vocation. Each year we have a Troop sponsored retreat campout.

There is not a doubt in my mind that it was from scouting and the influence of the Scoutmaster that I became a priest. I was registered and active in Scouting in the Catholic Church from the age of 8 until I left for the seminary at the age of 20.

I am the pastor of St. Anthony’s Church in East Falmouth, MA in the Diocese of Fall River. We are celebrating our Jubilee 100 in 2004. I continue to encourage youth and families in our parish to be involved in Scouting.

Fr. William M Costello  
St. Anthony’s Church  
167 East Falmouth Highway  
East Falmouth, MA 02536  
Phone: 508-548-0108

## **Bryan D. Stitt an Eagle Scout who earned Parvuli Dei Emblem... Fr. Bryan D. Stitt, a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting**



***Bryan earned became a Eagle Scout in November of 1995.***

When Traveling through the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico I could not but be aware of the beauty of God's Creation. That realization has been stuck with me ever since. Further more, Scouting instilled in me a great appreciation for the basic human values such as service, integrity, and dedica-

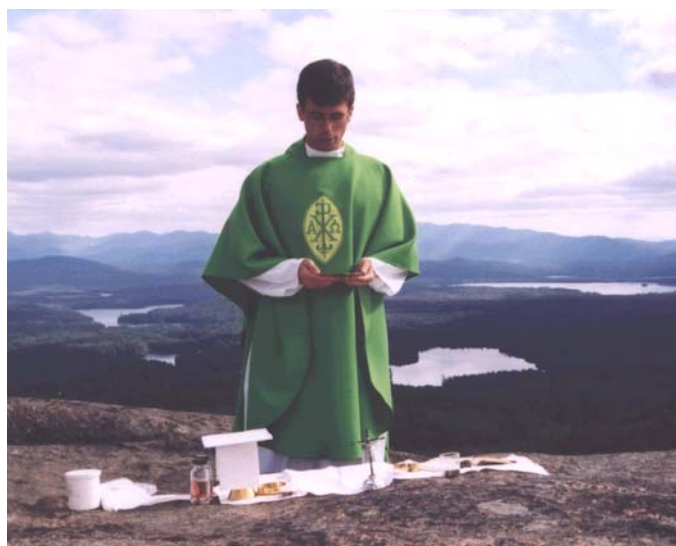
These values were seen in the lives of my generous Scout Leaders, and they passed them on to us.

Fr. Bryan is pastor at The Church of St. Peter in Plattsburg, New York in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Yours in Scouting,  
Father Bryan D. Stitt  
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Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
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"I started in Boy Scout....very simply...because that's what my friends were doing. We went to Catholic School and in the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade we jumped at the opportunity to wear anything besides our school uniform. The Sisters of St. Joseph allowed us to wear our Scouting uniform. But what started as a gimmick went on to radically define my youth.

Bryan earned the Parvuli Dei religious emblem in Cub Scouts. Troop 70 provided the opportunity to learn good values and earn the rank of Eagle Scout



***In August 2003 Fr. Bryan Stitt celebrated Mass on St. Regis Mountain in New York State.***

## **Douglas E. Dorula an Eagle Scout who earned AD ALTARE DEI and Pope Pius XII Religious Emblems...**

### **Fr. Douglas E. Dorula, a priest who continues to support**

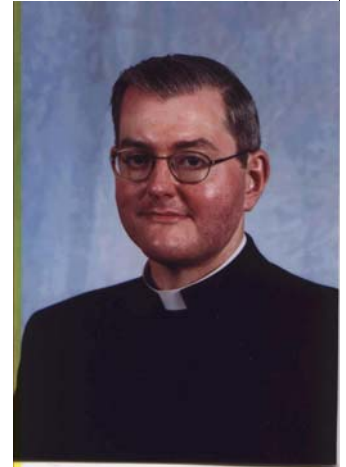
Fr. Dorula proudly shared that “Scouting helped me to understand that service to God and Country is very important. I enjoyed all the wonderful experiences that gave me a chance to be a leader.

Receiving the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII emblems were key in leading me to priesthood.”

Fr. Douglas encourages Catholic Scouting leaders and the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to “continue to promote Vocations to the priesthood and religious life every chance you get.”

“I am praying for you in this very important work for our Church.”

Fr. Douglas is the Parochial Vicar in the Diocese of Greensburg, PA and pastor of St. Bernard of Clairvaux in Indiana, PA.



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### **Rev. Stephen Rucker, Diocese of Ogdensburg, N.Y.**

I learned a general sense of reverence and values in Scouting. In Boy Scouts I earned the rank of Star Scout. I learned a lot of outdoor skills and about working together with other like minded people.

My Scouting experience began in a unit that was not chartered to a Catholic parish, but it did affirm my Catholic religious upbringing.

I am pastor for the parish of St. Patrick in Diocese of Hogansburg, N.Y.

Rev. Stephen Rucker  
St. Patrick Parish  
393 Church Street  
Hogansburg, NY 13655  
Phone: (518) 358-2557



## Glenn Harris an Eagle Scout earned AD ALTARE DEI Religious Emblem... Fr. Glenn Harris, a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting



***Ad Altare Dei presented to Glenn by Fr. Francis Kasperski***

I received my Eagle Scout Award in 1982. In 1983 I became a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow. In 1984 I received the Ad Altare Dei Emblem. I worked on council summer camp programs for a total of 17 years, with the last 6 being camp Chaplain.

In the 1980's I was an active member of the Order of the Arrow, serving as treasurer and Vice Chief of my lodge in 1982 and 1983. In 1985, I had the privilege of participating in a Philmont trek.

After my ordination in 1992, I became a member of the NCCS and served a year as Advisor to the Vocation Committee. In 1993 I was appointed the Catholic Scout Chaplain for the Diocese of Peoria.

In 2000 I received the St. George Emblem and in 2003 I received the W. D. Boyce Coun-

cil Silver Beaver Award. In 2000, I was appointed Vice President for Relationship for the W. D Boyce Council.

I am registered in two Scout Troops and One Venture Crew. I have served as an Assistant Scout Master, Cub Master, and Associate Advisor for the Venture Crew. I am looking forward to being a Chaplain for a sub-camp at the 2005 Jamboree.

It was Catholic Scout leaders who proved to be the pivotal influence in my decision to pursue a vocation to the priesthood. Like many young men, I did not take my duty to God all that seriously. It was the Scout leaders at my Eagle Board of Review who first challenged me to see the importance of going to church. It was my Order of the Arrow advisor who first suggested that I might think about the priesthood. If it wasn't for those leaders being used as God's instruments, I probably wouldn't be a priest today.

