



The Reverent Scout

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The Newsletter of the Catholic Committee on Scouting Archdiocese of Los Angeles

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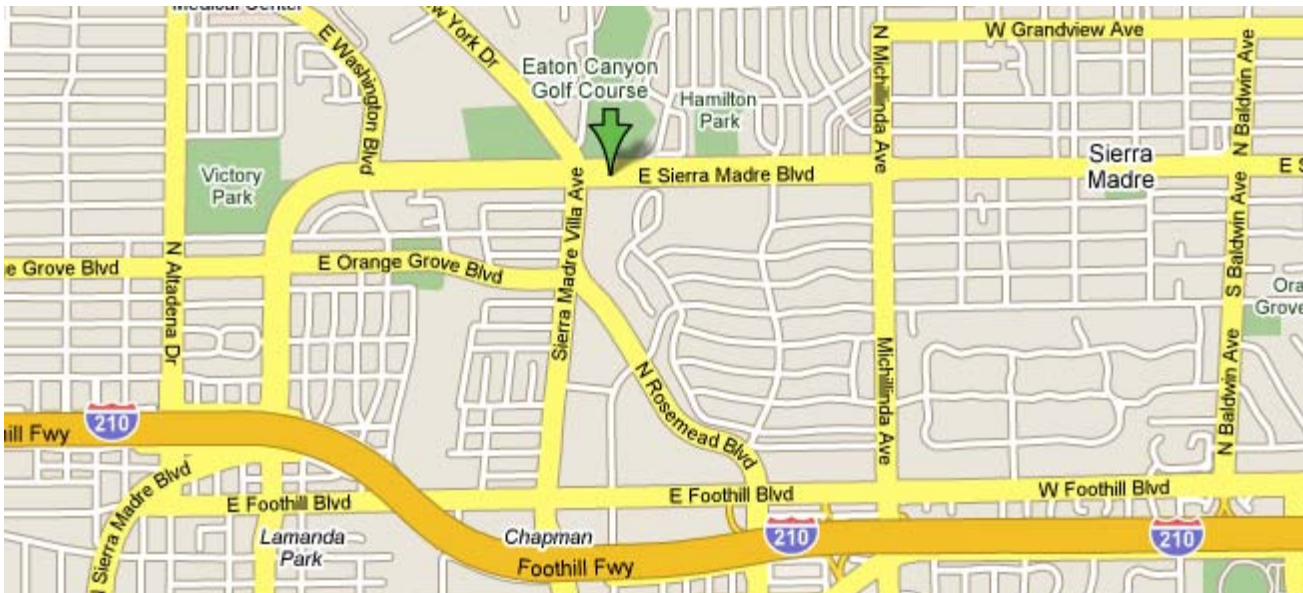
January Quarterly Meeting

The Los Angeles Catholic Committee on Scouting Quarterly meeting will be held Jan. 7 at The Smiser Scout Center 3450 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107

The meeting begins at 1:30 P.M. preceded by a Retreat XVI 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.

A map of the area is below:



From East bound on the 210 Freeway take the **Madre St.** exit and turn left. Go to E. Sierra Madre Blvd and turn right. The Scout Center will be on your right.

From West bound on the 210 Freeway take the **Madre St.** exit and turn right. Go to E. Sierra Madre Blvd and turn right. The Scout Center will be on your right.

The Reverent Scout by e-mail

We do not seem to be doing very well at getting the e-mail addresses of our recipients. Not very much progress is being made. There have been a few that have said that they cannot open the attachment containing the *Reverent Scout* so we have changed the way we will be sending it out. We will not be using an attachment but sending the link to the document. This should make it possible for everyone to read it.

Catholic Scout Retreat XVI

Planning has begun for the Sixteenth Annual Scout Retreat. It will be held September 28-30 at Veteran's Park in Sylmar. The Theme for this year's Retreat is Perseverance. Our patron saint is Saint Monica.

There will be a few changes to the Retreat this year. In order to have enough staff and materials, pre-registration will be greatly encouraged. There will be a big discount for registering early. Keep your eyes on the website for more details.

The other change is that we want all Retreat XVI staff members to attend a facilitator's training session. This will provide for a more consistent program to all participants.

