



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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August 1, 2013

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

I am writing to you about the very important work in the Catholic Youth Ministry of Boy Scouts; especially in regard to the program's compatibility with the teachings of the Catholic Church. I have found over the years, through my time spent with young people that the scouts provide character formation which dovetails beautifully with the principles of the Catholic Church and its teachings.

I have also found that the awards system they have devised; for example the Adaltare Dei awards, are very motivating for young people and the fostering of new leadership. It is not only for the scouts, but for the church, as well as for service and society. Scouting helps build parish leaders for the future; as I have noticed some of our priests have had a very thorough scouting background. Those leadership skills they have learned have helped them greatly. Also, many young lay people have benefitted greatly by the leadership training of the scouting organization.

The diocese, through our Ministry to the Scouts, offers religious education emblem programs for each program offered in scouting. They are written to help the scouts put their faith into practice. Each unit of scouting is open to all youth in the area, and the Religious Emblems Program is written on the national level; approved through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

I thank you very much for your attention to and concern for the scouts and would like to encourage you to consider involving our young people in the scouting program.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay

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