



THE BRIDGE

The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

VOLUME 29 NO. 2— SUMMER 2020

Will be web-based

Electronic format Ad Altare Dei Youth Manual to be available this summer

The NCCS and the Emblems Committee are pleased to announce that the Ad Altare Dei Youth Manual will now be available in an interactive, electronic format. The target launch date nationally is July 1, 2020.

Given the current situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic, Stay-at-Home orders, quarantining in some areas and the advent of Zoom and other virtual meeting venues, this is an ideal time to make this electronic Ad Altare Dei Youth Manual (e-AAD) available.

This electronic format is essentially a “copy” of the printed version. The original content of the program was *not* changed or altered. The entire workbook has been programmed so that Scouts can work on the manual and send their answers to their counselor and the counselor can review the answers anytime.

Each Ad Altare Dei participant has access to their own manual for their individual use. The e-AAD Manual is *not* intended to replace group meetings and discussions but is simply an alternative method for Scouts to use to record their answers.

Features include:

- The AAD Youth manual is web-based. Access can be gained via Wi-Fi or a “hot spot.”
- A Scout can use Apple or Windows software. Electronic devices such as a desktop PC, laptop, tablet, notebook, iPad and Smartphone can also be used to access the workbook.
- Voice to text features can be utilized.



- The manual is accessible 24/7 by the Scout.
- There are embedded links that access Bible verses and videos of several sacraments.
- The manual is accessible 24/7 by the counselor to monitor progress and provide feedback.
- The counselor can create reports on the status of the group as a whole or individual Scouts.

Mark Healy and Kathy Polowski from the Diocese of the Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting developed the manual starting in 2014 and have been testing the electronic version in several dioceses since 2016.

We are extremely excited to see this modern-day tool made available for Scouts and counselors to use while working on the Ad Altare Dei religious emblem program.

Adjustments to Religious Emblems programs outlined

By
John Savage

In response to concerns about how our Scouts can complete their Catholic Religious Emblems during the Covid-19 national health emergency, the NCCS Religious Emblems Committee has approved the following adjustments for diocesan committees to use:

For Cubs and Scouts who are working on their emblems in groups, we suggest continuing to work using media such as teleconferencing applications whenever possible. Be sure to follow all BSA and diocesan youth protection guidelines.

For this year only, Cubs who have already crossed over have until Dec. 31, 2020 to complete their religious emblem requirements, *provided that they began working on the emblem before crossing over*. **This is a one-time exception and will expire at the end of this year.**

Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts working on Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII normally must complete work on these emblems before the 18th birthday for Scouts BSA and before the 21st birthday for Venturers and Sea Scouts.

For this year only, Scouts who have begun work on these emblems before their birthday and are unable to complete the requirements because of the current national health emergency have until six months after their birthday or Dec. 31, 2020, whichever is later, to complete their work. **This is a one-time exception and will expire at the end of this year.** Boards of Review for these emblems are done according to diocesan procedures and may be held after the 18th or 21st birthday.

Workbooks for Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, and Ad Altare Dei Counselor will be available through the NCCS on-line store.



National Catholic Committee on Scouting



FROM THE CHAIR
Jim Weiskircher

The last three months have been a trying time for all of us. I hope that you and your family are safe. We were faced with cancelling the Biennial Meeting, St. George Trek, and Scouting in the Catholic Church, and Scouting in the Local Church. I have been blessed to work with a dedicated group that refuse to let the pandemic get us down.

Julie Doerr worked to identify 7 outstanding recipients of the Emmitt J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship. Please take time to read the Scouts' stories in this and upcoming issues. These Scouts are the cream of the crop. Theresa Dirig and her committee worked to develop virtual religious activities in May and June with future events planned. John Doerr, Father Mark Carr, and Elizabeth Olivas have been working to streamline our financial reporting system.

Kathy Polowski and Mark Healy have worked on the electronic version of the Ad Altare Dei for several years. The emblems committee has approved its release on July 1st. The requirements are the same, but it is easier for both the Scout and counselor to use and track progress. This does not eliminate the face time needed to complete the emblem but makes it easier if virtual meetings are held.