Is God Calling You?

Fr. Jim Maher (Chaplain Emeritus)

It has been a long, long time since I have heard any questions from young men about the ordained priesthood. Just recently, however, I have been asked a least ten times, "What is it like to be a priest?" "What made you want to be a priest?" "What would I have to do if I decided that maybe God is calling me to be a priest?" "How long does it take before I can become a priest?" "What is the life of a priest like?" "Do you miss not having a family?" One question which took me by surprise, was from a young man in my parish, who one Sunday, right after Mass, asked me "Father, could you ever see me up there (meaning, "the altar")?" Of course, I said, "Yes!"

So, what is happening? The environment is definitely changing. It is "cool" to ask questions like that now. And, why? Because I talk from the pulpit about priestly vocations and religious life for both men and women. I ask any boy or young man from 12 years of age and up: "Have you ever thought of becoming a priest?" Or: "Has anyone ever asked you if you might think about priesthood?" And, I add a petition of my own during the time of the Prayers of the Faithful at Sunday Masses, or just before the Final Blessing; a prayer for vocations to the priesthood, especially. So, all of us

The committee needs everyone's e-mail address in order to cut expenses. If you have received this by US mail please let the Membership Subcommittee Chair know what your e-mail address is. His e-mail address is jesse.reeves@ccsala.org.

Please consider volunteering to be a facilitator. We especially need facilitator's for the Raphael group (elementary aged youth). We plan on revamping the program, and look to have at least two facilitators for every ten youth. The training dates for 2007 are July 21 in Channel Islands, August 18 in the San Gabriel Valley and September 22 in South Gate. You only have to attend one of the sessions.

Finally, come to a Retreat XVI planning meeting. They are held on the same day and place as the CCSALA quarterly meeting. Come help us make the next Retreat the best one ever!

have to plant the seeds so there will indeed be a good harvest. We should not be reluctant to ask, nor should the person being questioned feel intimidated or threatened. Once the question is asked, the rest is up to the Holy Spirit. But, we have to ask the question first.

Do you remember the parable about the seed-sower? You can read this parable in Matthew 13:3-9; Mark 4:3-9 and Luke 8:5-8. What the parable tells us is that some seed fell on the ground (some people hear the word [or our question], but Satan distracts them into not taking it to their hearts); some seed fell on rocky ground (those who hear the word [or, again, our question], receive it with joy but do not allow it to "root" in their lives – they believe [or listen] only for a short time and then fall away in time of trial, or temptation; some seed fell among the thorns (these are the people who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of this life and they fail to produce mature fruit); but, then, the seed that fell on rich soil are those who, when they have heard the word [or really listened to the question or the invitation], embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through faith and perseverance.

In which group might each of us fall? With which group would we most like to be identified?

Our loving, compassionate God would never force us to “join” a group to which we don’t want to belong. That is what is meant by “free will.” It is the only gift God gave us that He will never interfere with; in other words, if we decide to say a “NO” instead of a “YES” to anything, God is not going to tell us: “Oh, you should have said the opposite!”

So, if (and when) we think we are hearing God “calling” us to the possibility of becoming a priest, or a religious sister or brother, we can say “Yes” or “No.”

When I was in the seminary, I was there because I thought God was “calling” me to priesthood, but you know what? I wasn’t convinced that it was exactly what He wanted, but I thought I would give it a good try. I thought that He “called” me there so that I could help (maybe) other men who might be doubting their “call.” And you know what? I was ordained a priest five years later, and a few of the guys whom I thought would become priests left the seminary. Every one of them was happier because they had given it a try. Most of them later married.

Our God is a God of surprises. Why don’t you give God a chance to surprise you?

Fr. Jim

Annual Adult Awards Dinner



Mark your calendars for Saturday night, March 10, 2007. That is the date for the CCSALA Annual Adult Awards Dinner. The dinner and recognition ceremony will be in O’Reilly Hall at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church which is located at 5801 Kanan Road, Westlake Village. Driving directions to St. Maximilian are:

From US Highway 101 (Ventura Freeway) heading north (towards Camarillo, Santa Barbara) exit at Lindero Canyon Road and turn right heading north. Proceed on Lindero Canyon Road 2.85 miles to Kanan Road. Turn left on Kanan Road. Enter the main parking lot turning right from Kanan Road.

