

# Catholic Religious Emblems Program

For more information on the awards listed below, please see [nccs-bsa.org](http://nccs-bsa.org)

## Cub Scout & Webelos Level Emblems-



**The Light of Christ** emblem can be earned by Catholic Tiger and Wolf Cub Scouts. It focuses on developing a personal relationship with Jesus.

**The Parvuli Dei** emblem can be earned by Catholic Bear and Webelos Cub Scouts. Its focus is on the scout discovering God's presence in their daily lives as members of their Church and family.

Typically, these emblems take about 2-3 months to complete. The age-appropriate work book can be purchased from local scout shops. Cub Scouts will complete all exercises in the books with their parents. Once all requirements are completed, a member of the clergy meets with the scout to review the work. The emblem, knot and device are purchased at a local scout shop. The emblem is then presented at an appropriate parish ceremony (preferably Scout Sunday).

## Boy Scout and Venturing Level Emblems



**The Ad Altare Dei** focuses on the seven sacraments. The program is designed for scouts who have completed the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

- The emblem is completed during scheduled meetings led by a certified Religious Emblems Counselor, with outside homework and service projects.
- The program takes approximately 4-7 months to complete.

**The Pope Pius XII** focuses on Church ministry and vocations. The program is designed for scouts who have completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

- The emblem is completed at scheduled meetings led by the participants, and moderated by a certified Religious Emblems Moderator, with outside homework.
- It takes approximately 9-12 sessions (4-6 months) to complete.

After completing all requirements for the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII, a board of review is conducted by the ACCS. Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII emblems are awarded at an Archdiocese Mass held annually (usually in February or March).

There are over 60 ACCS certified religious emblems counselors and facilitators for the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII emblems. To find a certified Catholic Religious Emblems counselor for Ad Altare Dei or facilitator for Pope Pius XII, please send an e-mail to [accs@nsbsa.org](mailto:accs@nsbsa.org). Provide your name, contact information (including town) and unit number in the e-mail message.

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## NOTES For Cub Scout Parents

**The Catholic Religious Emblems program for Cub Scouts consists of two levels:**

- Light of Christ (Tiger and Wolf Cubs)
- Parvuli Dei (Bear and Webelos Cubs)
  - Parvuli Dei requires a steady paced study program, about one hour per week for 2 months. DO NOT wait to start the program in December or the boy may not complete it on time.
  - **NOTE: Webelos 2 boys MUST complete the Parvuli Dei while still a Webelos, before crossing into Boy Scouts.**

Each level is described on the next page. Two more levels are available for Boy Scouts and Venturers.

**The Cub Scout Catholic religious emblems program is intended to function as follows:**

- The parent and son decide they will devote the time to complete the program together.
- Each level is intended to deepen the boy's faith and relationship with Christ and God.
- The program should be worked on steadily over several weeks, because the Christian's relationship with Christ is a constant and steady relationship, not a one time event.

**Steps toward completion of the program:**

- Obtain the booklet for the proper level from the Scout Shop
- Let your local parish priest and/or deacon know you will be working on the award.
- Complete the work for each chapter of the workbook.
- A review session is held with the parish priest or deacon. 15-20 minutes per boy.
- Have your local parish priest or deacon review and sign-off on the boy's work.
- The application is then turned into one of the local scout shops. The emblem, knot and device are purchased at the local scout shops.
- The emblem is then presented at an appropriate parish ceremony (preferably Scout Sunday).
- The local Archbishop awards certain Catholic Religious Emblems in a special ceremony at the St. Paul Cathedral in the early spring each year. **If you would like to participate in that ceremony, the work should be started no later than September and should be completed by the end of December.**

**In a change from prior years, parishes may now facilitate parents and Cub Scouts in small group sessions to provide community support for parents offering Catholic religious emblems for their Cub Scout age children.**

- The primary counselor for Cub Scout emblems is still the youth's parent. Group discussion sessions are now permitted at the parish's option, but each child must still complete his own work book to show and discuss with the priest or the priest's delegate (Deacon, for instance).
- The group discussions must be approved by the priest and be led by a delegate approved by him to ensure the materials are covered completely and in a proper manner.

**The following local Catholic parishes are known to support the Catholic Religious Emblems program.** The leadership of each of these parishes can help you get started right away since they are familiar with the program.

- All Saints (Lakeville)
- St. John the Baptist (Savage)
- St. John Neumann (Eagan)
- St. Joseph (Rosemont)
- Mary Mother (Burnsville)

**What to do if your parish does not currently offer the Catholic Religious Emblems program:**

- Show your priest the attached "Talking Points" prepared by the Archdiocese Catholic Committee for Scouting to familiarize priests with the program and their role in it.
- Show your priest the program booklet.
- Help is available to educate your priest and deacons on their roles and responsibilities through trained and experienced Catholic Religious Emblems coordinators from other parishes.
- Contact your unit leader or **Jim Rice at 612-384-7709** to arrange someone to speak to your priest.

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## Talking Points for Parishes That Haven't Offered Catholic Religious Emblems in the Past

- **NO COST TO PARISH**
  - There are no associated costs to the Parish.
- **THE EMBLEMS PROGRAM ASKS VERY LITTLE OF THE PASTOR'S TIME**
  - Cub Scout emblems require a brief pastor (*or his designee – deacon or pastoral associate*) review meeting. The emblems for older scouts only require a pastor's signature granting approval to begin the program.
- **CUB SCOUT EMBLEMS CONNECT PARENTS AND YOUTH CONCERNING MATTERS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH**
  - The primary counselor for Cub Scout emblems is the youth's parent.
  - Parishes may facilitate parent & youth small group sessions to provide community support for parents offering these emblems for their child.
- **SCOUTING IS A YOUTH MINISTRY**
  - Scouting's values and goals match perfectly with the Catholic Church's.
  - The 12<sup>th</sup> point of the scout law is, "A scout is reverent."
  - The religious emblems are a perfect vehicle for a scout to learn to fulfill his duty to God.
- **SUPPLEMENTS REGULAR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, DOES NOT REPLACE IT**
  - The religious emblems program does not replace regular religious education or preparation for any of the sacraments.
- **CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS ARE DEVELOPED BY THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING WITH THE BLESSING OF THE US CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**
  - The NCCS develops and constantly reviews the curriculum for the emblems. The NCCS is under the auspices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- **CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS PROGRAM IS SUPERVISED BY THE ARCHBISHOP, THRU THE ARCHDIOCESE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING**
  - The ACCS provides training and certification and support to emblems counselors and facilitators. The Archbishop appoints a chair and chaplain to recruit, train, and lead a committee of registered Scout leaders to oversee Catholic scouting operations.
- **SCOUTING IS SAFE - BSA YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING REQUIRED FOR ALL BOY SCOUT/ VENTURE SCOUT COUNSELORS AND FACILITATORS**
  - All Boy Scout and Venture Scout emblems counselors and facilitators are required to be trained and certified by the ACCS. Counselors and Facilitators must be registered members of the BSA and have current in youth protection training.
- **THE STUDY OF VOCATIONS IS CRITICAL FOR ENCOURAGING FUTURE CLERGY AND LAY LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH**
  - The Pope Pius XII emblem focuses on an examination of church ministry and vocations.
  - Ad Altare Dei provides a detailed examination of all of the sacraments of vocation.
- **ACCS CONTACT INFORMATION**

Jim Rice, Chairman [accs@nsbsa.org](mailto:accs@nsbsa.org) (preferred method of communication)  
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