



The Catholic Girl Scout Leader

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Catholic Committee on Girl Scouts · Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry



The Pope to the International Catholic Conference of Guiding: the Education of Women is Vital

Vatican City, 26 June 2015 (VIS) - "Education is the indispensable means for enabling girls to grow into active and responsible women, proud and happy in the faith in Christ they live in their everyday life. In this way they will participate in the construction of a world imbued with the Gospel", said Pope Francis to delegates from the International Catholic Conference of Guiding (ICCG), whom he received in audience this morning, gathered in Rome on the fiftieth anniversary

of the institution's foundation to analyze the theme: "Living as guides the joy of the Gospel." [The terms "Guides" and "Guiding" are common in Europe and other parts of the world, but they mean the same as "Scouts" and "Scouting" here in the U.S.]

The ICCG unites national associations of Catholic guides and national inter-confessional guiding organizations. Its aim is to help member associations to transform guiding into a genuine tool

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100 YEARS OF CATHOLIC SCOUTING

Requirements for the Completion of the Catholic Girl Scouting Patch

Commemorate 100 years of Catholic Scouting. Encourage Catholic girls to explore the rich traditions of their Catholic faith and Girl Scouting. Below are suggested activities required to earn this patch.

Stalk of Wheat

- The Church has used many symbols throughout its history. What do you think the stalk of wheat represents?
- Find and sing a song that involves the meaning of wheat. Example: I am the Bread of Life, Gift of Finest Wheat
- Make a loaf of bread and share it with friends or family giving thanks and then make a loaf to give to someone with a thank you card



- Research other symbols that represent Jesus
- Read John 6:35 - "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.'" and John 6:51 - "I am the

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Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 14, 2015... **The Religious Award Kick Off** will be held at **St. Anthony Parish in Menomonee Falls** from 9:30 to 3:00. Sessions will offer Family of God for Brownies, I Live My Faith for Juniors, and Mary the First Disciple for girls in grade 7 and older. Registration information to follow in September.



Besides the **Catholic Religious Recognitions**, there are **supplemental patches** that some girl scouting troops use to explore aspects of the faith. Here is one story:

Submitted by Lisa Dickman, leader, St. Jerome Parish

The girls of Girl Scout Troops 2257 and 2312 earned the **Divine Mercy Award** and received the medal at St. Jerome Parish in Oconomowoc at a Scout Sunday Mass, February 22, 2015. There were 4 adults and 6 scouts receiving this award: Tess Stumvoll, Beth Stumvoll, Charlene Stumvoll, Rebecca Dickman, Lisa Dickman, Diane Paar, Molly Paar, Eliana Sanchez, Ally Kysely, and Emily Moore. We all extend prayers of gratitude for Girl Scout Cadette Troop 810 of San Antonio, Texas for discerning and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit to develop this award as their Silver Award project in 2008. It is helping to spread the message of Divine Mercy and has been earned by Girl Scouts in 23 states so far. This award is designed for Girl Scouts from Daisies to Ambassadors and adults and a set of requirements for each level allows completion in an age appropriate manner. A patch or medal can be ordered from the **Archdiocese of San Antonio** <https://www.archsa.org/oym/scouting> and have the image of Divine Mercy on them. If you would like more information contact Lisa at 262-966-1922.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 CATHOLIC ADULT AWARD RECIPIENTS!

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award was presented to
Gretchen Bjork, St. Anthony Parish, Menomonee Falls
Ann Meyer, St. Frances Cabrini Parish, West Bend
Dr. Therese Pickart Winkler, St. Mary Visitation Parish, Elm Grove

Several Boy Scout leaders also received the St. George and the Bronze Pelican in recognition of their service to Catholic scouting among Boy Scouts.

CALLING ALL LEADERS/VOLUNTEERS

Please sign up for the NCCGSCF committee's monthly newsletter **Spark and Flame** if you have not yet done so. Updates and information to support you as a youth minister to your troop.

www.nccgscf.org Look for the link on the left side of the page and "Like" them on Facebook!

Reminder

To order Religious Medal workbooks and medals, visit www.archmil.org/scouts.htm to download the Religious Medal and Workbook Order Form.

Questions? Contact Bonnie Bresnahan, 414-758-2242 or bresnahanb@archmil.org.



