

SCOUTING AS A YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2007 saw Scouting celebrating 100 years fun and adventure with a very real purpose. As the founder Lord Baden-Powell said, (scouting exists) “to give such help as we can in bringing about God’s Kingdom on earth”. Although scouting has always been multi-denominational and multi-faith there is no doubt that Baden-Powell was heavily influenced by Christianity. His Father was a Minister in the Church of England and his writings were imbued with the values espoused by Christianity, though he didn’t want religion to be boring but something very real and tangible. To Baden-Powell a scout does his duty to God by enjoying and appreciating God’s creation and by loving God and our neighbour. The first scout groups were set-up by Clergymen Catholic and Protestant. Baden-Powell was a great friend of Fr Jacques Sevin, a French Jesuit. When Achille Ratti became Pope Pius XI he recognised and encouraged scouting and gave a Papal Audience to Baden-Powell. This fitted in with Pope Pius XI’s insistence that the Catholic religion must permeate all areas of human living: the home, the city, politics, economics, art etc. Rather than allowing religious belief to be reduced to a merely private matter, or withdrawing the Church from involvement in the outer world, Pius XI thought Catholics must work to create a truly Catholic society: Christ must be King over every aspect of life. It is said that Baden-Powell shared with Father Sevin that Catholic scouting with its strong religious ethos came closer to his image of what scouting should be than many other scout associations.

Rev John Seddon

National Scout Chaplain (RC)

WHAT THE POPES SAY ABOUT SCOUTING

Since Pope Pius X gave his Apostolic blessing to scouts, the Popes have supported and encouraged this method of Catholic Youth Ministry.

More recently:-

Pope John Paul II said, “Dear Friends, “You and the members of your ... Scouting... Movement may be proud of the great Scouting traditions of personal excellence and self-giving in the service of God and neighbour which you have inherited”

“I assure you of my own personal appreciation of Scouting as a magnificent educational experience and form of social and religious commitment.” **John Paul II**

Pope Benedict XVI

To the scouts at the World Jamboree in England 2007

His Holiness recognises the contribution that.. scouting... makes to the formation of young people in so many different areas: physically, affectively, intellectually, socially and spiritually.

At a time when so many young people are confused and disorientated, the Holy Father urges Scout leaders to continue offering this invaluable service that has enabled millions to become free, responsible and generous adults, making good use of their God-given talents and placing them at the service of their brothers and sisters.



**Fr John Seddon
National Catholic
Scout Chaplain
being presented to
Pope Benedict XVI
November 2007,
the Centenary year
of Scouting.**

At the Centenary Mass of the World Scout Jamboree in Hylands Park, Chelmsford on 1st August 2007 Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor thanked Catholic Scouts from all corners of the globe for the work that they do in trying to create a better world.

“Dear Scouts, thank you for all that you do,” said the Cardinal to the thousands gathered. Speaking in French, English Spanish and Italian, he went onto explain: “The Church has need of your generosity, your youth, your faith and your love in the years to come. You are the hope of the future.”

“My message is simple,” the Cardinal continued. “I know that you follow the Scout’s law and do your best to perform one good deed everyday to help others. You are trying to create a better world – all that is good. But there is something else for us who are Christians, disciples of Jesus. You and I have the privilege of following him – by our prayer, our example, by following his teaching.”



Lord Alton of Liverpool

President of the National Catholic Scout Fellowship



“As a nine-year old I joined my parish Cub pack and then its Scout troop. They provided great camaraderie and a wonderful outlet for boys with surplus amounts of energy. We had good leaders who generously gave their skills and time and they passed on their love of scouting. It was an environment in which many of us learnt basic survival skills but also how to work and share with others in a common enterprise. For those of us who were living in an urban environment—like the council flats where I grew up—this was an invaluable opportunity. I hope that today’s young people will have the same opportunity and that parishes will continue to encourage this important ministry.”

Most Rev Patrick Kelly - Archbishop of Liverpool - VISION

“Scouting

It is clear that our Lord encouraged conversation. He rejoiced to be with others and to give them his full attention; he lingered over meals they shared. Scouting encourages conversation: shared tasks; time together in fun and challenge too. Its values are true to the new life brought to us by our Lord.”



Most Rev Vincent Nichols - Archbishop of Birmingham - GOSPEL OF LIFE



“Scouting played an important part in my youth. I was lucky enough to be a member of parish scout troop. It taught us comradeship, loyalty, and gave us a great sense of adventure. Friends I made in the scouts are still with me today. So scouting gave me a real sense of the joy of life and of having targets to aim for, all in the context of our Catholic Faith.”

Most Rev Kevin McDonald - Archbishop of Southwark - GOSPEL VALUES

“Being a Christian means recognising that we have commitments and responsibilities. These are encapsulated in the great commandment of Love of God and Love of Neighbour. Scout Law involves the promises to do your duty to God, your Country, and other people. Abiding by the Scout Law is a way of instilling into our young people a habit of mind of responsibility and commitment to God and to our fellow men and women. For this reason the Scout movement continues to merit our encouragement and support.”

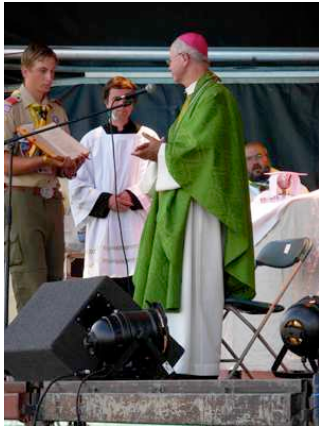


Most Rev Peter Smith - Archbishop of Cardiff - ETHOS OF SCOUTING

“The Gospel calls us to live life to the full and always to think of others before ourselves. I believe that Scouting provides an exciting and adventurous way for young people to learn how to work together to achieve their full potential, and to learn how to serve others with love and respect.”



Rt Rev Edwin Regan - Representative of the National Catholic Scout Fellowship on the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales - RECOMMENDATION OF SCOUTING



“I am delighted that this flier will raise the profile of Catholic Scouting in a world that can be so confusing for young people. Catholic Scouting helps to build a strong sense of Catholic identity and encourages young people to develop in a holistic and holy way! Hopkins reminds us that ‘The whole world is charged with the grandeur of God’ – Catholic Scouting opens young eyes to the glory of God present in creation.

I thank all those adults who give so generously of their time and talents to this important Youth Ministry in the life of the Church.

If Scouting had been around in Nazareth in the time of Our Lord, I am sure he would have been a Scout!

“SCOUTING IS THE CHURCH’S BEST KEPT SECRET; IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH MINISTRY. WHAT COULD IT OFFER YOUR PARISH?”



Further information:

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Members website:

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/>

If you would like to join the National Catholic Scout Fellowship (NCSF) as an individual or as a group , please contact the Chairman or the Treasurer.

If you would like to contribute to the work of the National Catholic Scout Fellowship (NCSF), cheques should be made out to the NCSF and sent to the Treasurer (above)

Thank you for taking the time to look at this flier.