Virtual meetings are becoming the norm with the Executive Committee already meeting twice and the regional chairs and chaplains meeting with Father Gerard and John Anthony. This tool will never replace the importance of face to face meetings, but during this difficult time it allows us to move forward quickly.

I have been impressed with the hard work of the Archdiocesan committee of Atlanta in working with the United Methodist Church in putting on a virtual Scouters Religious Academy May 16th. Originally scheduled for April it was switched to a virtual program and the attendance was opened up and the number more than tripled. More than half of the attendees were Catholic.

If you are thinking of working the 2021 National Scout Jamboree, please consider working in the NCCS booth. It is a great opportunity to interact with scouts from across the country.

Yours in Catholic Scouting as a youth ministry,
Jim

The Bridge is an authorized publication of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS). It is published quarterly to provide news and information to members of the NCCS, diocesan Catholic committees, youth ministry personnel and Boy Scout councils.

NCCS National Chair
NCCS National Chaplain
Chair, Marketing and Public Relations
Advisor, Marketing and Public Relations
Editor
NCCS Webmaster

Jim Weiskircher
Father Joe Powers
Jason Wolz
Father Roger Lopez
Mike Gannon
Roselito de los Reyes

To submit items for future editions of *The Bridge* please contact Mike Gannon at scouttrain@aol.com. Photos are acceptable and should be in a jpeg format. Please ensure all people in photos are identified and the subject matter is fully described.



The Chaplain's Corner

Father Joe Powers
National Chaplain



The pandemic is wreaking havoc throughout the country, causing anxiety and questions. Like many of you, I am waiting to find out if my local Scout camp will be open this summer. Philmont will not open and we wait to hear news from the Summit in West Virginia. Overnights and meetings are non-existent. To borrow from Thomas Paine, "These are the times that try men's souls." But you know what? Scouting continues onward. Units are holding virtual meetings. News stories are aired about Scouts reaching out to assist those in their communities. Continue to pray for medical personnel, first responders, and all who provide for our daily needs. And may the souls of the faithful departed, rest in God's peace.

A word to my brother priests in Scouting. There is a great need for Catholic priests to serve as chaplains at the 2021 National Jamboree. Catholics are one of the largest denominations at the Jamboree. Without our presence, there are no Masses, confessions, or spiritual guidance. It's not too early to register. Please give serious consideration to serving our Scouts and leaders. Check out <https://jamboree.scouting.org> for information and BSA requirements. NCCS will reimburse your registration and transportation costs. You can contact me with any questions (Powersjoe79@gmail.com.).

Two new Religious Activities Added in Faith Series

By Theresa Dirig

The Religious Activities Committee is excited about the approval of two new activities in the Faith Series. The first, **Human Dignity**, was written by a young lady working on her Gold Award for Girl Scouts.

This Activity is designed to teach participants about the wonderful differences of all people. Some of the areas that are explored are respect for individuals, people of all races and ethnicities, people with physical and mental challenges and many other areas.

The other new Activity is the **Eastern Catholic Awareness**, was created by the Region 15 Chair, Diana Kullman. Region 15 is made up of all Scouts/Scouters who are part of the Eastern Catholic Churches.

The Eastern Catholic Awareness Activity is to help all Scouts and Scouters become aware of the fullness and diversity of the Catholic Church. For many the phrase "Catholic Church" only conjures up images of the Pope, St. Peter's Basilica, and other famous Catholic cathedrals. But these are only images of one part of the Catholic Church, in fact less than four percent of it. The rest of the Catholic Church is made up of the 23 Eastern Catholic Churches which are in full communion with the Pope and the See of Rome. This program will provide a brief description of some of these Churches that you may encounter in the United States, and help in understanding how they may differ from and how they are united to Rome.

These new activities will be added to the website as soon as the patches are available.

Because we are adding two new activities, we are archiving three: Marianne Cope – American Saints; Rose Philippine Duchesne – American Saints; and Our Lady of Sorrows – Marian. These activities will be available until the supply of patches is exhausted. The worksheets can be found under the Archived Activities tab.

