



## **Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and Camp Fire**

Dear Cubmaster, Scoutmaster and Venture Crew Adviser:

Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy and Blessed 2015 from the Oklahoma Archdiocesan Committee on Scouting and Campfire. Many of you are well into your Scouting year. Some of you have just re-chartered and are beginning a new year. Regardless, we wish to give you a few reminders and suggestions concerning Catholic Religious Awards, events and activities.

First, does your unit have a *TRAINED* Religious Awards Coordinator? If not, your unit is missing an important team member and your youth and their parents are probably missing critical information to earn their appropriate Religious Emblem!

The next Training Session will be held at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, **February 14, 2015 from 1:00-3:00 pm**. This training is **required** for all Ad Altare Dei Counselors. Fred Spellman is the trainer.

Here are two dates to put on your calendars NOW!

- **April 12** – Archbishop’s Mass and Reception, 4:00 pm, Pastoral Center. All Scouts, boy & girl, who have earned religious awards since last May will be personally recognized by the Archbishop, receive a special certificate, and be photographed with him. Adults are also recognized at this event.

**October 9-11** - Annual Archdiocesan Scouting Encampment/Retreat at Our Lady of Guadalupe Camp for all youth in the Archdiocese. Open to all youth from 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Have you or your unit heard about the National Quality Unit Award-Pope Paul VI? Since you are a Catholic sponsored organization, you should be a **Catholic Quality Unit**. Check the details at [nccs-bsa.org](http://nccs-bsa.org). Forms are there for your convenience. You, your scouts, your sponsor all need to know and see that you are a **Catholic Quality Unit**.

Cubmasters alert your scouts, parents and especially your Bear and Webelo Den Leaders to the Religious Awards Program – Light of Christ for Bears and Parvuli Dei for Webelos. Both are Parent/Youth directed, but the Den Leaders can be a great help. Everyone needs to know there is a Four Column Award in the Archdiocese. It goes to every Boy Scout and Girl Scout who have earned all four of their respective Religious Awards. It has to begin with your Cub Scouts!

Scoutmasters, every Boy Scout deserves the opportunity to earn the religious emblem of his Faith. For Catholics, that is the Ad Altare Dei medal. If you don't have a Counselor, send a Committee Member to the Training Session. The same person can mentor your high school age Scouts for the Pope Pius XII medal. Girls, who are in Venture Crews, can also earn this award. A class of boys and girls produces very rewarding results for all participants in this program.

May I call to your attention numerous religious patches that are available through the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. The Rosary patches, Footstep of the Saints patches, International Catholic Awareness patch and Good Turn Project are all available to be earned by youth and adults, regardless of religion. As part of the Encampment program, in October, the Rosary Program was presented, on a rotating basis. All who attended completed the requirements for the patch each year. We presented material about (then) Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American to be canonized a Saint. The Pope declared Kateri a Saint the Sunday following the Encampment. There are 16 individual Saint patches that can be earned. This past year learned and earned the International Catholic Awareness Patch. Did you know there are Catholic Scouting units in 60 countries?

Yours through Catholic Scouting,

*Bernie Denker*

Bernie Denker, ACCSCF Communications

