

# NCCGSCF NEWS

NFCYM—Serving Those  
Who Serve the Young  
Catholic Church

Spring 2004

## The Chair's Report

by Jeannette Rivet, Chairperson, NCCGSCF

### Reflection on the National Catholic Youth Conference

I originally left home thinking I was coming down with a cold. On the plane, I was certain I would be miserable in Houston—I was so wrong! The young people were so joyful and energized—it spilled over to the rest of us. The respect the young participants showed at the Sunday liturgy was amazing! With 24,000 young people gathered together, you could have heard the proverbial 'pin drop.' The Galveston-Houston Diocese made the conference a memorable moment in time, and I am so grateful to have been a participant. Thanks to the following NCCGSCF members who, along with myself, helped on the Youth Congress Committee:

- Joyce Caggiano, Region 2;
- Millie O'Brien, Region 7; and
- Virginia Reed, Region 10.

### Our Work at the NFCYM Membership Meeting

Key issues addressed by the management committee included:

- *The Spirit Alive*  
The draft was not accepted by NCCGSCF and the Publishing Management Committee and will continue with a new writer.
- *Religious Recognition Patches*  
The patches are available now. They can be purchased through authorized diocesan purchasers.

- *NCCGSCF on the Web*  
Scott Miller (NFCYM) will update our part of the Federation's website, and our newsletter will be posted to the web as well.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included:

- Discussion of an NCCGSCF patch with the NFCYM logo.
- Delivery of the training packet to the printer.
- Discussion of the confusion regarding the pricing of religious recognition program materials with online and telephone orders.

Members in attendance at the meeting in Austin include:

- Pat Antonacci, Region 3
- Mark Butler, Region 6
- Joyce Caggiano, Region 2
- Dorothy Cogswell, Region 14
- Kathleen Cottom, Region 11
- Rev. Tom Dunne, Region 1 (NFCYM Board Liaison)
- Millie O'Brien, Region 7
- Virginia Reed, Region 10
- Alma Richard, Region 8 (NFCYM Board Liaison)
- Jeannette Rivet, Region 1
- Ann Steltenpohl, Region 5
- Joan Treacy, Region 4

### Looking Ahead

The National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) will be held December 2-5, 2004 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The following workshops have been recommended by the NCCGSCF and will be offered at the conference:

- "Hard-Wired to Connect" by Maggie McCarty
- "Communication Issues for Women in Ministry" by Leigh Sterten
- "Funding" by Pat Antonacci
- "Heartful Ministries" by Sr. Mary Kay Kelly

A luncheon and a hospitality room are also being planned! Stay tuned for more details.



## Regional Updates

### Region 2 (New York)

The third biennial adult youth ministers' conference was held in Binghamton, New York, March 26-28, 2004. The keynote speakers were Joe Grant and Reggie Harris. The conference was for adults who work with young people, including catechists and Girl Scout and Boy Scout leaders.

Liz Hohl, from the Diocese of Rochester, was a delegate to the Youth Congress at the NCYC in Houston.

✚ *Joyce Caggiano, Diocese of Rockville Center*

### Region 4 (Delaware, Maryland, northern Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia)

Depending on the bishops of the various dioceses in Region 4, Scout religious ceremonies are held jointly with Boy Scouts and some have separate ceremonies. These ceremonies provide the spiritual encouragement of our young people in learning more about their faith and sharing the Good News with others.

In the Diocese of Richmond, a new Girl Scout religious program is being developed and should be ready for Fall 2004. It is called Girl Scout Patron Saint, St. Agnes of Rome. The program will be open to members of Boy Scouts, Camp Fire, and Girl Scouts.

✚ *Joan Treacy, Archdiocese of Washington*

### Region 5 (Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee)

Region 5 is happy to introduce their new GSCF representative, Ann Steltenpohl from Louisville. Ann is currently a parish youth minister and a Girl Scout leader.

A word or two from Ann:

"I am deeply honored to represent Region 5 on the GSCF Committee. I have been a Girl Scout leader for eleven years and have mentored young ladies through all of the Catholic religious awards: *Family of God*, *I Live My Faith*, the *Marian Award*, and *The Spirit Alive*.