NCCS National Training Cancelled for 2020 and new dates set for courses for Summer 2021.

By
Mark Kramer

Loyal readers of the NCCS Bridge are familiar with our two national-level training courses, Scouting in the Catholic Church (SiCC) and Scouting in the Local Church (SiLC). Due to the closures of BSA's high adventure facilities, our 2020 offering of SiCC and SiLC were cancelled. We are using the downtime to coordinate for the 2021 calendar of events.

- **SCOUTING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**, March 2-6, 2021, at BSA's SEA BASE, Islamorada Florida
- **SCOUTING IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**, July 18-23, 2021, at the Philmont Training Center, Cimarron, New Mexico

If you are new to the Bridge and the National Catholic Committee on Scouting then you should plan to attend at least SiCC in 2021. This is our premier adult training course appropriate for those involved with Catholic Scouting at the unit/parish, diocesan, regional, and/or national levels. If you have recently come to Catholic Scouting as part of a local Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting then we recommend attending our SiLC course. At our SiLC course you'll have the opportunity to network with other Diocesan Scouters working within their local dioceses to help local parish programs and Catholic Scouts better use the Scouting program to foster their Catholic faith growth. If you have any questions please contact us at NCCS@scouting.org.

Atlanta Catholic Committee co-hosts virtual Religious Academy

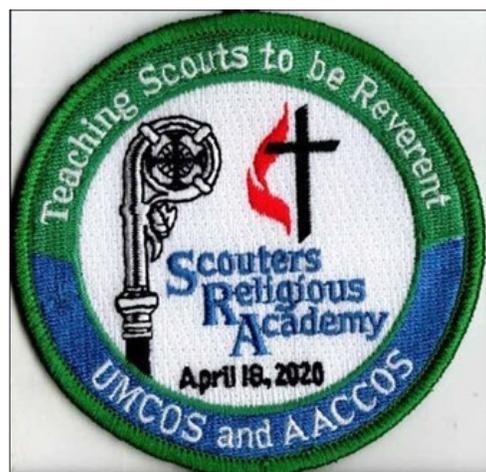
By Phil Krajec

The Archdiocese of Atlanta Catholic Committee on Scouting (AACCoS) co-hosted a virtual Scouters Religious Academy on May 16. The Academy was a training conference for Scout Leaders, Charter Organization Representatives, and anyone interested in the religious aspects of Scouting. The six-hour program delivered via Zoom[®] was designed to help build faith into Scouting programs.

AACCoS Chair Bill Leach and Chris Karabinos, Scout Coordinator for the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Committee on Scouting served as co-facilitators. NCCS National Chair Jim Weiskircher was the keynote speaker and led a fireside chat. With valuable input from NCCS Training Vice Chair Mark Kramer, AACCoS Vice Chair Ynes Ortega presented a session on Catholic Religious Emblem Counselors and AACCoS Religious Emblems Chair Brian McMichael discussed the NCCS Catholic Religious Emblems Program. Region 14 Chair Phil Krajec served as chat room moderator.

In addition to the Catholic topics, the conference included sessions on Chaplains Training, Unit Religious Emblem Coordinator, My Promise My Faith, and Building Faith into your Scout program. These are all non-faith specific courses designed to promote all religions. A digital handout was shared with all Academy participants that lists all faiths with religious emblem programs and contact info for those faith groups.

The Academy was started as an in-person training four years ago by Chris. The Academy is still growing and evolving with the objective of becoming a more diverse event. AACCoS began cohosting two years ago. The Jewish Committee on Scouting has committed to joining in 2021, and it is hoped that other faiths will soon follow.



“The Academy came about when I had the idea to organize a ‘Faith-based University of Scouting’ training conference to help adult leaders understand that Scouting can be a ministry, and to help them understand how to make that happen,” said Chris. “We’ve evolved and grown the Academy to include Girl Scouts, ministers and leaders from many different faith groups. The incredibly broad participation across so many groups and geographies this year validates that there is a thirst to promote faith in Scouting.”

