



Dear Friends,

On the first Sunday of February each year Scouts in the United States celebrate Scout Sunday. This simple gesture is an opportunity for parishes to recognize the young people in their parish involved in the Scouting program, and the partnership between the parish and the Scouting Movement in the formation of youth. Each parish may do things differently but here are two suggestions that may be helpful:

1. **Invite Scouts in your parish to attend Mass in their uniform.** Your parish may sponsor a unit which includes non-Catholic Scouts. Likewise, you may have parishioners who belong to a unit that is not attached to your parish. On Scout Sunday each Scout should simply be invited to attend their own house of worship in their Scout uniform.
2. **Recognize those Scouts who earned their Religious Emblems.** The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, Trail Life, and other such organizations have award programs that help Catholic Scouts to grow in their faith. Scout Sunday is an opportunity for the parish to recognize those Scouts who earned these awards. This need not be an elaborate or time-consuming ceremony. At an appropriate time in the Mass an Adult Leader could read the names of those Scouts who have earned their awards and invite them to stand after which the priest could offer a blessing such as:

*Lord God, source of our strength and skill, we ask Your blessing on these Scouts whom we recognize today. As they advance in the Scouting program may they grow each day in wisdom, age, and grace and, seeking your will for their lives, strive to become the people you created them to be. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

After the blessing the priest could present the Scouts with their awards.

To be sure, everything has been slightly different this year. As such, parishes may have to adapt Scout Sunday in a way that works best given the current circumstances. I hope this is a helpful guide as you make those arrangements. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

In Christ,

Rev. Tyler George Kline  
Chaplain