Without a doubt, leading the Marian Award served as my most fulfilling experience with Girl Scouts. My

devotion to service and the Blessed Virgin Mary soared during that yearlong formation program. The Spirit Alive medal's challenges with church doctrine and evangelization were difficult yet well-received by the girls. I have watched my troop develop into confident and spiritual young women in the church. Their efforts include retreat planning and leading children's catechesis and Vacation Bible School. Recently, they piloted a peer-mentoring program with refugee teenagers. Evangelization flowed naturally as they painted "All Are Welcome" in nine foreign languages over the entry-way to their peace garden! This fall, we will further explore the Bible with the Sudanese Baptist teenagers and study Islam with our Afghani friends.

Service is my passion. Nothing brings greater joy to me than to drive home with a carload of exhausted teenagers after a service project listening to their stories, laughter, and expression of deep self-satisfaction. Mother Teresa of Calcutta provided me with tremendous guidance over the years. Oftentimes, personal conviction about a service project seemed to overwhelm my youth group or Girl Scout troop but Mother Teresa's passionate words always gave us courage and determination. I will attend the Beatification of Mother Teresa at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican this October and will tie it into my ministry as often as possible!

Scouting led me to youth ministry. It seemed such a natural progression and I find it rewarding to combine the programs (adding teenage guys to the picture is quite endearing, too!). I am a certified Catholic youth minister in my archdiocese and have also completed our diocesan Advanced Catechist Certification Program. I received the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal and am a current nominee for the St. Anne Award through the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. My Girl Scout adult recognitions include Kentuckiana Outstanding Leader and the Girl Scout Pillar Award. I also serve as an adult education trainer and mentor.

God has truly blessed me! He led me to a devoted husband (of 25 years!) and gave us two dynamic children. Ministry is family work and I truly appreciate my family's support so that I can fulfill my passions! I pray that we will continue to grow together while doing God's work with young people."

## Region 6 (Michigan, Ohio)

Bishop James A. Griffin presented Alexandra Morbitzer with the Red Sash of Merit at the 2003 *Scout Day with the Bishop*. The Red Sash of Merit serves as an award for outstanding Catholic Girl Scouts in the Diocese of Columbus, who have earned the *Mary, the First Disciple* medal and demonstrate leadership, accept responsibility, and are active in their troop, community, and parish. Over 500 Scouts were recognized at *Scout Day with the Bishop*. The Columbus Diocesan Catholic Committee on Girl Scouts and Camp Fire is online at: <http://www.cdeducation.org/oym/dccgscf>

✚ **Mark Butler, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Columbus**

## Region 10 (Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas)

### Diocese of Austin

For the third year, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is collaborating with the Girl Scouts of the Lone Star Council to coordinate an interfaith retreat for the Girl Scouts of central Texas. This mother-daughter weekend camp out allows girls and their mothers to work on the religious recognition programs of their particular faith.



Alexandra Morbitzer receives the Red Sash of Merit from Bishop James Griffin.

Activities include flag ceremonies, patriotic songs, campfire activities, time to share a part of their respective faith traditions (rosary, menorah, etc.), and worship services.

✚ **Alexis Thibodeau, Associate Director Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

### Diocese of El Paso

The Diocese of El Paso Catholic Committee on Scouting now holds quarterly Scouting Sunday Masses to recognize Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts as part of youth ministry in the Catholic Church. Our mission statement is to assist these Catholic youth in developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and within the culture of that relationship to make Jesus Christ the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Our hope is to foster a ministry of service to God and country through the divine life that is within each of these youth.

At these quarterly Masses, the youth will bring various products to help the poor and needy in our diocese. The St. Vincent de Paul Society will help distribute these donations. These events promote Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts as an integral part of youth ministry and highlight the religious awards and recognitions developed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) and the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire (NCCGSCF), which encourage each member to live out their calling as disciples in the world today.

The annual Scout Sunday Mass with Bishop Armando Ochoa was held on March 6 at St. Patrick's Cathedral, honoring our young people in these organizations.

