

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
1 COLUMBUS PLAZA
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