Participants in this year’s event included 378 Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and American Heritage Girl volunteers and professionals; Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Hindu, Methodist, and other Protestant leaders from 42 states and 6 countries. “I was excited to see the number and variety of participants. I hope the groups participating this year see new opportunities to promote Faith in their Scout programs in new ways, and that we can continue to expand the Academy together in other ways.,” said Chris.

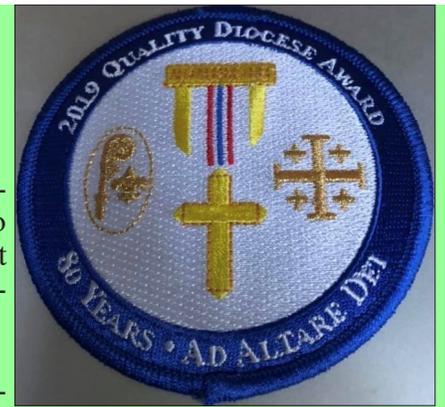
Past NCCS National Chair Ed Martin was one of those participants. “As one getting ready to deliver Religious Emblem Counselor training in my own diocese, I found participating in the SRA a great way to prepare for my own presentation in both content and delivery. I was impressed with the collaboration between the Atlanta Catholic and Methodist Scouting communities that made it happen and the extensive reach they achieved in getting participants from across the US and internationally,” said Ed.

Ynes added, “We had the opportunity to explain what the AACCoS does and how we support all scouting groups that are part of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. I’m the religious emblem coordinator for my Troop 279. Jim Weiskircher’s presentation on the digital version of the AAD workbook was extremely helpful. The new approach will give more opportunities for counselors to increase the number of catholic scouts that can complete the AAD program online or as a group.”

The goal of the Academy was to teach leaders that it is their responsibility to introduce faith into the Scouting program for their youth and to show them how to do that. It was a good day for Scouting.

2019 Quality Diocese Award Winners Named

As a part of the ongoing Membership Initiative, several (Arch) Dioceses qualified as Quality Diocese Gold or Silver. Gold qualifiers receive a \$250 credit to apply toward registration fees for the Annual Meeting, Philmont or Summit courses. Silver qualifiers receive a \$100 credit. These credits must be used within two years of award.



Region 1: *Diocese of Burlington; *Archdiocese of Hartford; #Diocese of Manchester; #Diocese of Norwich; *Diocese of Providence; *Diocese of Springfield, Mass; #Diocese of Worcester.

Region 2: Diocese of Brooklyn; Diocese of Buffalo; Diocese of Rochester.

Region 3: Diocese of Allentown; #Diocese of Camden; *Diocese of Harrisburg; Archdiocese of Newark; Diocese of Paterson.

Region 4: *Diocese of Arlington; *Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA; #Archdiocese of Washington; #Diocese of Wilmington.

Region 5: #Diocese of Baton Rouge; Diocese of Lake Charles; Archdiocese of Louisville; *Diocese of Memphis; *Diocese of Owensboro.

Region 6: Archdiocese of Cincinnati; *Diocese of Cleveland; *Diocese of Columbus; *Diocese of Grand Rapids; #Diocese of Kalamazoo; #Diocese of Lansing; Archdiocese of Detroit; Diocese of Youngstown.

Region 7: *Archdiocese of Chicago; Diocese of Evansville; Diocese of Ft. Wayne-South Bend; *Diocese of Gary; #Diocese of Green Bay; *Archdiocese of Indianapolis; *Diocese of Joliet; *Diocese of La Crosse; *Diocese of Lafayette; Archdiocese of Milwaukee; Diocese of Peoria; *Diocese of Rockford; *Diocese of Superior.

Region 8: *Diocese of St. Cloud; Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Region 9: #Diocese of Davenport; #Archdiocese of Dubuque; #Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph; Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Region 10: Diocese of Austin; *Diocese of Brownsville; Diocese of Corpus Christi; Diocese of Ft. Worth; Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; Diocese of Laredo; *Archdiocese of Oklahoma City; *Archdiocese of San Antonio; Diocese of Victoria.

