



## Religious Emblems & Activities to *Supplement and Reinforce* Formal Religious Formation



**O**ur challenge as adult leaders is to ensure that youth involved in scouting have the opportunity to experience and express their faith in appropriate ways. Catholic youth involved in scouting have well-developed programs they can pursue; it is our obligation to bring them to the attention of the youth and their families and recognize their accomplishments in that pursuit. Emblem books with specific activities help parents and young Catholics focus on various areas of their faith and spiritual journey:

- ◆ Discovering how to contribute to the parish and faith community and appreciating God's presence in our daily lives (*Parvuli Dei* emblem book)
- ◆ Emphasizing the importance of the sacraments to our daily lives and decisions and developing "faith responses" to scenarios and the lessons that can be drawn from them (*Ad Altare Dei* emblem book)

These books and others, developed by national Catholic scouting committees, and approved for use within the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, provide structured learning opportunities for families and scouting units or individuals. Resources vary from 10-60 or more pages and provide very practical tips as well as leader tools. (See the reverse side.)

### Who Can Help?

- ◆ Each parish should have at least one Religious Emblems Counselor... if that is not the case please contact [scouting@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:scouting@arlingtondiocese.org). Counselors promote the spiritual phase of scouting and provide guidance and assistance to non-Catholic youth in the unit, urging them to participate in the religious emblems program of their own faith.

### Guidelines

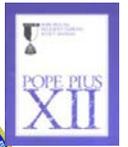
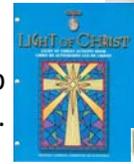
- ◆ Religious emblems are conferred on youth by the authority of the Bishop, as such it should be presented at an appropriate religious ceremony. Standards for recognition have been approved by the Diocese and cannot be modified.
- ◆ Certain recognition for older youth (*Ad Altare Dei*; Pope Pius XII; Mary, the First Disciple; Spirit Alive) require "boards of review" to ensure all requirements have been met. This is not a re-examination of knowledge, rather a determination of the youth's attitude toward the following: Is there evidence of a better understanding of Christian commitment by the candidate? Has the candidate learned to understand, defend, and apply Christian principles to the problems of the day? Please contact [scouting@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:scouting@arlingtondiocese.org) for scheduling Boards of Review



**(See Reverse)**



# Emblems & Faith-Building Scouting Activities By Age/Grade



- ◆ **Guardian Angel...** helps youth to develop spiritual knowledge of how God protects them in every area of their lives. (A local diocesan emblem designed for those in the youngest scouting levels...most scouting organizations eligible)
- ◆ **Light of Christ...** helps youth develop a personal relationship with Jesus (with the active help and participation of his family) and supports the role of parents as the primary catechists. (Age: 6-7; Boys registered with BSA only)
- ◆ **Parvuli Dei...** helps youth explore a wide range of activities in order to discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their family and parish; helps youth develop a positive self-image through contributions they can make to the faith community. (Age: 8-10; Boys registered with BSA only)
- ◆ **Family of God...** helps youth take their place as active responsible members of their family, parish, troop/group, and community. (Grades: 2-3)
- ◆ **I Live My Faith...** helps youth appreciate more deeply the place that God and religion occupy in their daily lives. (Grades: 4-6)
- ◆ **Mary, the First Disciple...** Sometimes referred to as the Marian medal, it helps youth to "proclaim the greatness of the Lord." This is accomplished by actively involving the participants in an understanding of Mary as a model of openness and spirituality—a woman of the church. (Grades: 7-10)
- ◆ **Ad Altare Dei...** helps Roman Catholic youth to develop a fully Christian way of life in a faith community. The program is organized in chapters based on the seven sacraments. Scouts must work with a trained emblems counselor. (Ages: 13+; registered with BSA only)
- ◆ **The Spirit Alive...** helps youth discover how the Holy Spirit moves in their lives, calling them to greater participation in the church's ministry. (Grades: 9-12)
- ◆ **Pope Pius XII...** helps youth explore life choices (single, married, religious, ordained), occupations, and ministries in the church as calls from God. This is Catholic Scouting's church-related ministries and vocation program. (Ages 15+; registered with BSA only)

*Click on links to find out more about the activities and emblems below.*

- ◆ **The Rosary Series...** helps youth and adults explore the Rosary and the Mysteries. (Available to scouting and non-scouting; all ages, including adults)
- ◆ **Footsteps of American Saints...** helps youth and adults explore the lives of Elizabeth Ann Seton, John Neumann, Kateri Tekakwitha, Peter Claver, Isaac Jogues, Frances Xavier Cabrini, Andre Bessette, Mother Marianne Cope, Katharine Drexel, Damien of Molokai, Isidore the Farmer, Junipero Serra, Carlos Rodriguez, Michael McGivney, St. George, Juan Diego, Rose Philippine Duchesne, Marie Rose Durocher, Mother Theodore Guerin, Miguel Pro (Available to scouting and non-scouting; all ages, including adults)
- ◆ **Marian Series...** helps youth and adults learn more about Mary Our Mother under the titles of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Sorrows, and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Available to scouting and non-scouting; all ages, including adults)
- ◆ **Faith Series...** helps youth and adults learn more about facets of our faith such as the Corporal Works of Mercy. (Available to scouting and non-scouting; all ages, including adults)
- ◆ **Women in Scripture...** helps youth learn more about important women in scripture such as Ruth and Naomi, Mary Magdalene, Martha and Mary, Miriam, Sarah, St. Elizabeth (grades 1-12)
- ◆ **Models of Faith...** helps youth learn about Mother Teresa, Pope John XXIII, St. Anne, St. Gianna Molla, St. Juan Diego, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Monica (grades 1-12)

**For more information email [scoutingemblems@aol.com](mailto:scoutingemblems@aol.com) or call 540-338-1900.**

Sources: National Catholic Committee on Scouting and National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.