



# Catholic Committee on Scouting Archdiocese of Cincinnati Quarterly Newsletter

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### NCCS Annual Member Assembly 2025

April 24 – 27, 2025  
Charlotte, NC

### Catholic Committee on Scouting Meeting

May 14, 2025, 6 pm  
Our Lady of Sorrows in Monroe

### CST Territory 9 / NCCS Region 6 Catholic Camporee and Retreat - 2025

October 17-19, 2025  
Location - Camp Miakonda

### Cathedral Ceremony - 2026

March 22, 2026, 1:00 PM  
St. Peter in Chains Cathedral

### Emblems Counselor Training

Available by request  
Contact John Hughes or Harry Heaton to schedule.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Cathedral Ceremony 2025	1
Pilgrims of Hope	1
Religious Activities	2
Catholic Camporee	3
Spring 2025	3
Contacts	4
Chaplain's Corner	4
From the Chair	4

VOLUME VII, ISSUE II

SPRING 2025

## Cathedral Ceremony 2025

From March 2024 and March 2025, a total of 174 scouts earned Religious Emblems in the Archdiocese!

Forty seven of those scouts received their emblems in person on March 23, 2025 when the Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting hosted the annual Religious Emblems Award Ceremony at St. Peter In Chains Cathedral Basilica in Cincinnati. The rest will receive them at their parishes. 76 Cub Scouts earned Light of Christ and 55 received Parvuli Dei, while 31 BSA Scouts finished Ad Altare Dei and 12 completed Pope Pius XII.

Additionally, twelve scouts were awarded Letters of Recognition, Mr. Murray Hammond was awarded the Bronze Pelican Award, and Mr. Robert Lavoie was presented the prestigious St. George Award!

We also successfully conducted a service project collecting 79 bars of soap for Catholic social service providers in the archdiocese.

Congratulations to all of this year's recipients!



Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Scouters who received their religious emblems and adult awards at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Chains in 2025.

## CST 9 / NCCS Region 6 Catholic Camporee and Retreat

This October, the first ever Council Service Territory (CST) 9 / NCCS Region 9 Catholic Camp-o-ree and Retreat will take place at Camp Miakonda (5600 W Sylvania Ave., Toledo, OH 43623)! All Scouts in Scouting America troops, crews, and ships from across Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and beyond are

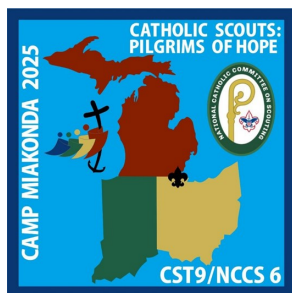
encouraged to attend, regardless of their faith background!

Activities will include Jubilee year catechesis and the opportunity to earn the Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope patch, Scout skill games, a vocations panel (which aids religious emblem work), Mass and Liturgy of the Hours, archery, and more!

Saturday's breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and Sunday's breakfast are included in the cost! Leave your trailers at home, and join us for a weekend of faith and fun!



Many thanks to the generosity of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Erie Shores Council for hosting this event! For more information, contact Bro. Andrew Kosmowski (kosmowskia1@udayton.edu).



Register starting April 11, 2025 at:  
<https://www.erieshorescouncil.org/MiaCST9>

## Looking for a way to recognize your Catholic chartered Unit's commitment to include Catholic Scouting in your programs?

### EXPLORE THESE TIMELY RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

#### EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM



In conjunction with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is offering the Eucharistic Revival Activity Program. By offering this program the NCCS is lending support to the National Eucharistic Revival. **This program is ending soon and runs through Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025.**

The activities are designed to encourage all to learn more about the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Any Catholic age 6 or older can complete the requirements to earn the main central patch and the eight auxiliary patches, any five of which may be placed around the central patch. The central patch must be earned before a person can be awarded any of the eight auxiliary patches. However, the requirements for any of the patches can be completed in any order or simultaneously. The central patch activity — regular attendance at Sunday Mass, and reception of the Eucharist when possible — is the foremost goal!