✚ **Marcos Martinez, Director Office of Youth Ministry**

### Diocese of Galveston-Houston

The Diocesan Committee on Girl Scouting celebrated its 40th year of ministry to the Catholic members of Girl Scouts in San Jacinto and South Texas councils. The dual service projects selected for this celebration were donations to the Gabriel Project to benefit newborns and letters to service men and women in Iraq.

The theme of *Behold Mary, Our Mother* was carried out at the annual Spiritual Awareness Day for girls of all program levels and at the annual retreat which is a

day-only event for Brownies and Juniors and a weekend for Cadettes and Seniors. The participants work on their respective programs, create community with the larger church, and conclude with Eucharist celebrated by our diocesan chaplain, Father Bill Young. Moderator training is provided at this time.

Recognition Sunday was held on March 28 with Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza presenting the girls with their respective religious recognition medals. In addition to the national medal programs, the Bishop's Gold was presented to a graduating Senior Girl Scout, Alexandra Cruz, who received both the Girl Scout Gold Award and The Spirit Alive medal, the highest religious recognition of the Catholic Church for Girl Scouts. Another service project of nonperishable food for a food pantry and stuffed animals for a children's shelter was carried out.

Members of the Diocesan Committee hosted participants from the NCCGSCF who attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in Houston in November as part of the volunteer staff for the Youth Congress. Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council presented gift bags to the 22 selected delegates from Girl Scouts and Camp Fire who participated in the Congress and to adult volunteers and staff who monitored the event.

➤ **Virginia Reed, NCCGSCF Representative  
Region 10**

### Regional Representatives to the NCCGSCF

Please check the list below for contact information. If you have any questions, please talk with your regional representative. They want to hear from you!

**Region 1**—*Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont*  
Jeannette Rivet, (NCCGSCF Management Committee Chair)  
413-732-9554/[jtrivet@aol.com](mailto:jtrivet@aol.com)

**Region 2**—*New York*  
Joyce Caggiano  
516-796-9754  
[joycaggiano@yahoo.com](mailto:joycaggiano@yahoo.com)

**Region 3**—*New Jersey, Pennsylvania*  
Patricia (Pat) Antonacci  
610-649-9459  
[patantonacci@hotmail.com](mailto:patantonacci@hotmail.com)

**Region 4**—*Delaware, Maryland, northern Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia*  
Joan Treacy  
301-924-0394/[jmtreacy@aol.com](mailto:jmtreacy@aol.com)

**Region 5**—*Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee*  
Ann Steltenpohl  
502-426-1588, ext. 128

**Region 6**—*Michigan, Ohio*  
Mark Butler  
614-241-2565  
[mbutler@cducation.org](mailto:mbutler@cducation.org)

**Region 7**—*Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin*  
Mildred (Millie) O'Brien  
847-825-5012  
[parkridgeunitedway@juno.com](mailto:parkridgeunitedway@juno.com)

**Region 8**—*Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota*  
Phyllis Willerscheidt (GSUSA Volunteer Representative)  
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[willerscheidtp@archspm.org](mailto:willerscheidtp@archspm.org)

**Region 9**—*Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska*  
Jan Brockland  
314-792-7608/[jbrockland@archstl.org](mailto:jbrockland@archstl.org)

**Region 10**—*Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas*  
Virginia Reed  
713-468-1497/[vbreed@msn.com](mailto:vbreed@msn.com)

**Region 11**—*American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada*  
Kathleen (Kathy) Cottom  
510-436-6373/[kcottom@pacbell.net](mailto:kcottom@pacbell.net)

**Region 12**—*Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington*  
Donna Van Doren  
509-884-7150/[metall2@juno.com](mailto:metall2@juno.com)

**Region 13**—*Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah*  
Larry Fraher (NFCYM Regional Coor.)  
602-257-5559  
[lfraher@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:lfraher@diocesephoenix.org)

**Region 14**—*Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, southern Virginia*  
Dorothy Cogswell  
757-539-2562  
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## The Youth Congress

*By Colleen First, Diocese of Galveston-Houston*



Exploring the theme of the NCYC, *The River of Life*, 24,000 Catholic teens and adults gathered in Houston, in November 2003. Prayer, music, celebration, community, and fun were the foundation for a four-day union of Catholic youth who came to "see" and went home tired, fulfilled, and renewed.

