**DIOCESAN SCOUTING MASS**

The date is fast approaching and excitement is building. Have you made plans to attend the first annual Diocesan Scouting Mass?

Bishop Ronald Gainer has invited all of the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venture Scouts, Girl Scouts, and American Heritage Girls of the diocese to attend a special Mass with their families on April 19th. Any boy or girl who has completed any of the nationally or diocesan recognized Catholic Awards in the last year will be honored at this Mass.

The Mass will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Camp Hill and will begin at 2:00 pm. Scouts who will be recognized during the Mass should plan to arrive by 1:00 PM. Everyone should plan to stay after the Mass to join in fellowship and enjoy some light refreshments with the other attendees.

While many Scouts will attend with their packs or troops, it is not a requirement. Indeed, families are encouraged to register for the Mass as soon as possible. However you plan to attend, register by visiting the diocesan website (hbgdiocese.org) and look for the link under the “Youth” and “Catholic Scouting” tabs.

A decorative patch has been commissioned to commemorate this special occasion, and the patches will be sold for $2 each. The proceeds from this sale will go toward covering the cost of this event and other Catholic Scouting activities in the diocese. Order your patch while registering to guarantee you receive one; only limited quantities will be available for sale at the Mass.

**DCCS SUMMER CAMP AND RETREAT STAFF OPPORTUNITIES**

Plans for our upcoming Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting events continue to come together, but as with every major undertaking, there are plenty of opportunities for volunteers to get involved!

The Boy Scout summer camp will be held at Camp Tuckahoe in Dillsburg, PA, from July 19th to the 25th. A couple of openings remain for adults (21+) willing to help with the daytime religious patch activities. Accommodations at camp will be at no cost to the volunteer. Contact Patrick McCormack, 717-557-7090 or patrick.a.mccormack@gmail.com, for information.

The annual Boy Scout retreat will be held at Camp Bashore, in Jonestown, PA, from September 18th to the 20th. A variety of opportunities to volunteer (program and kitchen support) will be available. Interested Scouters should contact Tony and Corinne Kern at teamkern@aol.com.
SCOUT SUNDAYS OBSERVED

Each year the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts recognize their own Scout Sunday, and the Scouts of the Diocese of Harrisburg join in both.

The Boy Scouts always designate the Sunday prior to February 8th as Scout Sunday, unless the 8th itself is a Sunday, as it was this year. February 8th was selected because it is the anniversary of the incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America in 1910. The first Boy Scout Sunday was declared in 1914 and was widely observed by the late 1940s.

The Girl Scouts always designate a Girl Scout Week during the week that contains March 12th. March 12th was selected because it is the anniversary of Juliette Low’s first Girl Scout meeting in Savannah, Georgia, in 1912. In either case, Catholic Scouts celebrate in much the same way. Troops that are sponsored by Catholic organizations often attend Mass together. In many cases uniformed members of the troop serve as readers, ushers, altar servers, or choir members. Religious awards are often distributed by the pastor.

Catholic Scouts that belong to parishes without an organized troop are still encouraged to attend Mass in their uniforms. One local Boy Scout troop that celebrated Scout Sunday was Troop 168 at St. Patrick’s Parish in Carlisle, PA. The troop attended Mass and then hosted a breakfast afterwards.

During the Mass, two adult volunteers were recognized for receiving the DCCS Bronze Pelican Award.

Chuck Blichasz, a committee-man and treasurer for more than 12 years, helped to mentor several Eagle Scouts as they completed projects to benefit the parish community. Dorine Haberman, committee chair, was recognized for helping more than 60 Cub Scouts and 8 Boy Scouts to earn religious emblems.

GIRL SCOUTS SUPPORT PRO-LIFE CAUSE

[Editor’s Note: In our last issue we highlighted the many patches and other awards that are available to Catholic Scouts, but in this issue we thought we would share the story of one family’s experience of working on those awards.]

The Castellano sisters, Annie and Maddie, have a lot in common. Both attend Catholic schools, both are active Girl Scouts, and both are determined to make a positive impact on their community.

The girls also both have birthdays in August. However, instead of inviting friends to a birthday party and accepting gifts for themselves, the girls invite their friends and family to donate items or money for a charity of their choice.

This year, the girls organized two baby showers to collect items for Morning Star Pregnancy Services. Annie, a Cadette, used these showers to complete the service requirement of her Child of Mary II Award.

Morning Star, deeply touched by the girls’ generous gesture, invited them to take a tour and even featured them on their Facebook page and in their newsletter.

Maddie, a Brownie, recently completed her Child of Mary I Award. With her big sister’s help, she constructed a diorama of our Blessed Mother that was displayed at their parish’s Catholic Schools Week celebration (pictured to the right).

Both girls also went on a pilgrimage to a monument to Our Lady in Dudley, PA, dedicated time to prayer, and completed other requirements. Their experiences show just how much all young people can gain from incorporating faith activities into Scouting.

Meet the Castellano Sisters, Two Scouts Living their Faith

“I’m glad that I can work on church things and get holy medals even though I’m really young.” - Maddie

“I enjoyed seeing my friends so happy to participate in my project and help the babies and families at Morningstar.” - Annie
On January 31, 2015, approximately two dozen Girl Scouts and American Heritage Girls gathered at the Diocesan Center for a workshop dedicated to exploring their faith. This they accomplished by studying the life and example of Pope Saint John XXIII.

The girls were organized into small groups and then rotated among different sessions dedicated to various topics. In one session, the girls learned about St. John’s life and ministry and then proceeded to build models of churches with Legos. In another, the girls learned about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and then acted out those works in a game of charades. In a third, the girls made prayer beads.

A highlight of the day was celebrating Mass in the Diocesan Chapel with Father Edward Lavelle, who once met Pope St. John XXIII in Rome.

