In 1830, in Paris, France, a young nun was blessed to receive visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The visionary, Saint Catherine Laboure, reported that Mary desired her to make devotional medals according to a particular design. Today, wearing the Miraculous Medal is one of the most popular of pious traditions. The DCCGSCF has announced plans to coordinate a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal at Saint Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg. We hope that participation in this pilgrimage will help to educate our young people about the Medal and encourage them to adopt the devotion.

Saint Catherine Laboure Parish was the first in the world to be dedicated in the name of Saint Catherine after her canonization in 1947. Construction of the shrine was completed in 1976 and includes relics of Saint Catherine and magnificent stained glass windows.

The pilgrimage will occur on March 12, 2016. For those interested in joining us on the pilgrimage, additional details will soon be made available. Anyone unable to join us should visit the parish (4000 Derry Street, Harrisburg) or its website (sclhbg.org) to learn more about the Medal and Shrine.

**Biannual Bishop’s Dinner: Honoring Our Volunteers**

Save the date! The biannual recognition dinner honoring our Catholic Scouting volunteers has been scheduled for June 6, 2016, at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. Bishop Gainer will attend to distribute the diocesan and national awards that have been designated since the last recognition dinner in 2014. If you would like to nominate any adults to receive an award, please do so soon. The deadline for nominations to the DCCGSCF is January 15, 2016, while nominations to the DCCS are due by November 21, 2015.

For more information on the available awards, please see the last issue of this newsletter or the diocesan website. Details pertaining to the registration process and cost will be publicized in the near future. We strongly encourage everyone interested in Catholic Scouting to attend.
2015 DCCS Catholic Scout Retreat

From September 18-20, 2015, scores of Scouts and Scouters assembled at Camp Bashore in Lebanon County for the Thirty-Seventh Annual Catholic Scout Retreat. The theme this year, “Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive,” was selected to capitalize on the World Meeting of Families, held shortly afterwards in Philadelphia.

Wonderful weather and many volunteers under the overall direction of Anthony and Corinne Kern permitted Scouts to participate in some terrific formation activities. Older Scouts had a chance to register for the COPE Course and other participants had an opportunity to visit the rifle range. Special thanks to Father Keith Carroll, DCCS Chaplain, who celebrated Mass at the Retreat.
DCCGSCF Religious Workshop

On November 7, 2015, the DCCGSCF conducted its latest workshop. Nearly 40 girls gathered to celebrate the life of Miriam, sister of Moses. Girls made tambourines, danced, and learned about Miriam. Attendees also had an opportunity to participate in the sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist. Thanks to Betty Roksandic for organizing the event and to Kerri Walton for sharing these pictures! The next workshop will be March 12th.
DCCS Summer Camp Concludes

After several years in the making, the first DCCS summer camp was held at Camp Tuckahoe in Dillsburg, PA, from July 19-25, 2015.

Activities for the Scouts were designed to mesh with the regularly scheduled Boy Scout program. Scouts had opportunities to work on religious activity patches, tie knotted rosaries and other crafts, attend Mass, go to confession, and join other Catholics for daily prayers.

A total of six troops sponsored by parishes in four different dioceses attended the camp. A total of 116 Scouts and Scouters camped with those troops. Of those campers, 76 Scouts and 31 leaders participated in at least one DCCS activity during the week. Fifty-five campers earned the special “Living the Faith” patch.

Special thanks to the many volunteers who helped to make the event so successful.

The DCCS is currently considering proposals to coordinate another week of summer activities in either 2017 or 2018. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this effort should contact Patrick at patrick.a.mccormack@gmail.com.

A number of the commemorative patches remain and have been made available for purchase. Anyone interested should contact OYYAM.

Please take a look at some pictures from the week on page 6.

Webelos Invited to 2016 Scout Retreat

By now you may have heard the exciting news: Webelos Scouts have been invited to attend the next annual Catholic Scout Retreat!

The 2016 Retreat will be held once again at Camp Bashore in Lebanon County. The retreat will open on Friday, September 16, 2016, and conclude on Sunday, September 18th.