Region 11: Diocese of Fresno; *Diocese of Las Vegas; *Archdiocese of Los Angeles; #Diocese of Oakland; *Diocese of Orange; *Diocese of San Bernardino; *Diocese of San Diego; #Archdiocese of San Francisco; *Diocese of San Jose.

Region 12: Archdiocese of Portland.

Region 13: #Diocese of Colorado Springs; Diocese of Phoenix; Diocese of Salt Lake City; #Archdiocese of Santa Fe; *Diocese of Tucson; Archdiocese of Denver.

Region 14: Archdiocese of Atlanta; *Diocese of Charleston; *Archdiocese of Miami; Diocese of Savannah; *Diocese of St Augustine.

* Indicates Quality Diocese Gold Winner (Increase in membership from past year)

Indicates Quality Diocese Silver Winner (No membership loss from previous year)

Each Gold/Silver winner receives two pins; additional pins may be purchased for \$10 each, contact Elizabeth Olivas at elizabeth.olivas@scouting.org

Did You Know...? By Bob Oldowski

Back in the 1930s and 1940s, there was a monthly magazine for boys titled “The Catholic Boy”, published in Minneapolis. An associate editor was Fr. Louis P. Barcelo, C.S.C., who was a major contributor to the history of Catholic Scouting. Fr. Barcelo wrote regularly for the magazine and he highlighted Scouting in his articles. He titled his series “We the Scouts.”

Some examples included:

In April 1941, he wrote “St. George was designated Patron Saint of Scouts by Pope Pius XI, and he has been considered patron by all Scout Associations.”

In October 1943, he wrote “The AAD cross will be of silver until after the war.”

In November 1944, he wrote “There is no special badge for the Order of St. John, the Catholic Eagle Scout honor society. The Eagle badge, Eagle ring and merit badge sash are blessed and given a special meaning. The Eagle Scout must also hold the Ad Altare Dei Cross award.”

Fr. Barcelo regularly had fun articles for the boys themselves, including guest articles written by his ventriloquist dummy, Johnny the Scout. The series stopped in 1946. The magazine was purchased in 1949 by the (Notre Dame) Holy Cross Fathers. Monsignor Barcelo was awarded the Silver Buffalo by the BSA in 1984.

Seven Scouts awarded Emmett Doerr Scholarships totaling \$20,000

by
Julie Doerr

Congratulations to the seven exceptional Scouts who have been awarded Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarships this year. Each winner demonstrated outstanding leadership and service in four areas: Church, Community, School and Scouting. We thank all Scouts who applied, they are all remarkable and inspiring individuals.

This year the NCCS, again awarded seven scholarships totaling \$20,000. Since 2005, NCCS has awarded a total of \$171,000 in scholarships to 81 Scouts nationwide.

The 2020 Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarship Recipients are:

\$5,000 - Benjamin Rawald of Del Rio, Texas, Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA and the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas

\$4,000 - Thomas “Trey” Sprecher III of Marietta, GA, Archdiocese of Atlanta

\$3,000 - Ambrose Terneus of Bellevue, NE, Archdiocese of Omaha

\$2,000 - Alexander LaRuffa East Falmouth, MA, Diocese of Fall River

\$2,000 - Matthew Ruiz East Stroudsburg, PA, Diocese of Scranton

\$2,000 - Ryan Cannon of Milburn, NJ, Archdiocese of Newark

\$2,000 - William Eiden of Ann Arbor, MI, Diocese of Lansing

Recipients of the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarship have been chosen because they are committed to making a difference for good in the world through service and leadership. These young people are certain to enrich our future. The recipients will be highlighted in upcoming issues of *The Bridge*.

Who is eligible to apply? If you know a service oriented Catholic Scout, who is a high school senior, received the Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII award, and earned the Eagle Scout, Summit or Quartermaster Award be sure to tell them to apply. Check the NCCS Website at <http://nccs-bsa.org/index.php/college-scholarship> for complete eligibility requirements and application information. Scholarship applications are due each year by **March 1st**. Please use the current application form. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, please contact John Doerr, NCCS Finance Chair at jgdoerr@gmail.com. Maybe a Scout you know will be a scholarship recipient!