Although parents and catechists can work on these patches at any time, the Diocesan Committee currently plans several different workshops for girls each year.

If you would like to suggest a topic or volunteer to assist at an upcoming workshop, please contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at oyyam@hbgdiocese.org.

One of the central purposes of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS) is to promote the spiritual side of Scouting. To that end, committee members are available to visit unit, district, council, and diocesan functions to promote Catholic Scouting.

The DCCS has planned displays for two upcoming events. The first will be the Diocesan Men’s Conference on March 21st at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. At this event we hope to connect with some of our Scout leaders and many Scouting alumni. Please look for our table if you plan to attend.

The other event will be the New Birth of Freedom Council University of Scouting on March 28th at the Good Hope Middle School in Mechanicsburg.

If you would like to invite DCCS representatives to promote Catholic Scouting at any upcoming events, please contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at oyyam@hbgdiocese.org.

Anyone who has been active in the Catholic Scouting community over the last few decades may remember the enormous contributions made by Tom and Mary Lehmier. Now, to honor those memories, a bell will be dedicated in their names at the Camp Mack Chapel in the Penn Dutch Council.

The ceremony has been scheduled to begin at 2:00 pm on April 26th.

It will be at the Throwing Bull Tribe Memorial Garden located at 2 Scout Lane, Newmanstown, PA, 17073. Boy Scout Troop 142 from Lititz, St. James Catholic Church, and the Throwing Bull Tribe will serve as hosts.

All are welcome to attend but the courtesy of an RSVP is appreciated to ensure an adequate amount of refreshments will be on hand.

Tom Lehmier was in the Boy Scouts for 77 years before his death in 2013. He served as Scoutmaster, Scout Executive, and in many other roles. His contributions to Scouting will be memorialized on April 26th.

Please contact Kevin Neiles at 717-598-5250 or by email at KMNeiles@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.
On January 31, 2015, nearly three dozen girls and volunteers gathered at the Diocesan Center to work on their Pope St. John XXIII Patches. As you can see, there was plenty of activities to keep everyone busy! A good time was had by all.
Catholic Awards for BSA Units

Scouts recognize the importance of honoring excellence. Not only does it show appreciation for a job well done, but it serves as an inspiration for others to emulate those honored.

You probably already know that Catholic youth and adults can earn individual Scouting awards, but did you know that whole units can also earn awards for promoting religious emblems?

Given how much emphasis Scouting places on teamwork, it simply makes sense to recognize the efforts of outstanding units. To that end, there are currently two awards that can be earned by Cub Packs, Boy Scout Troops, or Venturing Crews.

Those units that are sponsored by Catholic institutions (such as parishes or Knights of Columbus Councils) are eligible for a national award, the Pope Pius VI Quality Unit Award. Those units that are not sponsored by Catholic institutions can receive a diocesan award, the Pope Saint John XXIII Ecumenical Award.

The criteria for the two awards are very similar. Units qualify by fulfilling a variety of requirements based on service, training, religious emblems and other activities, and vocation awareness. Awards are made on an annual basis and can be earned repeatedly. Applications can be found on the diocesan website.

St. Joan of Arc Boy Scouts Complete Pope Pius XII Award

Five Boy Scouts from Troops 65 and 203 recently worked together to complete the Pope Pius XII Award. Although they belong to different troops, all of the boys and their families belong to St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey, PA.

The Pope Pius XII Award is the highest religious award that can be earned by Catholic Boy Scouts and is earned by only a few Scouts each year.

Venture Scouts (boy or girl) can also earn this award. For more information about it, please contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Boy Scout and Girl Scout Retreat in Altoona-Johnstown Diocese

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has extended an invitation to all Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in grades 5 through 12 to attend a weekend retreat at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA. The retreat will begin at 6:00 pm on May 29th and conclude with after a 10:00 am Mass on May 31st.

The theme of the retreat will be “Pope Francis - A Pope for All.” Activities will include spiritual reflections, Eucharistic adoration, and other fun events.

The cost for the weekend will be $40 for each participant, whether Scout or chaperone. Registration and full payments must be received by the diocese no later than May 1st.

Sleeping accommodations will be provided in the college dormitories. Meals will be served in the college dining hall.

For additional information please contact Mrs. Denise Kreckel at 814-684-2898 or by email at pharmcanoe@aol.com.
Diocesan World Youth Day on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015

Any Scouts who happen to be in high school will want to consider joining hundreds of other youth from across the diocese for this unique activity on March 29th at 3:00 pm.

The Celebration begins on the steps of the State Capitol, processes to St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and concludes with dinner and a concert in Strawberry Square in Harrisburg. For more information, speak to your parish or high school youth ministry. The deadline to register is March 20th.

Incidentally, information for those interested in attending the next international World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland from July 23 to August 1, 2016, can be found on the diocesan website.

Diocesan Youth Council

Speaking of the Diocesan World Youth Day, did you know that it is just one of the activities organized each year by the Diocesan Youth Council?

Many Catholics in our diocese do not even know that there is such a council. Every parish and Catholic high school in the diocese can select two youth to represent it on the council. Additional members are appointed to the council to represent the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Planning the annual Diocesan World Youth Day is the council’s biggest responsibility by far. More than 700 young people attended this activity last year! Other, smaller events occur throughout the year, though, and council members also serve as ambassadors to help spread information about diocesan activities.

Any young person interested in serving on the council should first approach his or her pastor or high school campus minister. Any Boy Scout or Girl Scout hoping to represent the Scouting communities should contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for consideration by their respective committees. Send inquiries to the office by emailing oyyam@hbgdiocese.org.

St. George, Patron Saint of Boy Scouts, and St. Agnes, Patron Saint of Girl Scouts, Pray for Us!