

Mass and Religious Emblems Ceremony



On June 8, 2009, the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of San Diego held the annual Mass and Religious Emblems Ceremony at St Francis Center, Mission San Diego de Alcalá. Bishop Robert H. Brom was the celebrant of the Mass and presented each Scout their respective emblem. Noting the presence of scouts from all over the diocese, Bishop Brom discussed the difference between a gift and a reward. A reward is what one expects to receive. A gift is something that one receives without expecting it. We are called to be with God, and do works in the name of Jesus, as that is our gift to others.

The following priests from thirteen home parishes of the Scouts also attended in support of the scouting program and pride in accomplishments of their Parish members: Father Jim Paulson; Fr. Peter McGuire; Fr. Ron Cochran; Fr. John Dickie; Fr. Dennis Mikulonia; Fr. Bruce Orsborn; Fr. Mel Monreal; Fr Ron Buckmiller; Rev Charles Fuld; Msgr Duncanson; Fr Bill Rowland; Fr John Dolan; and Msgr Roger Lechner. Father Joe Carroll, Chaplain for San Diego Catholic Committee on Scouting, and whose guidance is instrumental throughout the year, was the master of ceremony. Chairperson Mike McNelley, Coordinator Jim Freed, and many members of the committee orchestrated a wonderful presentation. With help from the staff of Mission San Diego de Alcalá, and beautiful music for the liturgy by Molly Nocon, the ceremony was very enjoyable.

214 Scouts earned the following: 77 Cub Scouts earned Light of Christ, 83 Cub/WEBELOS Scouts earned Parvuli Dei, 38 Boy Scouts earned Ad Altare Dei, and 16 Boy and Venture Scouts earned Pope Pius XII.

All religious emblems, as well as the Catholic religious emblem program, are designed to address the 12th point in the Scout Law--Duty to God--and advance religious knowledge and spiritual formation. In earning a religious emblem, the Scout embarks on study, service, and fellowship time with others. The Catholic Committee on Scouting presents annual programs, including an Old Town Hike and Cub Scout Retreat. An Annual Boy Scout Retreat is also held in Campo. These programs emphasize study of scripture and fellowship among and with other Scouts, and greatly enhance the experience of understanding Duty to God, as well as creating a closer bond with other Scouts of the same faith community.

Within the Catholic Church and Scouting, many adults in the San Diego Diocese provide the momentum that enable Scouts to participate in various events and the religious emblem program. Recognizing this service, "The Bronze Pelican Award", a diocesan award, was presented to six adults who have served religious dimensions of Scouting and the Catholic Community on Scouting programs: Mark Castro, Monica Horton, Alice Jones, Debra Oberg, Debora Ritch, and John Ritch.

The Catholic Committee on Scouting invites YOU to join us for membership, training, scheduled meetings, and fellowship. Counselor training for adults for all Catholic religious emblems is held once a year and will be held early in September at St Vincent de Paul offices on E Street. Scouts, if you would like to earn your Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, or Pope Pius XII religious emblem this next year, or adults if you would like any additional information on the Catholic Committee on Scouting, PLEASE contact Jim Freed and the Catholic Committee on Scouting at (619) 446-2116, link to SDCCS from SDIC website, or visit our website at www.ccsbsa.org.