Planning has already begun to ensure that our younger Scout participants will be able to enjoy a program full of age-appropriate activities. Anyone interested in volunteering to lead these activities or assist with any other part of the retreat program should contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

2016 NCCS Training at Philmont Training Center

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting is hosting the “Scouting in the Catholic Church” conference at the Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, New Mexico, from July 24-30, 2016. The conference focuses on the mission of the NCCS but also involves participants in adult faith formation and enhances their understanding of the concept of Scouting as youth ministry.

This conference is designed for any adult interested in using Scouting as a program for Catholic youth ministry, including Scout chaplains, clergy, youth ministers, and Catholic committee members. Anyone considering attending this conference may be interested to learn that the Philmont Training Center offers organized programs for family members.

Registration for the conference is now open at http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc.aspx. At the website, click on “new 2016 conferences.” Additional information about the conference, including current costs, appears on the website. Please inform the DCCS of your interest if you plan to attend.

Keep in touch!
Join us on Facebook!
facebook.com/
dccs.harrisburg.pa

REMINDER:

2nd Annual Diocesan Scouting Mass
April 17, 2016 2:00 PM
Church of the Good Shepherd, Camp Hill
Promotional Efforts Continue: What Can You Do?

You would probably agree that the diocesan Catholic Scouting community has shared some excellent experiences over the past year. So what would make it even better?

More participation, of course!

Our committee continues to reach just a small fraction of the Catholic Scouts in our diocese, so we have tried to increase our outreach efforts. Representatives from our committees have recently appeared at the following events:

- Diocesan Men’s Conference
- NBOF Council University of Scouting, Program Launch, and Wizard Safari
- Diocesan Catechetical Conference
- District Re-chartering
- Girl Scout Council Kick-Off

There are many ways that you can help us to spread the good news about our activities:

- Notify our committees of Scouting activities in your area where promotional events would be appropriate
- Encourage your Scouts to wear their religious emblems/patches
- Forward this newsletter to your Scouting acquaintances
- Follow the DCCS on Facebook and share its posts
- Carry pamphlets/prayer cards from our committees to share when you meet other Catholic Scouts

The bottom line is that Scouting provides many opportunities for our young people to live their faith, and the more they do, the stronger their faith will be.

Notice of DCCS Changes

The DCCS recently enacted a small change to its by-laws governing the nomination of officers.

Formerly, officers were limited to two consecutive two-year terms in any six years. The by-laws have been amended to allow officers to serve three consecutive two-year terms in any eight years, provided that two-thirds of the committee approves the third term.

The by-laws leave unchanged the requirement that the DCCS Chair be appointed by the bishop.

The updated by-laws will be posted on the website.

New DCCS Prayer Cards Available

The DCCS recently printed a supply of prayer cards (pictured below) for distribution at Scouting events around the diocese. The traditional image on the card shows Jesus preaching to a group of Scouts while Saint George appears in the background. Consider distributing these cards to your Catholic Scouts and praying with them at your next activity.
A Look Back at the DCCS Summer Camp

This past summer will always be remembered by the DCCS for the faith and fun we shared at Camp Tuckahoe. These memories will certainly last a lifetime.
A Visit With the Holy Father

Editor’s Note: Regular readers of this newsletter will recognize the Castellano family as active members of our Catholic Scouting community. They joined thousands of other pilgrims at the World Meeting of Families in September and were kind enough to share some of their experiences with us. Here is part of their report, written by Melissa Castellano. If your family has an inspiring experience that you think might benefit other Catholic Scouting families, please share your story with us and we will consider including it in a future issue.

“On Friday, I was sitting with the children resting in front of City Hall. The Secret Service agents were teasing us that we had 'a great spot for tomorrow’s Papal parade.' When they told us we would not be forced to leave (as we had already gone through security), the girls wanted to stay! So, my husband took little Gabriel back to the apartment we were renting, grabbed us some PBJs and sleeping bags, and brought them back. The girls and I had a sleep-out in front of City Hall to save our spot! Before going to sleep, Annie and Maddie decided we would pray a rosary for families in honor of completing their St. Gianna Beretta Molla patch work for Catholic Girl Scouts. In all, we saved our spot for 28.5 hours for 28.5 seconds to see Pope Francis...but we all agreed it was so worth it!

We were also in our spot during the Saturday Mass at the Cathedral. During the Our Father, we always hold hands...and when I saw all our bracelets there on the blanket, I had to snap a photo (it's one of my favorites!).”

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