



DIocese of Gaylord

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February 24, 2016

Dear Friends of Scouting,

Our diocese, which includes the 21 most northern counties of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, has encouraged the Catholic Scouting and Religious Emblems program for more than 15 years. These programs are available for Catholic boy and girl scouts, non-scouters and adults. (There are also religious emblem programs for non-Catholic scouts available.)

With this letter I offer my support for scouting and for the religious emblem programs to be made available in our diocese. I appointed Reverend Tyler Bischoff (Eagle Scout 2006) as our Diocesan Chaplain for Scouting as of August 2015.

While Duty to God and reverence is not new to scouting, 2016 BSA requirements are making Duty to God a larger part of rank advancement. Each Cub Scout rank now includes a family-based Duty to God adventure. Duty to God is also being incorporated into the Boy Scout requirement to show scout spirit. During the unit leader conference, the scout will be asked what Duty to God means to him and how he demonstrates that duty. There will be no requirement for the scout to earn his respective religious award, but the Diocese of Gaylord has the information available if the scout wishes to pursue a religious emblem.

While it is true that nationally the Knights of Columbus have decided not to continue their sponsorship of scouting directly, the Knights have been encouraged by the Supreme Knight to assist parishes in the transition to sponsor a scout troop if the parish chooses. Attached to this letter is a copy of that transition plan. The decision to sponsor a scout troop is being left up to the individual parish.

Look for a short article on scouting in the Diocese in the current issue of *Faith Magazine*. For more information, please visit our website: www.dioceseofgaylord.org and type "Scouting" in the search bar or click on Offices & Ministries/Faith Development/Scouting.

If you need information on how to sponsor a scout troop, or if you would like to learn more about how to enhance your scouting program through religious emblems, please contact the Secretariat for Faith Development at 989.732.5147 and ask for Wayne or Julia.

Sincerely yours in Christ

+ *Steven Raica*

Most Reverend Steven J Raica
Bishop of Gaylord

cc: Wayne Winter, Director of Faith Development; wwinter@dioceseofgaylord.org
Reverend Tyler Bischoff, Diocesan Chaplain; tbischoff@dioceseofgaylord.org
Julia Bushong, Chairman; jbushong@dioceseofgaylord.org

Attachments: NCCS letter; K of C letter

www.dioceseofgaylord.org



National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

Delivering Catholic Youth Ministry Through Scouting Programs

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[Religious Activities](#)
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[St. George Trek](#)

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[Adult Recognition](#)
[College Scholarship](#)
[National Catholic Leadership Development](#)
[Scouting in the Catholic Church](#)

Scout Units

[Catholic Quality Unit Award - Pope Paul VI](#)
[Duty to God](#)
[Gold Medallion](#)

Catholic Scouters,

The Knights of Columbus organization has long been a supporter of Catholic Scouting, recently holding charters for over 1100 units serving nearly 34,000 youth across the country. In addition, it has its own youth program called Columbia Squires which involves young men in programs to benefit the Church, the community, as well as in recreational and social activities.

In response to a message of Pope Francis during the World Meeting of Families in which he called for a new alliance between the Church and the family, the organization has decided to phase out these programs while re-focusing its efforts on providing financial and volunteer support to Scout units and other youth activities that are sponsored by parishes.

As a result, Knights of Columbus councils will be moving to end their charters as soon as practically possible, no later than 2016. The organization is encouraging councils to transfer their charters to the local parish where the mission and activity of Scouting will be more properly integrated into a comprehensive strategy of the parish's youth ministry under the direction of the pastor. The organization believes this is the best way to provide for the future sustainability of an authentic Catholic Scouting program and of the Catholic identity of the young men who participate in it.

If you belong to a unit chartered to a Knights of Columbus council or are a member of a diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting where such units reside, we ask that you contact your local Scout executive to facilitate a seamless transition for our youth members and adult volunteer leaders.

If you are a member of a diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting, we offer the following additional steps to facilitating the transition:

1. Identify units chartered to Knight of Columbus councils, their unit leaders and Grand Knights.
2. Discuss with unit leadership the implications and concerns with transferring the charter. Confirm their interest in transferring leadership and other support. Develop a plan for dealing with any concerns.
3. Identify potential parishes to which the charter may be transferred.
4. Arrange for a meeting with the parish pastor, unit leadership and BSA executive to discuss potential for transferring the charter.
5. Assist in completing transfer paperwork, as direct by and submitted to the BSA executive, which should include a form from the Knights of Columbus releasing the Scout unit to the parish.

The Knights of Columbus organization is known for its charity toward others, loyalty to country and dedication to the Catholic faith. These are principles shared by Catholic Scouting in doing one's duty to God and country and helping other people at all times. We look forward

Good Turn
Project
Priesthood
Sunday
Scout Sunday
Serra
Venturing
World Youth
Day

Diocesan CCS

Contacts
Administration
Awards
Job
Descriptions
Resources
Training

National CCS

Contacts
Administration
Chairman's
Corner
Chaplain's
Corner
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Catholic
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of Scouting
Knights
Supporting
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Standing
Committees
Frequently
Asked
Questions

to a continuing relationship with the Knights of Columbus as we work together to promote authentic Catholic Scouting in our parishes.

Should you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or success stories, we would like to hear them. Please contact Elizabeth Olivas at 972-580-2114 or nccs@scouting.org. In addition, the attachments and other materials and resources will be posted on the NCCS website at <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/national/KnightsSupportingScouting.php>. May God bless your efforts and thank you for all you do to promote Scouting as Catholic youth ministry!

Edward P. Martin
National Chairman (2013-2016), NCCS

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson Letter to NCCS**BSA Announcement****NCCS Response Letter****Unit Transfer form (used to retain unit number and tenure and to transfer assets)**

Columbia magazine, columns of Supreme Knight Carl Anderson:

- December 2015 issue
- January 2016 issue

CARL A. ANDERSON
SUPREME KNIGHT

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NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510-3326

November 18, 2015

Edward Martin
National Chairman
National Catholic Committee on Scouting
PO Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Dear Mr. Martin:

During the World Meeting of Families, Pope Francis called for a new alliance between the Church and the family: "May God grant us this gift of a renewed closeness between the family and the Church" observing further "Families need it, the Church needs it, and we pastors need it." In response, the Knights of Columbus is embarking on a new mission: *Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish*. This new focus will seek to more fully integrate our 1.8 million families into the life of their parishes.

As part of this refocusing of our efforts, I am asking all our councils to reflect upon their programs, especially those relating to young people, and to phase out programs that may duplicate or compete with parish activities.

Councils and assemblies in the United States and Canada that do not presently sponsor Squires Circles will be encouraged *not* to institute new circles. Councils with existing circles will need to more closely integrate the activity of their Squires into the youth ministry goals of the parish.

In addition, our Board of Directors has adopted a policy which will require councils to discontinue direct sponsorship of Boy Scout troops, and instead to provide financial and volunteer support to troops or other youth activities that are sponsored by parishes. Indeed, it is our hope and expectation that a great many councils will continue to work with the Boy Scouts by providing financial and volunteer support to parish-sponsored troops.

The Knights of Columbus values its long-term partnership with the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, and we look forward to continuing to work together in favor of authentically Catholic scouting as the Knights of Columbus adopts these modifications to our mission and activities.

Sincerely,



Carl A. Anderson
Supreme Knight

CAA:smf

cc. Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmone, USCCB-NCCS Liaison