See <https://nccs-bsa.org/religious-activities/eucharistic-revival-special-program/> for more information about the program and the requirements for each patch.

#### CARLO ACUTIS ACTIVITY PROGRAM

This activity is one of the Modern Saints Series, which honors Catholic men and women from the 20th and 21st century who have had a profound impact on many people around the globe. The goal of the activities in this series is to share the lives of these great men and women so that young people might relate to what they have done and look to them as role models.

**Carlo Acutis will be canonized on April 27, 2025**, becoming the first canonized millennial saint. He created a website dedicated to Eucharistic Miracles and maintained many websites for Catholic organizations before he died of leukemia at the age of 15. At his beatification in 2020, Carlo was praised as an example of how young people can use technology to spread the Gospel to reach as many people as possible and help them know the beauty of friendship with the Lord.



All young people and adults—Scouts or non-Scouts, Catholic or non-Catholic—can work on the activities in this series and earn a patch for each activity they complete. The activities in this series can be worked on individually or as a group. Young people must fulfill the requirements for their grade level to complete this activity. Adults must fulfill the adult requirements to complete this activity. See <https://nccs-bsa.org/download/carlo-acutis/> for more information.

#### COMPLETION OF THE ACTIVITY

After a young person completes the requirements, a parent, guardian or Scout leader will review the Scout's work to confirm accuracy and understanding for the Carlo Acutis Activity, or to verify completion of the requirements for the Eucharistic Revival Activity. Then, the parent, guardian or Scout leader will order the patch from the NCCS Online Store. Detailed documentation of completion or fulfillment of activity requirements should not be sent to NCCS.

## Catholic Camporee and Retreat 2024



About 50 scouts and scouters attended the 2024 Catholic Camporee and Retreat, which was held at Camp Friedlander on Oct 25-27, 2025. This year's



camporee kept with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops three-year focus on Eucharistic Revival. Scouts and scouters present had the opportunity to earn TWO camporee patches — Luminous Mys-

teries and (Blessed) Carlo Acutis (Modern Saints) religious activities patches issued by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) — and also the Eucharistic Revival Patch and up to three of the associated rockers: Eucharistic Activity, Eucharistic Miracles, and family prayer (with some work done in advance of the campout).



The scouts participated in scouting skills challenges focused on First Aid—situations where you need to think before you act! — and water rescue skills on Lake Meyer at Camp Friedlander. Other sessions prepared attendees for the Luminous Mysteries and Carlo Acutis patches. While learning about Blessed Carlo Acutis, the scouts also learned about a number of Eucharistic Miracles.



Over the course

of the weekend, the scouts participated in a Vocations Panel, had time for personal reflection, shared a potluck dinner, prayed Liturgy of the Hours (Morning, Evening, and Night prayers), attended Mass, and enjoyed a community cracker barrel.

## Upcoming Events — Spring 2025

The **2025 National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) Annual Member Assembly** is taking place in Charlotte, NC **April 24-27, 2025**. Join fellow Scout Chaplains, Scouters, and their families for an inspiring weekend of fellowship, worship, and growth. This event provides a unique opportunity to connect with fellow Catholic Scouters and leaders who share your passion for Catholic Scouting. Registration is now open at <https://nccs-bsa.org/registration-is-now-open-for-the-2025-nccs-annual-member-assembly/>

The **Scouts and Youth Read Sacred Texts Worldwide** event is being held again this year during the week of the National Day of Prayer, which takes place on May 1, 2025. This event debuted last year on May 2, 2024, and it greatly exceeded expectations with over 3600 youth reading their sacred texts for over 800 hours. Join this event **anytime the week of May 1, 2025**, reading with your family or your youth group. For more information and to register see <https://stlbsa.org/Scouts-read-sacred-texts-worldwide/>

The next **Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting meeting** is on **May 14, 2025 at 6 pm** at Our Lady of Sorrows in Monroe. For more information or to RSVP please contact Bro. Andrew Kosmowski at [kosmowskia1@udayton.edu](mailto:kosmowskia1@udayton.edu).