From US Highway 101 (Ventura Freeway) heading south (towards the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles) exit at Lindero Canyon Road and turn left heading north. Proceed on Lindero Canyon Road 2.85 miles to Kanan Road. Turn left on Kanan Road. Enter the main parking lot turning right from Kanan Road.

The following individuals have been nominated to receive the St. George Award:

- Thomas Sisolak, St. Paschal Baylon, Thousand Oaks
- Cheryl Kistler, Padre Serra, Camarillo
- Lance Kistler, Padre Serra, Camarillo
- Glenn Schifertl, St. Raphael’s Church, Goleta
- Rev. Michael Mahoney, OFM Cap, Mission Santa Ines, Solvang
- Dennis Swink, St. Dorothy, Glendora
- Abbot Francis Benedict, OSB, St. Andrew’s Abbey, Valeremo

The following individuals completed all necessary requirements and will be awarded the Bronze Pelican Award:

- Mara Childers
- Dianne Polen
- Judy Chuidian
- Garry R. Sheley Sr.
- David Huelsman
- Laurene Huelsman
- Ana Garza
- Alice Lee
- Martin Cardenas
- Ed Morera
- Mark Vampola

For more information on the awards dinner please see the CCSALA website at www.CCSALA.org.

Gold Medallion Unit Award

Congratulations to Pack 105, Los Padres Council (St. Raphael's Church - Goleta) on being the best Catholic sponsored Pack in Region 11 (California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam) for 2006. I know that you and your Pack Committee worked exceptionally hard this year after being runner-up in last year's competition.

Once we receive the award, we will arrange for suitable presentation of the banner, certificates, etc. Best wishes to you and the leaders - both past and present - and most especially the boys who made this recognition possible.

Special Pope Pius XII Sessions

Last year we launched a new approach of presenting the classes for the PPXII Religious program. The program was streamlined and instead of the usual time frame for earning this Religious Emblem, the same was accomplished with success over a much shorter time period. We are once again offering this format to any Catholic Boy Scout and/or Venture Scout who has started the 9th grade. The emblem may be earned any time between the 9th grade and while the student is still a youth in Scouting. The first meeting time is scheduled as a weekend Retreat at Rancho Allegre Boy Scout Camp, Los

Padres Area Council, from January 19-21, 2007. We encourage all Catholic Boy Scouts and Venture Scouts to join us for this special time. For further information please call Deacon Wayne Rascati (805) 967-0646, or Thelma Reeves (805) 527-8356. Please see the schedule below for the PPXII Intense Course 2007.

Session 1 Camp Rancho Allegre January 19-21, 2007
Session 2 St. Raphael's Goleta, CA February 3, 2007 (Sat)
Session 3 TBD March 4, 2007 (Sun)

Counselor/Facilitator Training Schedule

The following are a list of dates for training of Ad Altare Dei Emblem counselors and Pope Pius XII Emblem Facilitators.

Classes can be rotated around the Archdiocese. Please let me know if your Council wants to host one of the quarterly training sessions. Ventura County Council will be hosting the January 2007 classes.

Saturday, January 27, 2007 AAD 9am-3pm
Sunday, January 28, 2007 PPXII 12:30pm-5pm
St. Rose of Lima Simi Valley, CA 93065

Saturday, April 21, 2007 AAD 9am-3pm
Sunday, April 22, 2007 PPXII 12:30pm-5pm
Place To Be Determined

Saturday, June 30, 2007 AAD 9am-3pm
Sunday, July 1, 2007 PPXII 12:30pm-5pm
Place To Be Determined

Saturday, October 13, 2006
Sunday October, 14 2007
Place To Be Determined

Order of Acolyte for Steve Marsh

Cardinal Roger Mahony approved Steve Marsh's request to receive the Order of Acolyte, in a Rite celebrated on November 4 by Bishop Alexander Salazar at the Claretian

Retreat Center. The Order of Acolyte is one of the steps along the road to becoming a Permanent Deacon. Congratulations to Steve and his wife Marilyn.