Yours in Scouting,  
Father Glenn Harris  
1216 N. 6<sup>th</sup> ST  
Chillicothe, IL 61523  
Phone: (309) 274-3809  
e-mail: ghh091764@msn.com



***Fr. Glenn Harris recognized with the St. George in 2000 for his dedication to Catholic Scouting in the Diocese of Peoria.***

## Nick Ratchford an Eagle Scout earned AD ALTARE DEI Religious Emblem Fr. Nicholas Ratchford, a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting



The first photo is of the presentation of a commemorative plaque during my Eagle Scout court of honor, 1963, Troop 193, St. William Parish, (Price Hill) Cincinnati, Ohio.

I was a Boy Scout as a youth; Eagle Scout on Dec. 4, 1962. My troop, Troop 193, was chartered by St. William Parish, Cincinnati, Ohio.

My Scouting experience included earning the Ad Altare Dei religious emblem. It helped reinforce what I had learned in elementary school and in CCD classes during high school. I especially remember the field masses we had on campouts and a trip to the Monastery of Gethsemane in Bards-

town, Ky. One of our assistant pastors, as our chaplain, took special interest in the Scouts and he encouraged me to pursue a vocation to the priesthood. When I was ordained to the priesthood, he preached the homily at my first Mass.

The second photo is of my preaching the homily during a Mass in the chapel at Beaumont Scout Reservation, Greater Cleveland Council.



The leadership training in Scouting and the reinforcement of a person's duty to God are excellent supports for a person whom God is calling to the priesthood. Earning the religious emblems (Ad Altare Dei or Light is Life and the Pope Pius XII) are ways to strengthen one's faith

commitment and give the opportunity to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

My primary assignment: Pastor, St. Nicholas Parish, Lorain, Ohio.

Yours in Scouting,  
 Father Nicholas R. A. Ratchford  
 Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma  
 2711 West 40th Street  
 Lorain, OH 44053-2252  
 e-mail: padre1971@aol.com  
 phone: (440) 282-7525

## Joe Scantlin an Eagle Scout earned AD ALTARE DEI Religious Emblem... Fr. Joe Scantlin, a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting



**Joe Scantlin, Eagle Scout in 1950,  
Boy Scout Troop 32 Ft. Worth,  
Texas.**

While Chaplain for the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting Fr. Joe spoke often about his association with Scoutmaster J. .E "Ole Man" Gillespie and the priests who drove scouts to camp during the 1950's. He looked up to these leaders as role models for all the Scouts and other Scout leaders.

Rev. Joseph Scantlin, DCCS Chaplain  
Diocese of Ft. Worth , Texas  
2100 N. Davis DR,  
Arlington, Texas 76012-1803  
phone: (817) 460-2751

Joe Scantlin was an active member Most Blessed Sacrament Parish and Troop 32.

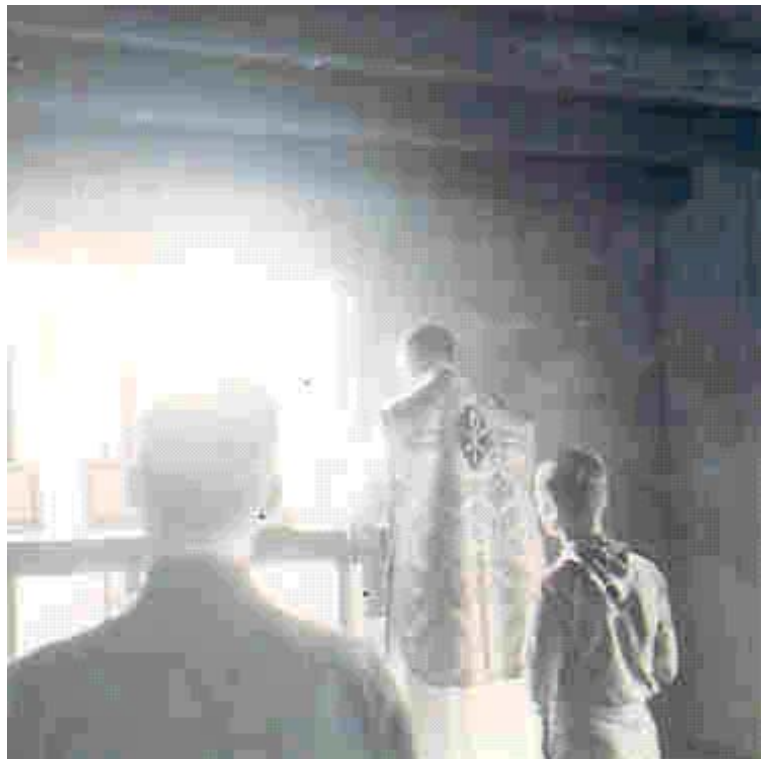
1950 was a great year in his Scouting life he became an Eagle Scout April 24<sup>th</sup> and earned the Ad Altare Dei Award.

Chartered to Knights of Columbus Council 759 in Ft. Worth Texas. Fr. Joe has served many years as the Diocesan Scout Chaplain for the Diocese of Ft Worth

In 2000 Fr. Joe received the St. George Emblem and in 2003 received the W. D. Boyce Council Silver Beaver Award, and was appointed Vice President for Relationship for the W. D Boyce Council.

He is registered in two Scout Troops and One Venture Crew, has served as an Assistant Scout Master, Cub Master, and Associate Advisor for the Venture Crew.

I am looking forward to being a Chaplain for a sub-camp at the 2005 Jamboree.





## Joe Powers an Eagle Scout earned AD ALTARE DEI Religious Emblem... Fr. Joseph Powers serves as Chaplain for NCCS, Region 9, and Diocesan Chaplain for Catholic Scouting in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO



As a member of Pack and Troop 283 I attended Catholic Retreats every year. Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Raytown, MO provided great support for our Scouting programs. I appreciate the memorable leaders and the older Scouts who helped me and influence my life while in Scouting.

