

Atlanta Archdiocesan
Catholic Committee on Scouting

Newsletter

Volume 8 Number 1

September 2009

Welcome New Members

The Atlanta Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting would like to welcome the following new members to their Committee, Jackie and Tom Welch. Jackie is our new Girl Scout Religious Emblems Chairperson and Tom will work with both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. We also thank Bill Leach, our Membership Chairman, for stepping forward and taking on the added responsibility of becoming our new Webmaster. A hearty welcome is also extended to our newest youth members: Mike Davis and Robert Gotschall.

It is at this time we would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Webmaster, Will Grasse, who stepped down due to increased work responsibilities and Girl Scout Emblems Chairman, Shirlee Wiener, for all they did for the Committee while in their respective positions.

St. George Trek Representatives

Congratulations to the following youth members of the Archdiocese who were selected to represent the Archdiocese of Atlanta on the 2009 St. George Trek to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico: Michael Davis, Good Samaritan in Ellijay and Robert Gotschall, St. Andrew in Roswell. The St. George Trek is sponsored every other year by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Youth from each (Arch)diocese across the country are invited to apply to their (Arch)diocese for the opportunity to represent their diocese at this event. In order to be considered, you must be 15 years of age by July 1 and you must be a registered Boy Scout or Venture Scout. Girls may apply also but again they must be registered and an active member of a Venture Crew. There is space for only two youth from each (Arch)diocese. These youth represent the youth of their area from both a leadership and religious standpoint. They meet other Catholic youth from across the country to spend eleven days hiking the hills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains including three days of intensive leadership training at a back country base camp along with selected priests, religious and seminarians. There is no laity on the Trek. This year's Trek ran from July 21 to August 5, 2009. The first three days were spent in Albuquerque at the Madonna House getting acquainted, acclimated to the area, forming crews, training, having fun and praying. Their last night in New Mexico after leaving the trail and before returning home was also spent at the Madonna House.

The purpose of the St. George Trek is designed to develop organizational and relational skills for leadership as well as nourishing the Scout's spirituality. The program encourages the integration of morality, values, spirituality and faith and scripture in their lives as Christian leaders. It is open to all Catholic High School youth from around the country who are 15 years old prior to the start of the trek; emotionally mature and have the physical health and stamina to backpack on the trails of Philmont. Initially each (Arch)diocese selects two "top notch" participants from within their diocese. The youth

should be chosen based on demonstrated maturity and leadership potential. Reception of Religious Emblems and involvement in church, school, scouting and community activities are considered in the selection process. At the end of their Trek and prior to returning home, these youth are asked to take back with them what they have learned and try to be effective leaders and role models to their fellow Scouts. What a wonderful Vocation tool for the youth of this country!

Pillars of Faith

Very few Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts earn their Religious Emblems while in scouting. Even fewer go on to earn all four of them—Boy Scouts: Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII; and Girl Scouts: Family of God, I Live My Faith, the Marian Award—Mary the First Disciple and The Spirit Alive. To earn all four of them is a monumental feat. There is a new recognition available for the youth who earn all four of their Religious Emblems called the Pillars of Faith. It is the highest award Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts can earn after receiving all four of their Religious Emblems. It was approved by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting at their Biennial Conference in Louisville in 2008. The program originated in the Diocese of Colorado Springs. There are two awards: the Pillars of Faith—Duty to God for Boy Scouts and the Pillars of Faith—Service to God for Girl Scouts. The name and design of the award represent the fact that the four Religious Emblems are like pillars, supporting the Scout's development in and appreciation of his/her Catholic faith. The Religious Emblems are the pillars not the roof. The design also includes the Church, Bible and cross, other essential elements in faith. Scouts who have earned all four Religious Emblems in previous years are also eligible to receive the Pillars of Faith award. For more information on either of these awards, please contact Tom and Jackie Welch at 770-650-1811 or allynmag@comcast.net for Girl Scouts; Tommy Treat at 770-973-2007 or treatt@bellsouth.net for Boy Scouts or Mary Ellen Yeomans at 770-977-2883 or meyeamans@bellsouth.net for both.

