



June 4, 2013

Hello Catholic Scouters and Families,

As you know for the past several months there has been much discussion and debate in anticipation of the vote for a change in the BSA membership policy. During the past 10 days or so since the vote occurred, responses by Bishop Robert Guglielmone, the liaison from the USCCB to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and Mr. Ed Martin, the NCCS chairperson have been made. Mr. Martin's letter can be found at the following link: <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/comment/Response-EPM-130529-v2.pdf>.

Yesterday, Fr. Dennis O'Rourke, the Diocese of Phoenix Scout Chaplain, posted a blog which expresses his thoughts on the vote and encourages us to continue our ministry to youth through the Boy Scout program. The link is as follows: <http://frdenaz.blogspot.com/>
Fr. Dennis has spoken with Bishop Olmsted and our bishop approves the stance presented in the blog so I do not anticipate any formal statement from the Bishop. If you have questions or comments about the blog, please reply directly to Fr. Dennis.

During the next few months there may be further guidelines from BSA and NCCS on how to implement the new policy at the various levels. I will be sure to forward any letters or links to pertinent information to you.

Now that the vote has been made and responses have been published, I have faith that our Catholic chartered units will continue to support Boy Scouting and that we can further develop new units. It is my hope and prayer that we can move forward and this committee will continue to be a vibrant group of leaders who will provide our Catholic scouts with opportunities for spiritual growth through retreats, days of reflection and the various religious emblems programs.

Your help in spreading the work of our committee to Catholic scouts and leaders is essential and needed. If you are interested in being part of a committee that brings the message of faith and forgiveness to our youth, please join! We need trained counselors for the religious emblems programs, help with outreach to current and potential packs, troops and crews, and help in carrying out upcoming events including our 2014 retreat.

Our next quarterly meeting, which will include calendar planning, will be Wednesday, July 31 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Religious Emblems Counselor training will be conducted this Saturday, June 8 at 8:30 am at the DPC and meetings for next year's religious retreat will be starting up soon.

Please consider answering God's call to evangelization and join us.

Yours in Christ and Scouting,

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