We were encouraged to earn our religious emblems as well as participate in Summer Camp at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, Roundups, Camporees, Scout Sundays, wear our Scout uniform to school and advance to the rank of Eagle. Attaining the Eagle Rank in 1968 was a proud day for me and my family. The photo at the left shows my

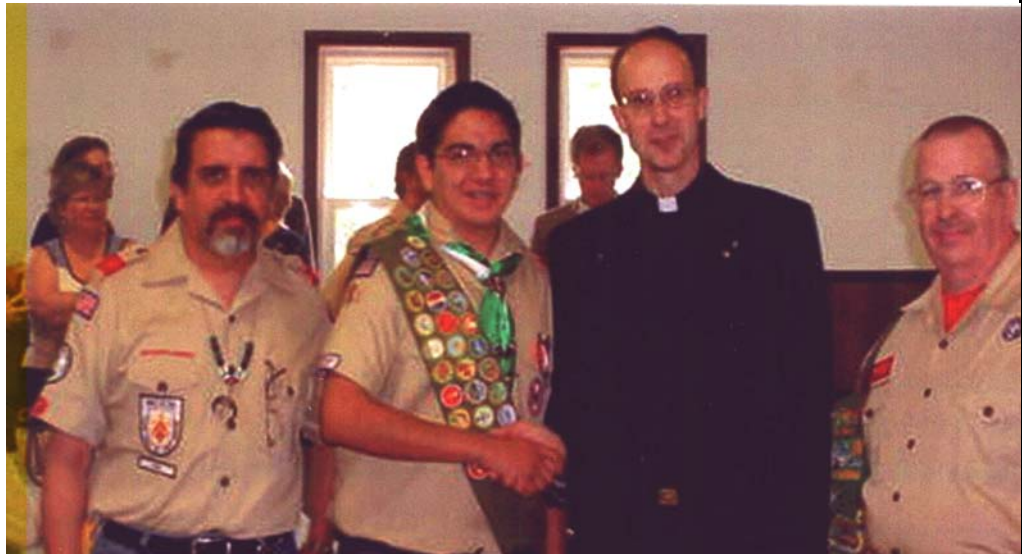
mother, Loraine, with me at the reception after the ceremony. Another important step for me was to work on and earn the Ad Altare Dei medal to wear next to my Eagle badge.

My biggest influence came from my parish priest, Fr. John Frame. He took an active interest in Scouting and our Troop.

I remember Fr. Tom Waterman, Camp Chaplain, saying Mass at the Bartle Scout Reservation from his camping trailer.

These priests reinforced my discernment of a calling to priesthood.

Now I try to continue their influence in Scouting as CCS Chaplain and going to Camp with Troop 283. I plan to attend the 2005 Jamboree as a Chaplain.



*Members of Troop 80 from Holy Cross Parish congratulated Fr. Powers at the reception following Mass and celebration of his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood in May 2004. Fr. Joe attended Summer Camp with the Unit while pastor of Holy Cross parish. Fr. Powers is Chaplain for Catholic Committee on Scouting in the Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph, MO and is Region 9 Chaplain for NCCS.*

Yours in Scouting,  
Father Joseph Powers.  
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish  
7009 Blue Ridge Blvd, Raytown, MO 64133  
e-mail: jbpow@comcast.net phone: (816) 353-2380

## Larry Kulick an Eagle Scout ...

### Fr. Larry J. Kulick, a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting

Scouting played a large role in my vocation. I earned the rank of Eagle Scout in a Catholic Chartered Troop 524 in Leechburg, PA. The programs of Scouting taught me and re-affirmed my faith values especially in regard to service, self-sacrifice, patience, honor, virtue and persistence. It helped mold my understanding of leadership.

Now Fr. Larry Kulick is the Pastor of St. Joseph Church in New Kensington, PA. He actively supports the Catholic Scouting Units through the DCCS and is worked with the 2004 Catholic Scout Retreat Committee to include a vocation related activity.

In 2003 Fr Kulick received the Bishop Connare Award. The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting in The Diocese of Greensburg, PA developed this recognition to honor those who give outstanding service to Catholic Scouts and the DCCS. The award was named to honor Bishop Connare who received both the Silver Antelope and Buffalo and the St George.



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Fr. Kulick encourages priests to work closely with CCS-Vocations Committee and assure that Scouting Leaders are working with the Diocesan Vocation Office. "It always amazes me how many priests were Scouts."

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New Kesington, PA 15068  
724-337-6412  
ljk@westol.com

## Tom Haffey a Scout in Troop 40 in Anaconda, Montana ...

### Fr. Tom Haffey, a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting

Tom Haffey began his Scouting experience in the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. He reached the rank of First Class then other interests came in to play by the time he was a Freshman in high school. His Troop was not chartered to a Catholic parish, but he remembers the character building aspects of his Scouting experience as a very important part of growing up in Anaconda, Montana.

"I have been the pastor in seven parishes in the Diocese of Helena. Some of the parishes had active Catholic Scout Packs and Troop. I am supportive of the programs and encouraged the programs to help the youth build character and grow in their faith. "

"My current parish does not charter Scouting units, but I do encourage our youth to join Scouting and earn Catholic Religious Emblems "

Yours in Scouting,  
Father Tom Haffey, Pastor, St. Ann Parish , Diocese of Helena, MT  
Butte, MT 59701  
Phone: 406- 723-4303

## **Scott E. McCue an Eagle Scout earned AD ALTARE DEI Fr. Scott E. McCue, a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting**

When I was growing up in Elizabeth, NJ Scouting was a huge part of my life. If I was not in school or helping out with something at the church I was probably involved in Scouting activities. I began my scouting life with Troop 4 which was sponsored by my home parish of St. Mary of the Assumption in Elizabeth. I rose through the ranks of scouting and was the first scout in 22 years to earn the rank of Eagle in my troop. For my Eagle Scout Service Project I, with the help of scouts and Advisors, wrote a prayer book for hospital patients that has been used in three hospitals. I was active in the Order of the Arrow and am a Vigil Honor Member. I would spend my summers at the Joseph A. Citta Scout Reservation in Barnegat, NJ. At the age of 16, I got a job at the camp as the Trading Post Manager. I would go on to become a Program Commissioner at the Camp and would later serve for two years as the Program Director of the camp during my summers while in the college Seminary.



***Preparing for his first Boy Scout campout.***

Scott E. McCue is a member of the Eagle Scout class on 1991 and was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 2001 for the service of the Diocese of Raleigh, NC.

Today I am an Assistant Scout Master with a local troop and help there as I am able to. I am the Diocesan Scout Chaplain for the Raleigh Diocese.

While still living in New Jersey I served as the chairman of the former Watchung Area Catholic Committee on Scouting and as a member of the Archdiocese of Newark CCOS.

I was humbled to have received both the Bronze Pelican and St. George while working with the N J CCOS Committees. I believe that scouting did have an impact on my decision to respond to God's call to priesthood. Scouting teaches duty to God and country. Service is at the heart of scouting as well as the Order of the Arrow. Is that not what much of priestly life is about? Honoring and serving God and His people? I think the biggest contribution that scouting had on my vocation was that it taught me that you need to put other people first. You need to be willing to give of yourself. Scouting takes a boy and teaches him how important service is in life. That is why service projects are attached to the higher ranks and why it is such an integral part of becoming an Eagle Scout. As a priest I strive to serve my people the best way I know how. Scouting started me on that path.