Footsteps of American Saints Introduced

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting has introduced a new patch activity program for both youth and adults called "Footsteps of American Saints". This new activity program encourages youth to learn about several different individuals who have shaped the landscape of Catholicism in America. This religious activity honors those men and women who led heroic lives of faith. Their words, deeds and devotion to prayer and the sacraments inspire all American Catholics. In the Church calendar for the United States, some have the title of "Saint" and are venerated by the universal church, while others have the title of "Blessed" and are venerated by the local church. Some also have the title of "Venerable" and, while on their way to becoming a "Saint", may be venerated by Catholics. All of them sought to follow Jesus. The goal is to share the lives of several Saints so that the youth may relate to what these people have done and maybe look to these individuals as role models. The program started out with five Saints and five new ones are added each January. The Saints with memorials will be introduced first, then Saints with optional memorials. The following Saints are available for 2009: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saint John Neumann, Blessed Kateri Takekwitha, Saint Peter Claver, Saint Isaac Joques, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Blessed Andrew Bessette, Blessed Mother Marianne Cope, Saint Katherine Drexel and Blessed Damien of Molokai. As a matter of interest, Blessed Damien of Molokai will be canonized a Saint on October 11, 2009, at the Vatican by Pope Benedict XVI. For a complete listing of all the Saints included in this program and the requirements for earning the patches, please see the National Catholic Committee's website at www.nccs-bsa.org under Youth go to Religious Activities section. This is available to both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of all ages. Questions? Contact Mary Ellen Yeomans at 770-977-2883 or meyeamans@bellsouth.net.

International Awareness Recognition

The International Catholic Conference on Scouting, a world wide organization, offers to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of all levels as well as Scouters the opportunity to earn a Pin and Patch and/or Medallion Recognition. While the program has been in existence previously, the activities have either been expanded or been completely revised and new activities added. There are now four levels of activities—Cub Scout/ Brownie/Daisy Requirements (1-5 grade); Younger Boy Scout and Girl Scout Requirements (6-8 grade); Older Boy and Girl Scout/Venturing (9th grade and up) and Scouter Requirements. The ICCS provides an opportunity for its members to come together as friends in the Catholic Church and links the Catholic Church and the Scouting Movement all over the world. It contributes to the education of young people through Scouting from the point of view of the Catholic faith. It develops and enhances the spiritual dimension of Scouting in the World Scout Movement. The Pope appoints priests to work with the ICCS as chaplains or ecclesiastical associates. This is an activity of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting's International Committee and not a religious emblem program or award. The requirements may be also be found on the NCCS Website under Youth and Religious Activities. Questions? Contact Mary Ellen Yeomans or Tommy Treat.

Rosary Patch

The Rosary Patch Series has been extended indefinitely. All four Mysteries of the Rosary (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious) have now been introduced. In addition to the four sets of Mysteries, there is a fifth Rosary Patch—Pray the Rosary. The requirements may be downloaded from our website www.aaccos.org or from the NCCS website www.nccs-bsa.org. Some of the questions may require some research (biblical reference); however, the purpose of earning the patch is to further your understanding of the birth, ministry, passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ in addition to learning how to pray the Rosary. Each patch is \$4 and may be earned by Tigers, Brownies, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts (Juniors, Cadettes and Seniors), Boy Scouts, Venturers, and Adults. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lou Ann Piantieri at 770-924-2110 or Mary Ellen Yeomans at 770-977-2883.

Marietta Parish Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts Bring Home the Gold

The Atlanta Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting held its annual Archdiocesan Scout Recognition Mass on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church. Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory was the principal celebrant. The Scout Mass honored all young people for their hard work and adults for their contributions to Catholic Scouting within the Girl Scout, Boy Scout and Camp Fire programs. The following Girl Scouts were awarded their **Marian Award, Mary the First Disciple: Holy Trinity**-- Katherine B., Ashley C., Katherine C., Rachel C., Grace N., Sarah N., and Loretta P.; **St. Gabriel—Fayetteville**-- Jeanne F., Margot F., Mignon F., Megan M., Carly W.; **St. George—Newnan**—Cassandra D. and Alicia O.; **St. Mary Magdalene**-- Julia L.; **St. Matthew—Tyrone**—Sarah B. and Sarah S.; **St. Philip Benizi**—Crystal U.; and **Catholic Church of the Transfiguration**--Nikole B., Jaclyn C. Jackie H. and Tiffany H. The following young ladies also received their **Spirit Alive Award**: Michelle J., Tyler L., Courtney M. and Marly S.—**St. Catherine of Siena**.

In addition to the Marian Award, the **Ad Altare Dei Award** was presented to the following Boy Scouts: **Cathedral of Christ the King**--Brandon I.; **Good Shepherd**--Spencer F., Chandler M., Andrew P., Matthew P., Joseph S., Nicholas S. and William S.; **Holy Spirit**--Alex B., Thad H. and Zack P.; **Holy Trinity**--Duncan H.; **Prince of Peace**--Daniel F.; **St. Brendan the Navigator**--Stephen P.; **St. Gabriel**--**Fayetteville**--William G., Austin S. and Jackson W.; **St. John Neumann**--Daniel O.; **St. John Vianney**--**Lithia Springs**--Christian A. and Quentin D.; **St. Mary Magdalene**--Justin B.; **St. Monica**--John F. and Joseph F.; **St. Philip Benizi**--Patrick S. and Tyler T.; **St. Theresa**--**Douglasville**--Stefano C., Anthony N., Michael R., Dominic S. and Dante S.; and **Transfiguration**--Joshua B., Stephen D., Paul L., Brian M., Corbett M., E. J. R., Austin R. and Allyn W.