Ed Kolberg Gone Home

We are saddened to announce the passing of Ed Kolberg on Friday, December 1 after a lengthy illness. Ed was an active member of the Boy Scouts of America for 75 years currently with Troop 140 at Annunciation Church in Monrovia. He was

also a very active member of the Catholic Committee on Scouting Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We in Catholic Scouting are going to miss Ed, however I am sure that he will be watching us from his new home with our Lord.

Chairman's Corner

Christmas is a season of joy. The Sunday homily yesterday reminded me that the "J" in joy is for Jesus, the "O" is for others, and the "Y" is for you. How many of you remember the phrase that was in vogue several years ago – "Jesus is the reason for the season!" Well you know what, He still is. While it is so easy to be distracted we really need to stay focused on Jesus and on helping others.

Thank you to each of you for your efforts this past year in support of Scouting and our Catholic youth. Each of you makes a difference by being involved. I encourage all unit leaders to check the Catholic Committee on Scouting's website at www.CCSALA.org and incorporate in your calendar planning the annual Retreat in September, Scouter Development in November, the Presentation Mass in May plus the other events listed. Don't forget to encourage your Cub

Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing Scouts to work on and earn the various religious emblems available. Finally, if you know of adults at your parish or units who really make a difference to our Catholic youth be sure and nominate them for the St. George Award recognition.

I hope to see you at the Annual Adult Recognition Dinner on March 10, 2007. Also I strongly encourage you to attend our Quarterly CCSALA Meeting on January 7th, location and directions are included in this issue of the Reverent Scout.

May your Christmas be joyful and peaceful! Let's try together to make 2007 a year of growth - in membership, in the number of religious emblems earned, the number of adult Scouters recognized, Retreat attendance, Scouter Development attendance, Catholic sponsored units, and volunteers.

Calendar of Events

- Quarterly Meeting January 7, 2007
- Pope Pius XII Class I (Camp Rancho Allegre) January 19-21, 2007
- Ad Altari Dei Counselor Training (Simi Valley) January 27, 2007
- Pope Pius XII Facilitator Training (Simi Valley) January 28, 2007
- Pope Pius XII Class II (Saint Raphael's Goleta) February 3, 2007
- Executive Board Meeting February 12, 2007
- Religious Education Congress March 1-4, 2007
- Pope Pius XII Class III (TBD) March 4, 2007
- Adult Awards Dinner March 10, 2007
- Executive Board Meeting March 12, 2007
- Deadline for AAD & PP XII Applications (Post marked) April 2, 2007
- Quarterly Meeting (Election of officers) April 15, 2007
- Ad Altari Dei Counselor Training (TBD) April 21, 2007
- Pope Pius XII Facilitator Training (TBD) April 22, 2007
- Ad Altari Dei Counselor Training (Fresno Diocese) May 5, 2007
- Pope Pius XII Facilitator Training (Fresno Diocese) May 6, 2007
- Executive Board Meeting May 7, 2007
- Awards Presentation Mass May 20, 2007
- Executive Board Meeting June 11, 2007
- Ad Altari Dei Counselor Training (TBD) June 30, 2007
- Pope Pius XII Facilitator Training (TBD) July 1, 2007
- Executive Board Meeting July 9, 2007
- Retreat Facilitator Training (Channel Islands) July 21, 2007
- Executive Board Meeting August 13, 2007
- Retreat Facilitator Training (San Gabriel Valley) August 18, 2007
- NCCS Western Region Meeting (St. Dorothy Glendora) September 8, 2007
- Quarterly Meeting September 9, 2007
- Retreat Facilitator Training (South Gate) September 22, 2007
- Catholic Scout Retreat XVI September 28-30, 2007
- Executive Board Meeting October 8, 2007
- Ad Altari Dei Counselor Training (TBD) October 13, 2007
- Pope Pius XII Facilitator Training (TBD) October 14, 2007

- Scouter Development (Rancho Alegre)
- Deadline for Bronze Pelican, St. George & Msgr. Dolan Award Nominations*
- Quarterly Meeting

October 26-28, 2007

October 31, 2007

November 4, 2007

*Send to:

Thelma Reeves
1511 Gene Ave.
Simi Valley, CA 93065