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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Everyone is encouraged to attend Scouter Development at Camp Rancho Alegre on November 18-20. Through a program of guided reflection and active participation, participants will discern how they are called by Christ and His Church to leadership, to holiness, to conversion, and to worship. The camp is located in the beautiful and majestic Santa Ynez Mountains – the food and accommodations are first rate. I can't think of a better way to prepare

ourselves for the upcoming holiday season.

Please see the website at www.ccsala.org for important information regarding VIRTUS training and digital fingerprinting. The National Conference of Bishops recently changed their position on recognizing BSA Youth Protection training as a substitute for VIRTUS training. VIRTUS training is now required for all BSA and GSUSA adults associated with Catholic sponsored units.

My thanks to Dennis Swink from San Gabriel Council who has accepted an appointment to serve as the Vice-Chairman of our Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. Dennis also continues to serve as an AAD counselor and a strong supporter of Scouting in the Catholic Church. His appointment as Vice-Chairman was approved by the Executive Board at their meeting on September 11, 2005.
-Bill Cole

NEW TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR LEADERS

The American Bishops have made a decision nationwide not to accept the BSA or GSA Youth Protection Training any longer. Before it was an option left up to each (Arch)Diocese. Therefore this

Archdiocese now requires all BSA/GSA leaders in Catholic sponsored units will need to complete the VIRTUS Training.

Everyone involved in a Catholic sponsored

Scout unit still needs to be fingerprinted. That is no change from the previous policy.

Also VIRTUS has evolved and the evolution has put it on a different path from the

Scout Training.
VIRTUS is designed to see the protection through the eyes of the perpetrator.

Check with your parish on the next scheduled

training and new digital fingerprinting in your area.

I realize that this is a lot of work for each of you, but it is something that we need to do.

Remember this means all Cubmasters, Den Leaders, Webelos Leaders, Scoutmasters, Asst. Scoutmasters, Venture Crew Advisors, and Religious Emblem Counselors.

QUARTERLY MEETING

Every quarter the Catholic Committee on Scouting Archdiocese of Los Angeles meets to discuss the progress we make in our Catholic Scouting communities. Our next quarterly meeting will be November 6, 2005, at St. Dominic's Community Center, 5016 Caspar

Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90041

The meeting begins at 1:30 P.M. preceded by a Retreat Committee meeting at 12 Noon If you would like to have input into the actions of the Catholic Committee on Scouting, or you just

want to observe the meeting and see what is going on, please join us. We hope to see many people at this meeting, and would love to share the load of the Committee, both in its work and its ideas. Thank you in advance for your attendance.

CA THOLIC SCOUT RETREAT XIV – 2005

About 400 Scouts & Scouters attended our Annual Scout Retreat XIV at Veteran's Memorial Park in Sylmar, CA the weekend of September 30 to October 2, 2005. From a spiritual standpoint it was one of our best retreats ever, thanks to the great work by so many volunteers who made it all possible. Space does not permit me to thank them all here, but special thanks go to Nancy Begg for making the wonderful Saint Patrol flags, and to Kathy Ellison for her expert facilitator training,

scheduling and program. We still have some of the Andy Beard Memorial mugs available on a 1st come, 1st served basis; call Jim Shivers or Bob Tarn to get one.

Next year's Retreat XV marks our big 15th anniversary for this event, to be held the weekend of October 6 to 8, 2006. Thanks to Kim Bond for volunteering to coordinate the Midway events next year – he will be asking for Troops to run events next year so be thinking about what Camporee

events you're good at running and get ready to volunteer. Our first retreat planning meeting is at noon November 6, 2005, at St. Dominic's parish in Eagle Rock at noon. All are welcome.

The challenge this year is – Outreach to Catholics in Non-Catholic Units!

They're out there, folks – thousands of 'em. We're going to have promotional fliers printed up for early distribution at Council & District Roundtables, Scout Sundays, 10-

Commandment Hikes, other Scout gatherings and for publication in all the Council & District newsletters – should be available by

Thanksgiving. Call Jim Shivers or Bob Tarn to place your order now. Minimum 50 copies per order (or you'll also be able to download 'e from

our web site a
CCSALA.org

See you on November 6th!