Rev. Scott E. McCue

Pastor, St. Ann Catholic Church, 4057 US Highway 70 / Business West

Clayton, NC 27520 e-mail: frscottmccue@aol.com, phone: 919-934-2084



***Fr. Scott McCue celebrated Mass in March at the 2004 Camporee***



### **Thomas Euteneuer an Eagle Scout earned Catholic Religious Emblems while in Cub Scout and Boy Scouts. Fr. Thomas Euteneuer continues to support Catholic Scouting**

Thomas Euteneuer joined Cub Pack 151 in Detroit, Michigan. He earned his first Catholic Religious Emblem, Parvuli Dei. His family moved to Boca Raton, Florida, where he continued in Scouting in Pack 323 and then Troop 323. In Troop 323 Tom earned the Ad Altare Dei Emblem. Tom was dual registered with the Troop and with the Sea Scout Ship 307 and completed the rank of Eagle Scout.

After graduating from Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fr. Lauderdale. He continued his education and graduated from the University of Notre Dame. He entered the seminary at Boynton Beach, Florida, and then Bishop Daily sent him to the North American College in Rome to study at the Gregorian University.

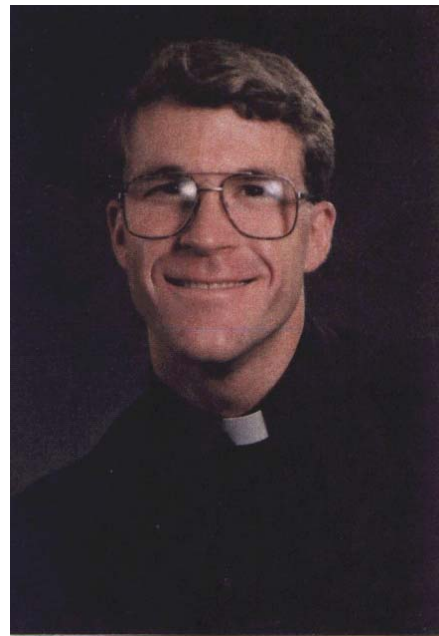
While in Rome he was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate at St. Peters. When his seminary preparation was completed he returned to Florida to be ordained a priest in the Diocesan Cathedral in Palm Beach Gardens. Following ordination to the priesthood he return to Rome and graduated from the Gregorian University.

Fr. Euteneuer returned to the United States and the Diocese of Palm Beach. He was appointed to be the Secretary and Master of Ceremonies to the Bishop. Among his assignments he was the Respect Life Representative, Scouting Coordinator for the diocese and Pastor of Holy Cross parish.

Fr. Euteneuer's parents were very supportive of Catholic Scouting. He learned from his father, Joseph Euteneuer, that service through Scouting continues throughout a persons' life. Joe is the Diocesan Boy Scout Representative and District Commissioner in the Sailfish District, Golfstream Council in Stuart, Florida

Fr. Euteneuer is President of Human Life International since 2000. He has traveled to over 32 countries to offer help of HLI all around the world. HLI is an international network of pro-life supporters. HLI is on the ground working within cultures around the world to defend innocent human life, marriage and family.

Fr. Thomas Euteneuer, President  
Human Life International  
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**Daniel Mode, an Eagle Scout, earned Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblem...  
Fr. Daniel Mode, a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting**



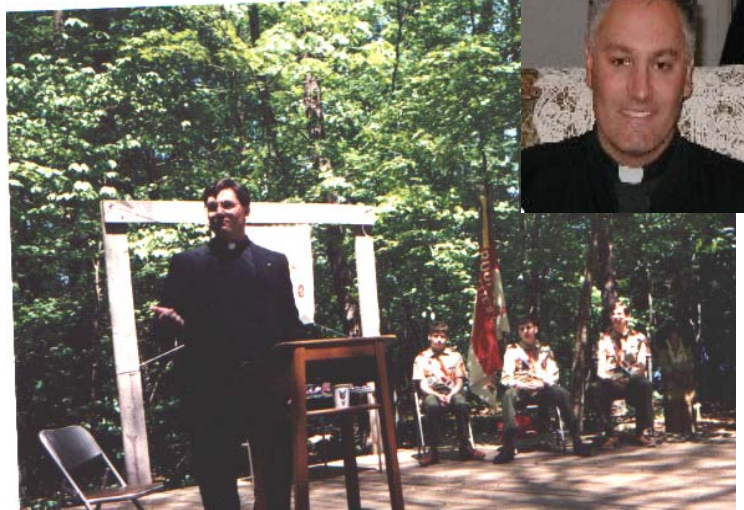
***Eagle Scout in Troop 1145  
Daniel Mode with parents***

During my years as a Seminarian I served as an Assistant Scout Master. In 1992 I was ordained to the priesthood. Since I did not have an opportunity to be a Scout in a Catholic Chartered Unit in Scouting, as a newly ordained priest I wanted to start a parish Troop. During the past 12 years the Troop has grown to over 100 members.

I am Wood Badge Trained in Boy Scouts of America. Since being ordained I have been active in the NCCS. My first position in NCCS was as a Chaplain for the Diocese of Arlington for a four year term and for the past eight years as Chaplain for Region 4. Following in the example of Msgr. Gugliamoni, I have served as a Philmont Chaplain, on Staff for the St. George Trek, and Jamboree Chaplain.

I am an Eagle Scout with 6 Palms. I began in Scouting as a Cub Scout in 1974 and have been registered in Scouting continuously for 30 years. Scouting was a consistent influence in my youth with membership in 6 different Troops due to my status as a U. S. Navy dependent. I became an Eagle Scout in Troop 1145 Chartered to a Lutheran Church in Springfield, VA. I am a Vigil Honor Order of the Arrow Member.

I earned Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII religious awards. My Religious Awards helped me focus on the aspect of Service in the Church and the priest/military Chaplains who helped me with the awards greatly influenced me. My three summers at Philmont as a Ranger also were powerful experiences of Faith, especially with Msgr. Bob Gugliamoni at Philmont, Chaplain for the Ranch.