Report from Jacquie Gozdowiak

Chair of Catholic Committee on Girl Scouts

We welcome your suggestions and comments

The *Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Girl Scouts* is open to new ideas and support from all volunteers. Let us know what you are doing in your troop, parish or community. By sharing time and talents our girls win big!!!!

New Religious Medal for Grades 11-12 Ambassadors

Proposed for the Fall of 2015 is a new award that explores our call to spread the Gospel of Jesus. It will focus on the spirit of mission and service and affords the opportunity to discuss the process of discerning one's vocation.

God Is Love

God is Love, the new award for Daisy Girl Scouts, is in its final stage of development. It has been a long process but the ex-

pectation is completion by the end of 2015. There will be a project book, medal, patch and prayer card available.

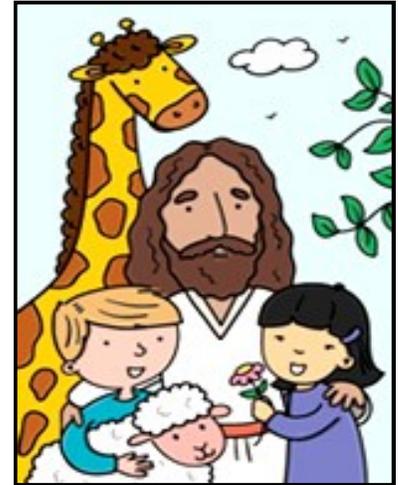
Wearing the Medals

The religious award medals are worn as official insignia throughout a Girl Scout's progression. For example, a Girl Scout who has earned the Family of God Award as a Brownie will move the medal to her sash or vest as a Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador.

The awards are worn on the right side of the vest, or on the sash, below bridging insignia and in line with other award pins.

Religious Recognition Patches

There is now a patch that corresponds to each of the medals. The patch is worn on the back of the vest or sash. The



Coming Soon: *God Is Love*, Grades K-1.

patch was created so girls may keep their pins for "dress" events and minimize the risk of loss of pins.

Blessings,
Jacquie Gozdowiak

USCCB Statement on Girl Scouting

Guidance for Bishops, Leaders and Parents

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth (LMFLY), has released a resource for Catholic leaders and parents after a year of dialog with the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA).

The USCCB resource is online at www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/who-we-teach/youth/catholic-scouting-questions.cfm.

For more information, see also the USCCB website at: www.usccb.org.

For the **Joint Statement of the Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast, Girl Scouts of Manitou and Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Badgerland**, see: <http://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/Resources/CYM/Archdiocese-GirlScouts-May2014.pdf>



100 Years of Catholic Girl Scouting, *continued from page one.*

living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." – Make a Living Bread acrostic.

- Read and pray with your leader/group about Deut 8:3 and Matthew 4:4 (other references are in the- You Cat 523 and CCC 2835)
- Pray the Our Father with your group out loud – Read You Cat 522 and the CCC 2828-2837, 2861 - Discuss the importance of the church in your daily life and name 2 other forces where you get your strength to do the right thing

Daisy

- Research Juliette Gordon Low's visit with the Catholic Church (www.nccgscf.org) – word search

•Research why the daisy is a symbol for Juliette Gordon Low. Interview a woman who is active in the Catholic Church. Find out how she lives her journey of faith through her ministry.

- Participate in or help plan Scout Sunday for your dioceses or parish.

There are flowers mentioned in the bible. Find a verse that talks about flowers and discuss its meaning.

- Make a bouquet paper flowers

Lily

- Read and research about each Saint who has a lily as their symbol.
- St. Mary – Mary said yes to God – When have you said yes to God.
- St. Joseph the Worker – Pray this prayer - Dear God, Sometimes I have trouble doing the

chores and other jobs I'm asked to do. Help me to remember how St. Joseph worked hard each and every day. Protect me from the temptation to be lazy and disobedient. Give me the grace to be a humble servant to my family and the world just as St. Joseph did. Amen. – Make a chore chart to go with this prayer.

- St. Kateri the Lily of the Mohawks – she found a place in the woods where she could pray for an hour a day. Write a prayer, find a special place in nature and pray your prayer.
- St. Dominic – pray the joyful mystery
- St. Claire of Assisi – help prepare a meal for those in need
- St. Anthony of Padua – make a treasure hunt in a bottle
- St. Agnes of Rome – patroness of Girl Scouts.