# Catholic Committee on Scouting

## Archdiocese of Cincinnati

PAGE 4



**Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM - Committee Chairperson**

kosmowskia1@udayton.edu

**Fr. Mark Bredestege - Chaplain**

frbredestege@holyltrinity-ac.org

**Sean Ater - Archdiocesan Representative**

sater@catholicaoc.org

**Harry Heaton - Northern Area Coordinator**

harryheaton@me.com

**Mr. John M. Hughes-- Emblems Coordinator**

jmhughes@fuse.net

**Deacon Dave Shaffer - Emblems Coordinator**

deacondaveshafter@gmail.com

**Websites:**

<https://www.centerforthenewevangelization.org/scouting>

[www.archcincycos.org](http://www.archcincycos.org)

The mission of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is to provide the guidance and resources necessary to add the elements and principles of the Catholic faith to the Scouting experience for all Units in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

We can only accomplish this mission with the prayers and support of all of our leaders and Scouts so please make it a goal to always include "Duty to God" as a fundamental part of your programs.

## Chaplain's Corner

As we are told in scripture, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of Wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10) and in Isaiah (33:6) "[The Lord] will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure." We are reminded in Acts 9 that the early Christians lived in fear of the Lord. When we look to the gifts of the Holy Spirit the greatest is Fear of the Lord. In our world today there are many things we can spot and say I have fear of it, but what does it mean to fear the Lord? After all it is a gift we receive at our baptisms and sealed

with at our confirmations. The fear we are called to and enriched in is not a cowardly or shy-away-from fear. We are called to vulnerability with God. In our society today vulnerability has negative connotations, we may think it shows weakness or inability to complete a task. We may fear the results of our actions if we open ourselves up to family, friends, neighbors and this causes us to sometimes shut God out of our lives. We do not want to admit our weakness to Him, but in most cases He is the only one who can truly help.

We need to see vulnerability not as a weakness, but as a way to build relationships, we show ourselves not hiding behind our strengths but pursuing what we desire. I can sit a job that entails me to pull a lever,

the same lever 8 hours a day. I am good at my job, but I notice through the years others I work with get promoted, they move up the ladder, they are given more tasks etc. But for me, my bosses recognize I am good at pulling my lever, but I never told, or even shown, my bosses I can do more, I never expressed to them I can be utilized elsewhere. We find ourselves sometimes in the same place in our spiritual life. We go to Mass on Sundays, we pray daily devotionals, we help out with various activities around the parish, but then ask "Where is God in my Life". The question comes to: Have you opened yourself up to be vulnerable to recognizing Him and the relationship he is calling you to?

## From the Chair

On the importance of communication:

On March 9, 2025, Miami Valley Council shocked me by naming me its recipient of its 2025 NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout Award. Among the myriad of reasons was my communication as chair not only with those of you who receive this newsletter but also with the Scout Executives of the five councils which have counties within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati (Black Swamp Area, Dan Beard, Miami Valley, Simon Kenton, Tecumseh).

Annually, I write reports about the state of Catholic Scouting. I send one to

the Archbishop and send a carbon copy to the Director of the Center for the New Evangelization. I also send a report to each of the Scout Executives sharing the state of Catholic Scouting in their councils. I send data such as numbers of religious emblems earned and attendance at the archdiocesan Catholic Scout camporee and retreat, and the number of Catholic-chartered units, among others.

This communication is also important on a unit level. Last August, two Catholic-chartered units were close to losing their charter, in part because of a lack of communication between their Key 3s and the Institutional Head and the director of evangelization. As I met with the new Director of Field Services for Dan Beard Council, we realized

we (Dan Beard Council and the Catholic Committee on Scouting America for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati) needed to encourage our unit leaders to hold conversations with their institutional heads. I shared this with the Scout Executives because many units do not regularly hold those conversations, whether or not they are chartered by the Church. I encourage you to meet with your pastor as well as the youth minister (for troop or crew leaders) or director of religious education (for pack leaders). This will allow all the key players from the parish side to better understand how Scouting America units fit overall in the evangelization plans they are creating.