A VOCATIONS REFLECTION
BY
Bro. Andrew J. Kosmowski, SM

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to editing errors made in this article (which was submitted for the March issue of *The Bridge*) the article that ran in the March issue was not complete and was not a true reflection of what Brother Kosmowski intended to write. I sincerely apologize for any confusion that this may have caused. The full unedited article appears below).

If you are reading this column, you have an interest in the state of vocations within the Catholic Church within the United States. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) presented its findings on the class of 2019 priests (1) and perpetually professed to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. CARA finds that of the priests, 28% (about 27/95) of newly ordained priests to religious life have a background in Catholic Scouting. Similarly, 27% (about 77/284) of the newly ordained to diocesan life have a background in Catholic Scouting. This is a little lower than previous reports (2) but not alarmingly so.

The data from the study on the vow class of 2019 offers a different view as they provided the bottom of a downward trend. Below is a table of male religious and their activity in Catholic Scouting compiled from data collected by CARA (3).

Year of report	Number active in Catholic Scouting	Total respondents	Percentage of those active in Catholic Scouting
2011	1	8	12
2012	4	24	17
2013	1	11	10
2014	2	41	5
2015	3	35	9
2016	5	96	6
2017	3	51	6
2018	6	70	9
2019	2	48	4

This data set shows that we do have an opportunity to promote more greatly the vocation of Brother within the realm of Catholic Scouting. We can promote the Pope Pius XII emblem better. To ensure Scouts have access to all vocations, many local Catholic Committees on Scouting offer programs with Brothers who share their stories; perhaps this is a call to greater collaboration among neighboring committees with these events. This can allow more Scouts opportunities to meet Brothers and ask them questions.

(1) Gautier, Mary L., and Thu. T. Do. *The Class of 2019: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood*. Washington, DC: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, 2019, accessed January 31, 2019, http://www.usccb.org/_cs_upload/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/ordination-class/class-of-2019/281839_1.pdf.

(2) 2002 is the first year CARA asked about activity in Catholic Scouting for the newly ordained. CARA reports of recent ordinands from 1998 onward may be found at: <http://usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/ordination-class/index.cfm>.

(3) 2011 is the first year CARA asked about activity in Catholic Scouting for the male religious. CARA reports of recent perpetual profession classes from 2010 onward may be found at: <http://usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/profession-class/index.cfm>.



National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

P.O. Box 152079 • Irving, TX 75015-2079 • (972) 580-2114

June 3, 2020

Dear Catholic Scouters,

In the wake of the death of George Floyd and the subsequent national protests, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting stands in solidarity with the United States Catholic Bishops who in their response to the death of Mr. Floyd have identified racism as life issue.

Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient. It is a real and present danger that must be met head on. As members of the Church, we must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference. We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice.

Additionally, today Pope Francis added “At the same time, we have to recognize that the violence of recent nights is self-destructive. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost.”

We support and seek to do all we can to further realize the mission of the Boy Scouts of America in preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Through the programs and goals of Scouting, the church partners with all families and communities in raising young people of high moral character, developing their leadership skills and preparing them to serve and thrive in a world of increasing complexity and challenge.

We appeal to all Catholic Scouts, youth and adults, to examine your conscience with regard to racism and bigotry in all its forms. Listen to and know the stories of our brothers and sisters who have suffered from racism in history, and in the present. As a person of faith, work to address both individual and systemic racism. Commit to raising your awareness of racism in whatever situations you find yourself, family, school, work, and your scouting unit.

As Catholics and Scouters, we pray for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and his family. We pray too for all who have suffered the effects of racism and bigotry. We appeal to Almighty God that the Holy Spirit will watch over our communities and bring to an end this civil unrest. Let us pledge ourselves to the conversion of hearts, minds, and institutions and therefore bring to an end to the evil of racism that still exists in our communities.

For more information and guidance please see the United States Bishops recent pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*.

Yours in Catholic Scouting as a Youth Ministry,

Jim Weiskircher

Father Joseph B. Powers

Jim Weiskircher
National Chair 2019-2022

Father Joe Powers
National Chaplain 2019-2022