This year a number of young men received their **Pope Pius XII Award**: Michael H.--**Holy Trinity**; Seth L., Brian P., James P., Jonathan P., Ryan T. and Sean T.--**Sacred Heart--Milledgeville**; Richard Warren P.-- **St. Anna--Monroe**; Alex D. and David O.-- **St. George--Newnan**; Matthew I. -- **St. John Neumann**; David H., James J. and Angus M.-- **St. Joseph-- Athens**; Jonathan S.--**St. Matthew--Tyrone**; and Michael R., Karl R. and Michael R.--**St. Oliver Plunkett**.

There were six youth who, in addition to receiving their Pope Pius XII Award and The Spirit Alive Award, also received their **Pillars of Faith--Duty to God Award for Boy Scouts**: **Sean T.-- Sacred Heart, Milledgeville**; **Richard Warren P.--St. Anna, Monroe**; **Matthew I.-- St. John Neumann**; **Costel Michael O.--St. Lawrence**; and **Michael R.--St. Oliver Plunkett**; and **Pillars of Faith-- Service to God for Girl Scouts**: **Tyler L.--St. Catherine of Siena**. This is the highest award a young person can receive after having received all four of their Religious Emblems.

In addition to the above Religious Emblems, several Scouts were recognized with their **International Awareness Award**. The recipients included Lee K.--**Cathedral of Christ the King**; Kevin G., Evan G., Ryan G., Kevin G., Geoffrey H., John M. and Matthew U.--**Immaculate Heart of Mary**; Corey H.--**St. Thomas More**; Nikole B., Christy C., Robert C., Karina G., Carolina H., Jackie H., Maria H., Allyn W. and Maggie W.--**Catholic Church of the Transfiguration** and David V.--**University Catholic Center at Emory**.

Adults were also recognized for their contributions to Catholic Scouting and the youth. **Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory**; **Monsignor Bill Hoffman**, Archdiocesan Scout Chaplain; **Fr. John Matejek**, Parochial Vicar--Transfiguration Catholic Church (now Pastor, St. Catherine of Siena); **Fr. Jack Durkin, Jr.**, Parochial Vicar-- Catholic Church of St. Monica; and **Robin Matthews**, St. Catherine of Siena all received the **Bronze Pelican** for Boy Scouts. **Anne Marie Hooper** of Holy Spirit received the **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award** for Girl Scouts.

Besides individual awards and recognitions, several units in the Archdiocese were recognized for their outstanding service during the past year. The following Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troops were recognized with the **National Catholic Quality Unit Award** sponsored by the Boy Scout National Catholic Committee on Scouting: **Pack 1776, Catholic Church of St. Ann**; **Troop 75, Catholic Church of the Transfiguration**; and **Troop 1776, Knights of Columbus Council 8376, Our Lady of LaSalette, Catholic Church of St. Ann**. **Cub Scout Pack 422, St. Catherine of Siena**, was the **Regional Finalist of the Golden Medallion Award for Cub Scout Packs for Region 14**. This is a **national award** and only one Pack, Troop and Venture Crew can receive it from each of the fourteen Episcopal Regions of the United States. The final unit award for the afternoon was the Bishop's Trophy which all Catholic units both Boy Scout and Girl Scout can and should strive for and apply for each year. Judging for the trophy is comprised of two main objectives: Scouting and Religion. Considered under the Scouting objective is the size of the Unit in regard to the

number of advancements and service projects for the Church and community. The Religious objective covers Religious Emblems, Days of Reflection, Retreats and religious campouts. **The 2009 recipient of the Boy Scout Bishop's Trophy was Boy Scout Troop 75, Catholic Church of the Transfiguration.** This year the Committee also awarded **the Girl Scout Bishop's Trophy** to Girl Scouts in the following troops from **Transfiguration Catholic Church: Troops 0030, 2162, 2617, 2909, 2969, 24266 and 24287.**

The last award given was one that recognized the **Archdiocese of Atlanta as a Quality Diocese.** We joined many other (Arch) Dioceses across the country in this recognition. There are criteria to be followed in order to be considered and this is **Atlanta's SIXTH YEAR IN A ROW** to be recognized with this honor. This award was first introduced in 2002.