A major session within this biennial conference was the Youth Congress, where selected delegates participated in a day-long session addressing the theme of "Social Justice through the Lens of Poverty." The Youth Congress provided a sacred space and open environment where youth and church leaders came together for meaningful dialogue. One of the most significant aspects of the Youth Congress was the interaction and dialogue of Catholic youth with many bishops and other church leaders in a structured, dynamic, productive, and life-giving manner.

Throughout this Congress, teens, bishops, and other adults embraced the Gospel call to build just communities in our nation and world. Elements produced by this interaction included young people's voices being heard by church leaders, many faces of God's young church were evidenced, interaction between a variety of voices in the church, youth experiencing being a part of the institutional church, and empowerment to go forth and act.

The selected delegates were chosen within their dioceses and from Catholic members of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Camp Fire USA, and Boy Scouts of America. There were 22 Girl Scout and Camp Fire members in attendance. Delegates were required to complete pre-conference tasks, including interviews with diocesan leaders in the particular area of social justice. This enabled the delegates to become more knowledgeable on the subject and to engage in substantive, meaningful dialogue.

The 2005 NCYC will be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Comments from participants:

"An unforgettable experience. I learned so much about my faith and grew so close to God in one weekend . . . met new people. Looking forward to attend the next NCYC in two years. Highly recommend that everyone do it."

*Grace Mocerì, Youth Congress Delegate*

"An awesome experience. Able to meet other high school kids with same beliefs and desires to change this world. If we all work together, we can make a difference in society."

*Nicole Crum, Youth Congress Delegate*

"To see 24,000 teens and adults playing and worshipping together was awesome. The spiritual effect of Father Ray East leading The Lord's Prayer was truly emotional and gave everyone the feeling of belief that Jesus was and would be with us always."

*Joyce Caggiano, NCCGSCF, Diocese of Rockville Centre*

"You had to see it to believe it! The entire conference affirmed that Catholic youth today are truly believers in Jesus Christ. With continued encouragement, they will be able to stand up to today's cynics and unbelievers. The Congress itself demonstrated a strong will to work so that justice may prevail with each one doing her/his own part."

*Virginia Reed, NCCGSCF, Diocese of Galveston-Houston*



*Twenty-two selected delegates from Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and Camp Fire USA are pictured above with Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, episcopal liaison to the NFCYM. These girls were selected on the basis of pre-conference work based on the 2003 theme, Social Justice through the Lens of Poverty. They represented 17 dioceses across the country.*

## Re-Source-Ful

By Virginia A. Reed, Diocese of Galveston-Houston

### Youth Update

One of the greatest faith formation resources for those working with *Mary, the First Disciple* (Marian Medal) program of Girl Scouts and Camp Fire has been the articles published in *Youth Update* from St. Anthony Messenger Press. Under the committed guidance of its editor, Carol Ann Morrow, *Youth Update* has provided informative and challenging material to young people and program moderators alike.

Undertaking the task of researching all issues of *Youth Update*, Carol Ann pinpointed articles dealing with projects and issues for *Mary, the First Disciple* and *The Spirit Alive* programs. Additionally, she provided similar material for the Ad Altare Dei and the Pope Pius XII award programs for Catholic boys in Boy Scouts of America.

*Youth Update* will no longer be offered as a subscription as of May 2004. However, Girl Scout and Camp Fire moderators will still be able to access these issues by ordering Youth Update Marian Packet #N066 by calling 202-636-3825. The packet includes 15 issues of *Youth Update*, all for \$5.25 (plus postage). A revised *Mary, the First Disciple* list will be made after May 2004, when a new issue on the rosary will become available.

The NCCGSCF sincerely thanks Carol Ann Morrow for her dedication to young people, and in particular for her efforts on behalf of the spiritual development of Catholic youth in these youth-serving agencies. A few years ago, the NCCGSCF gratefully bestowed upon Carol Ann the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton medal.