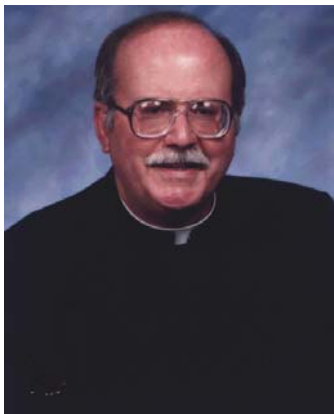
***Fr. Daniel Mode with Scouts and Scout leaders  
at Camp in the Diocese of Arlington***

**(Fr. Mode is currently serving as Military Chaplain in Afghanistan.)**

Yours in Scouting,  
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**Robert Murphy an Eagle Scout who earned all Catholic Religious Emblems...  
Fr. Robert Murphy is priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting**



I was a Cub Scout with Pack 150 sponsored by St. Elizabeth's parish in Kansas City, MO where I attended the grade school from kindergarten through fifth grade.

After Cub Scouts I joined Boy Scout Troop 150. We changed parishes after the fifth grade year and again after my seventh grade year, but I continued to be active in Troop 150.

My dad's best friend, Willard Berkey, was a Troop leader. I have many good memories of Scouting.

I earned all the Catholic Religious emblems which helped cement the ideals of my faith with the ideals of Scouting. I earned the Eagle Scout rank the first month of my first year in high School in September of 1962.

I re-entered a relationship with Scouting upon being named Diocesan Vocation Director for our diocese in 1982. I began to go to the Heart of America Council BSA Summer Camp, H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, near Osceola, MO on a regular basis for both celebrating Mass and for visiting with the young camp staff. I was awarded the Bronze Pelican for my work there.

In recent years, I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Central Region of the Boy Scouts of America. Last year, I was elected an Area Vice-president. I have attended several regional meetings over the past few years and have made some very good friends in Scouting, most notably my good friend Dick Newton who is a Scouting Executive in Naperville, IL. Dick is a good example of a fine Catholic gentleman who brings deep values and faith to his work as a professional Scout Executive.

Scouting underscored for me the deep values of our faith. It provided a solid foundation to build upon as a priest. I would highly recommend the Scouting program for any Catholic young man.



***Fr. Robert Murphy celebrated his 30th Anniversary of Ordination on October 26, 2004***

Yours truly,  
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300 East 36th ST  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
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**Thomas M. Kocik an Eagle Scout in St. Catherine of Siena Parish Troop 199  
Fr. Thomas Kocik, a priest who supports Catholic Scouting Somerset, MA**

I became an Eagle Scout in 1983 in a Catholic Chartered Troop 199 in St. Catherine of Siena parish in Hillcrest, N.Y.

I owe a great deal of credit for my success in Scouting to a fine Scoutmaster who cared about character building and training us in virtue. He and the troop committee planned a quality program, weekly meetings and all year around monthly campouts.

When the parish priest came to offer Mass for us during campouts I saw his zeal for the Faith and his love for the liturgy palpable and edifying; I am the pastor of St. Thomas More parish in the Diocese of Fall River, MA.

Yours in Scouting,  
Rev. Thomas M Kocik  
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Phone: (508) 673-7831  
E-mail: frkocik@yahoo.com



**Jim Hart an Eagle Scout who earned AD ALTARE DEI Religious Emblem...  
Fr. James Hart, a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting**

James Hart is the son of Hubert and Kathryn Rose Muser Hart in Kansas City, Missouri. He has retired as a pastor, but continues to assist in service the Church in various parishes in the Diocese of Kansas City, -St. Joseph, MO. His brother, Bishop Hubert Joseph Hart, is retired Bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne, WY.

He joined Cub Scouts in a Pack chartered to the Memorial Christian Church and was a member of Troop 144 at Marlborough School in Kansas City, MO.

Fr. Hart indicated that he isn't sure that his Scouting experience influenced his vocation to priesthood, but while in Scouting he earned all the Religious Emblems available in the Catholic faith.

Fr. Hart is humble about his life as a Scout and as a priest. He said, "I am proud to be an Eagle Scout, but my mom deserves the credit." He was ordained to serve the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph, MO in May 22, 1965. During his forty years as a priest and pastor, Fr. Hart has offered encouragement and support to Catholic Scouts and Scouting Units.

Rev. James Hart  
St. John Francis Regis Parish  
8941 James A. Reed RD  
Kansas City, MO 64138



## Gary Menard a Life Scout in Ste. Genevieve du Bois Parish Troop 652

### Fr. Gary Menard, S. J., a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting



I was a member of Cub Scout Pack 652 for two years and a Boy Scout for six years achieving the rank of Life Scout in Troop 652. Scouting has been an important part of youth ministry at Ste. Genevieve du Bois Parish. The parish continues to offer the full complement of scouting activities. The parish Scouting programs open up opportunities for children, working in partnership with adult volunteers dedicated to Catholic youth.

During my Boy Scout experience I attended summer camp at S-F Ranch for 5 years. In 1980 I served as Camp master for District Camporees .

One of the highlights of Catholic Scouting was a very fine Catholic Scouts retreat that influenced my discernment. On that retreat we celebrated an outdoor Mass that I remember well, and I experienced the best Reconciliation of my young life. The priest encouraged me, and I still re-

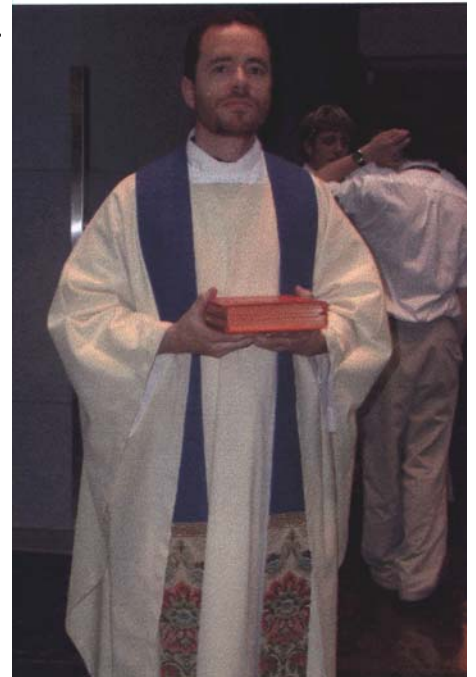
call his words to this day.

Unfortunately, I am not involved much with Catholic Scouting at the present time. My full time work in youth ministry is at Rockhurst High School keeps me busy 24/7!

I did accept an invitation from the Catholic Committee on Scouting. I participated in a Retreat for youth in Scouting and Camp Fire for the first time in many years.