Activities to be completed in each section	Girl Scout Level
2	Daisy/Brownie
3	Juniors
4	Cadette/Senior/Ambassador

“We are in a world where we see the spread of ideologies contrary to nature and God's design for the family and marriage. It is therefore a question not only of educating girls in the beauty and greatness of their vocation as women, in a just relationship recognizing the difference between man and woman, but also to take on important responsibilities in the Church and in society.”

-Pope Francis at the International Catholic Conference of Guiding, June, 2015.



Pope Francis and the International Catholic Conference of Guiding, *continued from page one*

for education in faith and to make its pedagogical richness, formative activities and experience in interconfessional collaboration more widely known.

The Holy Father emphasized the excellence of the theme chosen for the meeting and the program it has given rise to: "proclaiming to others, through the witness of our own life, that encountering Jesus frees us and heals us ... opens us to other and drives us to announce him, especially to the poorest and most distant, the lonely and abandoned".

He invited the delegates to be faithful to the principles of their movement and to establish a sincere dialogue with guides of different cultures and religions, with respect for the beliefs of each one, and serenely affirming their Catholic faith and identity. Pope Francis then went on to speak about his recent Encyclical "Laudato si'", in which he states that education in ecology is es-

sential to transform habits and ways of thinking so as to overcome the troubling challenges that face humanity in relation to the environment. "I think that the guiding movement, which in its educational method accords an important role to contact with nature, is particularly well-disposed to this", he said. "I hope that guides will continue to be alert to the presence and the goodness of the Creator in the beauty of the world that surrounds them. This contemplative attitude will lead them to live in harmony with themselves, with others and with God. It is a new way of life, more coherent with the Gospel, that they will be able to transmit to others around them".

Finally, the Pope reiterated the need to ensure that the importance of women is recognized, so that they take their rightful place both in the Church and in society. "Here too, the role of educational associations such as yours, that address young girls, is

absolutely essential for the future, and your teaching must be clear on these issues. We are in a world where we see the spread of ideologies contrary to nature and God's design for the family and marriage. It is therefore a question not only of educating girls in the beauty and greatness of their vocation as women, in a just relationship recognizing the difference between man and woman, but also to take on important responsibilities in the Church and in society. In some countries where women are still in a position of inferiority, or even exploited and mistreated, you certainly have a significant role to play in promotion and education. I ask you not to forget, in your pedagogic approach, the necessary and explicit openness to the possibility of a life consecrated to the Lord, an area in which the guiding movement has historically been fruitful".

V.I.S. -Vatican Information Service. www.vis.va
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The **International Catholic Conference of Guiding** supports Catholic girl scouting and girl guides in 49 countries around the world. The girl guides conference gathered in Rome in June, on the 50th anniversary of its founding, to reflect on the theme "Living as a guide for the joy of the Gospel."

For more information:

<http://www.news.va/en/news/the-pope-to-the-international-catholic-conference>

unofficial translation of pope's speech: <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-address-to-international-catholic-conference-of-guiding>

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/educate-girls-to-the-beauty-and-grandeur-of-their-vocation-pope-francis-81499/>

http://www.girlscouts.org/news/news_releases/2015/rome.asp



For information on a
**Respect All Life Award for
Girls and Adults in Girl Scouting**

Contact:

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Family and Respect Life Office 513-421-3131
Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry 937-223-1001
1436 Needmore Road
Dayton, OH 45414

www.CatholicCincinnati.org

Important Links for More Information...

[Religious Recognition Programs for Catholic Girls](#)

Family of God • I Live My Faith • Mary, the First Disciple • The Spirit Alive

[Archdiocese of Milwaukee Catholic Committee on Girl Scouts](#)

This Committee of local Catholic scout leaders fosters faith development in Catholic Girl Scouts and their adult leaders.

[Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry - Scout Page](#)

Information on official religious recognition programs and ordering materials.

[United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)

[Scouting and Catholic Youth Ministry - USCCB](#)

[National Catholic Committee on Girl Scouts and Camp Fire](#)

The NCCGSCF, an affiliate member of NFCYM, serves Catholic youth and adults through faith-based programs, including the Catholic religious recognition programs and activity patches for girls.

[Frequently Asked Questions - NCCGSCF](#)

[National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry \(NFCYM\)](#)

[Girl Scouts USA](#)

For questions about Girl Scout policies and practices, the first source is the Girl Scouts.



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