CATHOLIC SCOUT RETREAT XV – 2006

What an awesome weekend we had at the Catholic Scout Retreat, combining Scout Spirit with the Holy Sprit. It's been a long time since my wife and I have enjoyed going on a Scout outing together. Both of us are excited about getting more involved with our Catholic Scouting community.

It's still hard for me to imagine how this wonderful Scouting event has been a secret to me for so many years. I ask myself why aren't more Scouters turned on about taking their units to such a great event. An entire weekend that

combines two things that I love so much "Scouting and my Catholic Religion" and puts them together in action. I just knew everyone I saw had the same beliefs as me and felt as I do, it's like discovering a whole new family that I'm a part of.

I especially liked the way the rosary theme was incorporated into the Retreat. The Rosary Lady and her staff were terrific. The Scouts in our troop were very proud to receive their patches at our last troop meeting. Selecting one of the four mysteries as a theme for the retreat is a great

teaching experience for me, and a learning experience for the Scouts.

I hope everyone reading this article will make plans to join us for next year's retreat. Look for me at the "Midway" on Saturday afternoon as I have been asked to head up the events. If you would like to help please contact me at aka007@adelphis.net

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Bond, SA
Troop 753
Ventura County Council

SCOUTER DEVELOPMENT

Too busy for a quiet weekend of practical spirituality, meditation, good fellowship and learning? All in the beautiful and majestic Santa Ynez mountains at Camp Rancho Alegre, where you don't even

have to cook your meals or clean your dishes or sleep on the ground or skip any days to you're your next hot shower!

Simply put, you need Catholic Scouter Development to:

- Become a better Scouter
- Become a better Catholic
- Become better at integrating the two
- Become better at serving our youth

- Become a step closer to earning the Archdiocesan Bronze Pelican Award

On November 18, 19 & 20, 2005 – give yourself a much deserved break – come out and see the stars at Rancho Alegre.

When you might ask? The program begins at 8 A.M. sharp on Saturday, November 19, 2005 and will conclude around 11 A.M. on the 20th. Those from the Los Angeles basin may want to arrive on Friday afternoon on evening November 18th.

Cost: \$30.00 to cover the cost of food, lodging & handout material. *Up to 10 half-paid camperships are available for Scouts/Scouters who are High School Juniors through College:*

For further information, contact Jim Shivers (626) 963-5162.

A BIG THANK YOU TO CORPSMAN JOHN E. STRAUB, HM1 (SW/FMF), USN

As you know John E. Straub, HM1 (SW/FMF), USN¹, served as our volunteer Camp Medic on nine of our past 11 Annual Scout Retreats.

We had wanted to recognize John at the Campfire at this past retreat, but he had to attend the deathbed of a very old and dear friend and could not participate in Retreat XIV – 2005.

So on October 21, 2005, Jim Shivers, CCSALA Retreat Coordinator, and I visited John at the Navy Recruiting Center in Thousand Oaks, his

¹ OK – we had to know what all those initials stand for, too, so here goes: Hospital Man 1st Class, Surface Warfare, Fleet Maine Force (U.S.M.C.).

duty station for the past few years, and we presented him with a plaque and letter of appreciation. Unfortunately I forgot to take a close up of the plaque but it was a simply a hardwood 9”X12” base with a slightly smaller bronze sheet with a BSA *fleur-de-lis* design [which one can pick up at any Scout Shop], engraved with his name and a short message of thanks from the CCSALA.

Luckily they had a Polaroid camera handy, and we recorded the event; then we treated for lunch John & the other two members of the Navy recruiting team who were there that day.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CCSALA Quarterly Meeting	Nov. 6, 2005
Scouter Development (at Rancho Alegre Scout Camp)	Nov. 18-20, 2005
Deadline for Msgr. Dolan and Bronze Pelican Awards (Send to Fr. Jim Maher)	Nov. 30, 2005
CCSALA Executive Committee Meeting	February 13, 2006
Annual Adult Recognition Dinner	March 3, 2006
CCSALA Executive Committee Meeting	March 13, 2006
Religious Education Congress	March 31 - April 2, 2006
AAD/Pius XII Award Application Deadline (Post Marked)	April 3, 2006
CCSALA Quarterly Meeting	April 23, 2006