***In September 2004 Fr. Menard S.J. celebrated Mass at the Annual Retreat at Camp Shawnee for Catholic Boy Scout, Girl Scouts and youth in Camp Fire in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO, Over 200 youth attended the event***



***Fr. Menard, S.J. prepares for an all school Mass at Rockhurst High School in Kansas City, MO.***

Yours truly in Scouting,  
 Rev. Gary Menard, S.J.  
 9301 State Line RD  
 Kansas City, MO 64114  
 Phone: (816) 363-2036 E-mail: [gmenard@jesuits-mis.org](mailto:gmenard@jesuits-mis.org)



## Hubert Joseph Hart an Eagle Scout who earned AD ALTARE DEI Religious Emblem... Bishop Hubert Joseph Hart, continues to support Catholic Scouting

I entered Scouting 1943 at St. Peter's Parish in Kansas City, MO. I and enjoyed the experience very much. Scouting provided me an opportunity to associate with boys of my faith and ideals. Scouting at St. Peter's was a good environment. Three boys from our troop became priest.

I received my Ad Altare Dei religious emblem and in 1946 attained the rank of Eagle. There were leaders that made a difference in my life and my decision to become a priest. Joseph Kessler is the first to come to mind, Mr. Gilwee at St. Elizabeth and of course H. Roe "The Chief" Bartle, BSA Council Executive in Kansas City and his wife, Margaret, "Mrs. Maggie."

As a Bishop, I was privileged to serve on the Episcopal to the NCCS. Joseph Kessler became a National Chairman for the NCCS.

The Catholic Scouting experience was most positive and did strengthen my decision to become a priest...both the program itself and the adults and boys I associated with our Troop.

Bishop Hart attended St. Peter's Grade School from 1936 to 1944, Bishop Hogan High School, 1944 to 1948, and Rockhurst College before entering the seminary. He attended St. John's Seminary and then St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana for the remainder of his seminary training. Hubert Joseph Hart was born on Sept. 26, 1931, the son of Hubert and Kathryn Rose Muser Hart in Kansas City, Missouri. His brother, Father James Hart, is retired priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO.

Fr. Joseph Hart was ordained to serve the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph, MO in 1956. His parochial assignments included: assistant pastor at Guardian Angels Parish, 1956 to 1962, and Visitation Parish in Kansas city, 1962 to 1966. He assisted at St. Therese's parish and St. James Parish in Kansas City while serving as vice chancellor of the diocese from 1964 to 1969. In 1969, he was appointed pastor of St. John Francis Regis Parish in Kansas City until 1976.

Bishop Hart taught as Bishop Lillis High School, Loretta Academy and at St. Pius X School for Special Education in Kansas City, MO.

On August 31, 1976 Bishop Hubert Newell, Diocese of Cheyenne, WY, appointed Bishop Hart Vicar general of the diocese and pastor of St. Patrick's parish in Casper. On April 25, 1978, Bishop Hart was named the sixth bishop of Cheyenne and his installation was held on June 12, 1978 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

During his time as bishop, he has served on the administrative board of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, as a member of the Bishops' committee for Priestly Life and Ministry, NCCS Episcopal, along with other assignments. Bishop Hart ordained 25 priests during his time as the ordinary. He has served as chairman of the Bishops of Region 13 for six years.

Bishop Hart retired on September 26, 2001.



**Most Reverend Hubert Joseph Hart, Bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne, WY 1978—2001**

Most Rev. Joseph Hart  
Box 1468  
Cheyenne, WY 82003  
Phone: 307-638-1530



## Roger Strebel an Eagle Scout in the Diocese of Green Bay, WI

### Fr. Roger Strebel a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting and the NCCS

Roger Strebel started in 1950 as a youth in Scouting and Exploring attaining the rank of Eagle Scout with three Palms and the Explorer Silver Award and Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow. He received the Bronze, Gold, and Silver Community Service Awards. In addition to growing in Leadership and character in Scouting, Roger grew in faith by earning all Catholic Religious Emblems.

Summer Camp is very important to the Scouting program and Roger worked at Scout Camps for eleven years as Quartermaster, Commissary Director, Nature director and Chaplain.

In 1966 he was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin and holds a Doctorate of Ministry from St. Mary University of Baltimore. Currently Fr. Roger is pastor at two parishes.

Among his many years of service to BSA and Catholic Scouting Fr. Strebel has been a Chaplain in four Summer Camps, Scoutmaster, Explorer Advisor, Council Advancement

Chair, Council Commissioner and Explorer trainer and Junior Leader Trainer for 12 years. He is Wood Badge Trained and served on wood Badge Staff for 20 years. For more than 25 years Fr. Strebel has served on the BSA - Bay Lakes Council Executive Board.

Fr. Strebel has been on an NCCS Standing Committee and the NCCS Executive Board from 1968 to the present. He has been on the Staff for NCCS "Scouting in the Catholic Church" Training Course at the Philmont Training Center for two summer sessions. He chaired the NCCS Standing Training Committee for two years, and currently serves as Advisor to the religious Emblems Committee. His many writings on Catholic Scouting include the Ad Altare Dei Counselor's Guide, The Counselor Training Guide, assisting in the revision of the AAD, updating of the Scouter Development-Lay Leader Formation program materials to the current program and help in rewriting the NCCS Operations Manual. In addition to serving as Advisor to the Religious Emblems Committee, Fr. Strebel is a Trustee of NCCS Funds.

The BSA and the NCCS have recognized Fr. Strebel's years of dedicated service with many awards including: the Scouter's Key, District Award of Merit, Scouter's training Award, Commissioner's Key, James E. West Fellow, Silver Beaver and the BSA Central Region's Silver Antelope. He has been presented the Bronze Pelican, the Elizabeth Ann Seaton Medal, the Saint Anne Medal, the Spes Mundi, O'Connell Medal, and the Golden AD Altare Dei Medal. In 2002 the NCCS presented Fr. Strebel the national Silver St. George Emblem in 2002. In January 2005 he received the 55<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Award.

Fr. Roger W. Strebel, pastor - Holy Family Parish  
Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin  
W 10530 Cole St  
Elcho, WI 54428

Phone: (715) 275-3750

E-mail: holyfamilyelcho@frontier.net



**Roger Strebel enjoyed many years at BSA Summer Camp as a Scout and serving on camp staff.**



**Fr. Roger W. Strebel continues to serve Scouting and multiple positions in the NCCS**

## Ron Walters earned Religious Emblems in Parish Cub & Boy Scouts Fr. Ronald W. Walters continues to serve Catholic Scouting & the NCCS



I belonged to as a Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 53. It was chartered to St. Benedict Catholic Church, Atchison, KS. I began in the Pack at eight years old in 1959. The parish began the Pack that year. The units were in the Kanza District of the Pony Express Council, not far from St. Joseph, MO.