Girl Scout Alternate Medal Programs

The Archdiocese of Atlanta has approved additional Religious Medal programs—Ave Maria and Mother Mary Award for Brownies; Regina Coeli and Ave Maria Award for Juniors and St. Agnes Award and Our Lady Award for Cadettes and Seniors. These medal programs are from the Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY and the Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL and they have given us permission to use them in our Archdiocese. These new programs do **NOT** replace the National Religious Emblem programs (Family of God, I Live My Faith, Mary, the First Disciple and The Spirit Alive). These new programs are in addition to them and should only be used by **girls** who have **completed** their **national emblem program** and are not ready to begin their next program because of their grade/level in scouting. Contact Lou Ann Piantieri at 770-924-2110 or Tom and Jackie Welch at 770-650-1811 for more information.

Girl Scout Millennium Patch Program

We, in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, have instituted a Girl Scout Millennium Patch program for Girl Scouts of all ages. The requirements are posted on our website www.aaccos.org or may be obtained from Mary Ellen Yeomans at 770-977-2883. Upon completion of the program, a request for patches should be sent to Mary Ellen Yeomans, 3073 Tina Lane, Marietta, GA 30066. The patches are \$1 each and may be earned by all levels of Girl Scouts including adults.

ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

(please check our website for additional information and updates)

<http://www.aaccos.org>

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| October 17th | Day of Reflection, From the Cross to the Rosary, Transfiguration Catholic Church, 9 AM-2 PM |
| October 23rd-25th | Annual Boy Scout Duty to God Encampment, Bert Adams Scout Reservation |
| November 21st | Annual Boy Scout Expo, Jim Miller Park, Marietta, GA, 10 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. |
| January 23, 2010 | Annual AACOS Program Planning Meeting, All Saints—Msgr. Kiernan Scout Bldg., 9 AM |

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>Monsignor Bill Hoffman</i>	<i>770-540-0559</i>
<i>Assistant Chaplain</i>	<i>Fr. Robert Frederick</i>	<i>706-864-4779</i>
<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Tom Bender</i>	<i>770-978-8190</i>
<i>Girl Scout Emblems</i>	<i>Tom & Jackie Welch</i>	<i>770-650-1811</i>
<i>Boy Scout & Cub Scout Emblems</i>	<i>Tommy Treat</i>	<i>770-973-2007</i>
<i>Membership Chairman</i>	<i>Bill Leach</i>	<i>678-682-8148</i>
<i>Girl Scout Membership Chairman</i>	<i>Jackie Welch</i>	<i>770-650-1811</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Mary Daube</i>	<i>770-682-0304</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Vickie Voll</i>	<i>404-636-7730</i>
<i>Communications Chairman</i>	<i>Mary Ellen Yeomans</i>	<i>770-977-2883</i>
<i>Boy Scout Training Chairman</i>	<i>Deacon Tom Gotschall</i>	<i>770-490-9436</i>
<i>Girl Scout Training Chairman</i>	<i>Lou Ann Piantieri</i>	<i>770-924-2110</i>
<i>Knights of Columbus Liaison</i>	<i>John J. Jedlicka</i>	<i>770-722-9614</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>Bill Leach</i>	<i>678-682-8148</i>

COMMITTEE BSA CONTACTS

<i>AAC Religious Relations Liaison</i>	<i>Tom Bender</i>	<i>770-978-8190</i>
<i>Atlanta Area Council Chaplain</i>	<i>Fr. Tim Gadziala</i>	<i>404-758-8861</i>
<i>NE GA Committee Chair</i>	<i>Phil Krajec</i>	<i>770-513-9039</i>
<i>NE GA Council Interfaith Comm.</i>	<i>Leo Schiltgen</i>	<i>678-755-1084</i>
<i>NW Georgia Council Chaplain</i>	<i>Fr. Jim Miceli</i>	<i>706-290-9000</i>
<i>Flint River Council</i>	<i>TBA</i>	
<i>Central Georgia Council</i>	<i>TBA</i>	
<i>Chattahoochee Council</i>	<i>TBA</i>	
<i>GA Carolina Council</i>	<i>TBA</i>	

COMMITTEE GIRL SCOUT CONTACTS

<i>The Girl Scout Council of Greater Atlanta and Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia</i>	<i>Tom & Jackie Welch Lou Ann Piantieri</i>	<i>770-650-1811 770-924-2110</i>
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CAMPFIRE USA CONTACTS

Georgia Campfire Representative *TBA*

Website

<http://www.aaccos.org>