### Sabbath by Wayne Muller

Who is not tired in this busy world full of multi-tasking, running late for appointments, fighting traffic, and never finding a balance, much less any spiritual solace?

In today's world, with its relentless emphasis on success and productivity, we have lost the necessary rhythm of life, the balance between work and rest. Constantly striving, we feel exhausted and deprived in the midst of great abundance. We long for a time with friends and family; we long for a moment to ourselves.

Millennia ago, the tradition of Sabbath created an oasis of sacred time within a life of unceasing labor. Now, in this book, Wayne Muller shows us how to create a special time of rest, delight, and renewal—a refuge for our souls. We can create a Sabbath afternoon, a Sabbath hour, a Sabbath walk. We can use this time of sacred rest to refresh our bodies and minds, restore our creativity and regain our birthright of inner happiness.

Used as the core text for NFCYM's 2003 Second Wind program, *Sabbath* stands as a refreshing pillar, not only enabling us to let go and let God, but to eagerly anticipate the time we thought we did not have.

### Standing with Courage by Mary-Louise Kurey

Mary-Louise Kurey provides factual information on the virtue of chastity and its rewards as well as the devastating effects of making wrong choices. *Standing with Courage* is a powerful resource for all women and men working with teenage girls.

Mary-Louise Kurey, Miss Wisconsin 1999, was a top ten finalist and winner of the talent competition in the Miss America Pageant. She chose to ignore the advice of those who said the platform of chastity was too controversial and dangerous and instead remained true to herself. A healthy, helpful resource which will give courage and reinforcement to the adults dealing with today's youth.

"While the media, TV, and the movies today treat the subject of virginity and moral choices in a blatant, derisive manner, *Standing with Courage* provides our young people with a friend who understands the issues they face today, the courage to stand for what they believe, and a call to fulfill their unique mission."

Elayne G. Bennett, Best Friends Foundation

"Mary-Louise Kurey gives us a powerful witness to the belief that the virtue of chastity gives us the space to know who we are as human beings, truly loved by the Lord."

Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago

(From *Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.*)

## The Mary Jean Hart Scholarship

*By Virginia Reed, Diocese of Galveston-Houston*

The Mary Jean Hart Scholarship was established in 1995 in honor and remembrance of Mary Jean Hart, one of the original members of the NCCGSCF. Its purpose is to help finance an adult to attend the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) with its attendant track designed specifically for Catholic members of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and Camp Fire USA. The recipient must minister to

Catholic youth of these organizations within their respective diocese.

The NCCYM will be held December 2-5, 2004 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For more information on the conference, go to [www.nfcym.org/nccym](http://www.nfcym.org/nccym). For a scholarship application, please contact Ruby Mikell, 202-636-3835 or [rubym@nfcym.org](mailto:rubym@nfcym.org).

## NCCGSCF Patches

*By Ruby Mikell, NFCYM*

The long-awaited patches for the religious recognition programs are in stock. As with the medals for the appropriate programs, these patches should be ordered through the authorized diocesan purchaser. In most cases this is the office of youth ministry within the diocese. Contact your NCCGSCF regional representative (listed on page 4) if you are not sure who to purchase the patches through.

Many thanks go out to Joan Treacy and her task group members for the work they put into the creation of these patches.



## In Memory

*By Virginia Reed, Diocese of Galveston-Houston*

With deep regret, we have learned of the death of Mary Crabtree of the St. Louis Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting. Mary was a pioneer in the Marian Medal program, having been a moderator for at least two versions of this religious recognition program. When the current version, *Mary, the First Disciple* was introduced, Mary again put her expertise in action and facilitated a new generation of girls.

Mary was a constant participant at every gathering of the NCCGSCF. She contributed her knowledge and insight to many workshops and shared her

talents in the area of crafts in the hospitality areas, so others could learn more about the religious recognition programs and have a souvenir of Mary to take home and remember.

We remember her and her devotion to Mary, our Mother, and we thank God for the time she spent with us.

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