The Benedictine priests who staffed the parish and the Benedictine sisters who taught in the school were a great influence on me. However, I did not become a Benedictine. I guess in some ways, I imitated St. Francis of Assisi, whose order I joined, since he began as a kitchen servant to the Benedictines near Assisi.

My scouting career was heavily influenced by the Church. We met in the school basement both for pack meetings and troop meetings. The priests were frequent visitors to the pack meetings and some of the troop activities. But since all of us were members of the parish and were also in the Catholic school there, faith was an important part of the scouting experience. I was one of the first in the parish to receive the new Cub Scout Catholic Religious Emblem, new at that time at least, the Parvuli Dei. I still have my workbook for that award. I remember taking pictures of the parish church; I also remember trying to draw a picture of it.

I began thinking about the priesthood several years before getting involved in scouting. I remember our first grade teacher (1957) telling us about how the church needed priests. Being a teacher's pet, I raised my hand and promptly volunteered to be a priest. The only priests I knew were the Benedictines. It was not until I was just beginning in the Boy Scout program that I began to think earnestly about it. My middle name being Francis, I read lots of books about the life of St. Francis of Assisi. I collected holy cards with his picture. I knew the Peace Prayer of St. Francis, attributed to him although not written by him, by heart and used it and the Canticle of the Creatures, which was written by Francis, for poetry recitation in class in school.

Scouting had a unique influence on my choice to be a Franciscan and a priest. It had a lot to do with setting goals and achieving them and in learning leadership skills. These have come into play particularly now that I am one of the administrators of the province of Franciscans to which I belong. Scouting also taught me quite a bit about living in community with other men. At summer camp I learned about responsibilities to those with whom I shared a cabin or tent. I learned about courtesy and chastity in those situations too, the latter having to do not just with regard to changing clothes but with crossing boundaries in other areas of privacy as well (like other guy's duffle bags, etc.). The values taught by the scouting program regarding honesty ("On my honor..."), helped me to form practices which have influenced my character and integrity.

I can't say specifically that Scouting forged my decision to become a religious priest, but it certainly had a lot to do with forming the human being which made that choice. But I can say that the religious emblems program influenced the choice to become a religious and a priest. It certainly offered a religious foundation to the values that the scout program seeks to instill in youth.

I have been told that Lord Baden-Powell consulted with a Benedictine priest in the process of formulating the program of scouting. Certainly the program of scouting has the values that are taught not only by Christianity (Lord Baden-Powell was an Anglican), but also those values that are universally taught by many religions. Since the whole idea of being a religious leader, regardless of which religion, is based on practicing the religion and living the faith on which it is based to the best of one's ability, someone who seeks to achieve the best in scouting cannot be without a good foundation to minister to those who believe as priests, ministers, imams, rabbis, etc.

I am a member of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) and serve in the Diocese of Gallup. I serve as Guardian (Franciscan Superior) of this mission and as defender of the bond of marriage, promoter of justice, and consultor in the Diocese of Gallup. I also serve my religious community as a councillor on our provincial board, archivist, director of formation for the province and the formation director for those young men who live here at St. Michaels who are entering the order. I currently serve the NCCS as Advisor to the Religious Activities Committee

Sincerely yours in Scouting,

Very Rev. Ronald F. Walters, OFM,

St. Michaels Parish, P.O. Box 680

St. Michaels, AZ 86511-0680

Phone: (928) 871-4171

E-mail: stmikesofm@aol.com

## **Larry Nolan an Eagle Scout became a Cistercian Order Priest** **Fr. Larry Nolan a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting**



***Fr. Larry Nolan, an Order priest with the Cistercians of Dubuque, IA.***

As a member of Cub Pack and Troop 316 I learned some social skills, how to work as a member of a patrol and to be a part of a team. On Scouting overnights I learned to cook meals on a camp fire, tie knots. Other Scouting activities were fun and I learned to swim and about nature.

Setting goals to earn Merit Badges and reach the rank of Eagle Scout taught me more about life: having a purpose, living out ideals and that there are rewards that came from good effort ...doing your best...offering service to others.

I earned the Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblem in addition to earning the rank of Eagle Scout. I like the ideals presented in Scouting. These values made me want a richer, fuller life, not just worldly success. It was the whole program, not just one incident that taught me the importance of

service. It was others-oriented and I found this was very satisfying. It gave me a sense of endless growth potential. I found this exciting, especially spiritually.

I encourage those I meet to follow this way of personal growth through the Catholic Scouting Programs. Recently I donated a lot of art materials to some Scouts through the School teacher.

Rev. Larry Nolan, OCSO  
 Cistercians of Dubuque, IA  
 5277 E. Broad ST  
 Columbus, OH 43213  
 Phone: 614-501-0115

## **William Schmitt a Boy Scout a joined the Society of St. Columban / Columban Fathers** **Fr. William Schmitt a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting**

I joined Boy Scout Troop 288 in Orchard Park, New York a Unit formed by the local volunteer fire department. At that time there was no Church Chartered Unit in my parish.

I thought the meetings, working together with other Scouts and our Leaders were a very helpful program. I developed confidence in myself and some skills that were important in life. I reached the rank of First Class Scout, then entered the Minor Seminary when I finished the Eighth Grade. Scouting is a family oriented program and I was happy that my younger brother entered the Troop and continued on in to leadership positions.

I am currently serving in the ST. Mary Magdalene Church in the Diocese of Columbus, OH .

Rev. William Schmitt  
 Society of St. Columban / Columban Fathers  
 St. Mary Magdalene Church  
 473 South Roy AVE  
 Columbus, OH 43204  
 E-Mail: Fr billbernardo@hotmail.com



## Shawn Ratigan had an enjoyable Scout experience in Troop 306 Fr. Shawn Ratigan a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting



***Fr. Shawn Ratigan and mother share their joy when they were special guests at a priest appreciation dinner sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Serra Clubs in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO.***

Scouting was always fun for me. We had awesome leaders that went out of their way to make sure each boy in Scouting received special attention.

I think the most enjoyable times were spent either camping or at Summer Camp at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation.

The qualities that I learned while in the scouts have helped me mature in my vocation to the priesthood. I attained the rank of Life Scout, and I have always regretted not becoming an Eagle Scout. But I do not regret the time and effort of being a member of Scout Troop 306 at all.

I think the one thing that influenced my vocation were the fine leaders of the troop. They always conveyed the message of looking out for others, and don't be so worried about yourself. It was almost like

they were telling us to love our neighbors.

We always had very good leaders for our troop. I can remember quite a few of the camp outs we went on, but one in particular stands out. We went down to southern Missouri and went into a few of the marvelous caves in one of the Missouri State Parks. It was a very regulated trip to keep us kids from getting hurt, but we were allowed to explore the caves under supervision. I have always cherished the fond memories from scouting.

