



Diocese of Charleston
Catholic Committee on Scouting
Youth Ministry
2005 Annual Report



Jim Weiskircher
Chairman

Father David Michael
Chaplain

Inaugural Year

Purpose and Goals

The primary purpose of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS) is to give guidance, direction, leadership and vitality in the spiritual programs of the Boy Scouts of America within the Diocese of Charleston, SC. The DCCS will be an advisory committee for Catholic Scouting emblems, and shall be a facilitator to assist in the use of the Scouting program by Catholic organizations. The Diocese of Charleston encompasses the boundaries of five separate Boy Scout Councils.

Initial Meeting

The Diocese of Charleston SC has never had a functioning DCCS. On April 30th, we gathered a group of concerned adults from across the state at St. John Neumann in Columbia, SC to discuss ways that we could promote Catholic Scouting. During the meeting, we organized into committees to drive two initiatives for our first year. The first initiative was to hold a training session for emblem counselors. The second initiative was to hold the first ever Catholic Camporee in the state.

Religious Emblems Counselor Training

On August 20th, at St. John Neumann in Columbia, we held a training session for each of the four religious emblems, Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, and Pope Pius XII. The training course provided the counselors with all of the information needed to run a successful program and to develop a program for scouts to understand more about their Catholic faith. Over 20 new counselors were trained at the session.

“Year of the Eucharist” Inaugural Catholic Camporee

On October 14-16th, the DCCS held the first ever Catholic Camporee at Camp Coker in Cheraw, SC. One hundred and ninety one Cub Scout, Boy Scouts, Venture and adults attended the first annual event. The Theme of the Camporee was the “Year of the Eucharist”. The camporee held age appropriate events for all age groups, i.e. Rifle, BB guns, archery, realistic first aid, canoeing, giant slingshot, and knot tying. At the religious station, the boys learned more about the religious emblems program as well as completing all of the requirements for the rosary patch, which was given to them at the end of the session. Mass was held in the afternoon by Father David Michael. At the end of Mass, each boy that had earned a religious emblem during the past 12 months, were recognized, by giving each of them a special neckerchief that had an embroidered emblem of their medal along with the name of their emblem and the Diocese of Charleston printed on each one. These were given as a gift from the Bishop of Charleston. The camporee was a success and planning is underway for a 2006 camporee to be held on October 13-15, 2006 at Camp Barstow in Columbia, SC. The camp is more centrally located in the state, which will make it easier for troops and packs to be able to come. The Most Rev. Robert J. Baker, Bishop of Charleston is scheduled to be present to do Mass on Sunday morning which should help us to more than double our numbers for 2006.

St. George's Trek

The Diocese of Charleston has never selected a boy to attend the St. George's Trek at Philmont. This year, a young man was selected that believes that he may have a vocation and we are encouraging him to experience the beauty of Philmont but also for him to grow in his faith and be able to freely ask questions of the Bishops, priests and seminarians that will be on the trek with him.

Gold Medallion Award

The DCCS recommended one Troop to receive the Gold Medallion Award. This troop has been very active in promoting the emblem program and is only 4 years old. The leaders of Troop 79 believe that the boys have a Duty to God and Country and they need to do them in that order. Their religious emblems are as important as their rank advancement. They were a huge help in providing personnel to help get the DCCS up and running as well as support in running the Camporee.

Finances

Several committee members came through with their own personal funds to help us be able to provide the emblems neckerchiefs, training materials for emblem training, rosary patches, food, materials, and to pay for the camp fees. The committee was only able to pay for the application fee for the St. George's Trek and the participant will need to pay for his flight as well as the course fee. We are hoping that in the future, the DCCS will be able to fund the entire cost of the trip for the selected scouts. We do not receive any outside funding so we must rely on committee members. First year start-up costs have been higher than we expected. We wanted to make an enjoyable experience for the First Catholic Camporee so that the scouts would come back. Future funding from training sessions, camporees and religious emblem fees should make these programs self-sustaining.

Publicity

The publicity committee did a great job in getting the word out about all of our events. The Catholic Miscellany was an excellent source of dispersing information and could not have been more accommodating. Examples are attached.

Bronze Pelican and St. George's Adult Emblems

The Diocese of Charleston has not promoted either the Bronze Pelican or the St. George's emblem to recognize adult leaders that have provided guidance and service to the Catholic youths of our state. We are making a concentrated effort to identify and recognize these individuals and give them the recognition that they deserve. All that we have accomplished in a relatively short amount of time has been the result of our committees and its members focusing and pulling together as a group to get it accomplished. This has been a true group effort guided by the Holy Spirit.