In 1984 I graduated from Savior of the World High School Seminary in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, in 2000 graduated from Conception Seminary College and in 2004 Mundelein Seminary. I was ordained to serve the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO on June 12th 2004. My first year as an associate pastor at St. Thomas More in Kansas City, MO was a joyful experience. In July of 2005 I was received a new challenge of being a pastor of St. Mary's Parish in St. Joseph, MO and St. Joseph's Parish in Easton, MO.

Rev. Shawn Ratigan  
Pastor of St. Mary's Parish  
1813 S. 12<sup>th</sup> ST  
St. Joseph, MO 64503  
Phone: 816-279-2594  
E-mail: Sratigan@yahoo.com

## **Dwight Kenny an Eagle Scout in Troop 80 St. Anthony of Padua Parish Brother Dwight Kenny continues to give back to Catholic Scouting**

The values of the Scout Oath and Law supported my Catholic values. My Scouting experience began in Cub Pack 80 and continued through Troop 80 in St. Anthony of Padua, Parish. I reached the rank of Eagle in 1971. I worked on the BSA Council Summer Camp for seven Summers while in high school and college, working as a team on the Camp Staff living simply, and teaching. Scouts really helped me to consider the lifestyle of the Brothers of Sacred Heart.

Scouting has been part of my life from age eight to the present day ...at age 50. I started a new Troop here on the Navajo Reservation in October 2003 and presently serving as Scoutmaster of Troop 227.

There is no doubt in my mind that Scouting played a key role in helping me discern my vocation. Currently I am a high school teacher and Counselor.

I encourage all parishes to Charter and provide support for Scouting Units in their parish.

Brother Dwight Kenney, SC

St. Michael High School

New Orleans Province, Brothers of the Sacred Heart

ST. Michaels, AZ 86511 Phone: 928-871-3453

E-mail: BrDwight@juno.com

### **Del Wilkinson, an Eagle Scout in 1957**

#### **As a Deacon, Del Wilkinson continues to support BSA and Catholic Scouting**

I entered Boy Scouts in 1953 in Troop 167 in Sugar Creek, MO, received my Eagle in 1957. Our BSA Council had a strong summer camp program and I attended Summer camp five years and was on staff one year.

Being a convert, I received my God & Country Award in 1957. My Unit was Chartered by an RLDS church in Independence, MO.

At the time I was in Scouting, I had made a decision based on the values of Scouting and The Council's Honor Camping program, the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, to become a Baptist minister. I then met my wife and decided to change that call for a while. We then decided to explore the Catholic faith and decided to make the Catholic faith our way of life in faith.

I had always worked with youth and that was one of the reasons I decided to explore the Deaconate Program. Since ordination in 1983, I have spent most of my time with youth in Scouting and in the Church. I was ordained for the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul. I spent my first three years working on Community organizing with the Archdiocese in the Peace and Justice office. Since then I have continued to teach this portion of the Confirmation program.

I am currently serving Scouting in the Heart of America Council, Kansas City, Missouri. Since I did not have sons, I have served, over a period of years, as Scouting Unit Commissioner, District Chairman, Assistant District Commissioner, Community Council FOS Chairman, Council Executive Board and currently Council Commissioner, Troop Committee Chair, Assistant Scoutmaster. In 2001 I served on the Jamboree Pioneering Staff and this year chaired selection committee for personnel selection for leadership at the 2005 Jamboree. In June 2005 I received the great honor of being tapped to serve as Chieftan in Mic-O-Say by the MOS Tribal Council, H Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, in the Heart of America Council - BSA.

I have enjoyed several leadership roles today and plan to continue to work with scouting upon my retirement.

Sincerely yours in Scouting,

Deacon Del Wilkinson (2005 Mic-O-Say Chieftan Trailing Gray Cloud)

5480 Northgate Crossing

Lee's Summit, MO, 64064

Diocese of Kansas City-St Joseph, MO

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**We Need Your Help.....** One of the best ways to show that Catholic

Scouting can provide opportunities for young men to hear God's Call to priesthood, diaconate and religious life is for those who are serving the Church to tell their stories and share their photos.

The Vocations Committee will continue collecting the Scouting stories of Catholic priests, deacons, brothers and religious to publish on our website and in the NCCS publication, *The Bridge*.

The Survey is available on the NCCS Website:

[www.nccs-bsa.org/information/index.php](http://www.nccs-bsa.org/information/index.php)

For information on this project contact NCCS Vocations Committee Chair:

Homer Radford at [hradford2@comcast.net](mailto:hradford2@comcast.net) or (816) 356-1760

## What is the National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

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*Scouting stories  
of Catholic Priests,  
Deacons, Brothers  
and Religious on  
the NCCS Webpage*

### National Catholic Committee on Scouting

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The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is a church committee of concerned Catholic lay people and clergy who see as their mission the constructive use of the program of the Boy Scouts of America as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation.

Through interaction and dialogue with the Secretariat on the Laity and Family Life (the formal connection between youth ministry in the United States and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), NCCS works cooperatively with various other groups involved in youth ministry in the United States.

### Pope Paul VI Unit Award

*The best tool to measure a Catholic Chartered Unit's ability to serve Catholic youth in Scouting and faith development.*

**Eligibility:** Unit must be chartered by a Catholic institution (parish, Knights of Columbus).

**Purpose:** Cooperation, development, and program are the key words in the recognition of Catholic chartered units in earning the Pope Paul VI unit recognition award. The adult leadership responds to training not only in Scouting activities, but in training in the Catholic Scouter Development, and religious counseling. The Scouts in each Pack, Troop, Team, and Post respond by participating in the religious emblems program appropriate to their status in Scouting.

**Requirements:** (Summary shown here...see application for additional details)

**Training:** leaders have completed applicable BSA leader basic training - registered adults have participated in a training program - reviews leadership for diocesan adult recognitions and St. George Emblem.

**Religious Emblems:** annual presentation about religious emblems; 25 percent of youth members have or are actively working on the religious emblem -

**Religious Activities:** retreat, day of recollection, religious conclave, pilgrimage or similar activity -

**Vocation Awareness:** an activity focused on church-related vocations

**Relationships:** COR or unit member meets with DCCS annually - Executive Officer or Committee Chair reviews unit program annually - actively working toward BSA Quality Unit Award

**Membership:** Monitors Unit membership and has plan for growth in membership - Unit annually reviews meaning of its respective oath or promise. Check NCCS webpage for more information:

<http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/PopePaul6Application.php>