

Bishop honors scouts from throughout the diocese for fulfilling their Duty to God

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

Uniformed Scouts and leaders embodied the blend of scouting and faith at an award ceremony April 19 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller.

The 200 youth and their adult leaders had come together to receive Catholic diocesan awards in recognition of excellent work in religious programs.

Bishop Kevin Vann, who presided at the ceremony, told the assembly the religious scouting programs value hard work in and of itself, and also in the context of faith.

"In this octave of Easter, each day is a celebration of the resurrection of Christ," the bishop said. He explained that in the context of Easter, and of the day's Gospel reading (*John 20:19-31*), "Catholic Scouting becomes a place that says, 'Do not persist in your unbelief.'"

"Diocesan scouting," he



said, "is a place where children learn not only what it means to be a Scout, but what it means to be a person of faith."

Presented this year were the *Family of God Award*, for girls 7 to 9 years old, designed to help discover the presence of God in their daily lives; and the *Hail Mary Award*, for first and second graders, which worked to recognize God's presence in home and community.

Third and fourth grade girls received the *Holy Family Award*, for learning to recognize God in the home and community. Girls 9 to 11 years earned the *I Live my Faith Award*, which teaches appreciation of God and religion in daily life, and encourages participation in the community of faith.

The *Marian Medal*, for young women aged 12 to 15 years, recognizes active involvement in understanding Mary as the model of openness and spirituality, and development of a Christian spirit of hope, faith, and joyful Christian community.

Boys who are Tiger and Wolf Cub Scouts earned the *Light of Christ*, by studying the sacraments, while Cub and Webelo Scouts received the *Parvuli Dei Award*, a national emblem that



recognizes advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation.

Sixth to eighth-grade Boy Scouts earned the *Ad Altare Dei Award*, preparing to take their places as maturing Catholics and Americans; and the *Pope Pius XII Award* recognized scouts' potential to develop as leaders in church and community events.

This year the *Elizabeth Ann Seton Award* was given to Patricia Glasgow, for her work helping youth develop their spiritual lives. That award was inaugurated in 1980 to recognize the meritorious contributions of adults who serve Catholic youth through Girl Scouts and Camp Fire.

The *Bronze Pelican*, a diocesan recognition presented to those who have made significant contribution to Catholic Scouting, this year went to Terry Bachman, of Troop 32 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and Victor Nguyen, of Troop and Crew 304 at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Fort Worth.

In recognition of outstanding contribution to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in the Boy Scouts of America, the St. George Emblem was



given to Bill Bellman of St. Jude Parish in Mansfield; John Houters of St. Vincent De Paul Parish in Arlington; and Richard Mathews of St. Francis of Assisi Parish at Grapevine.

A National Catholic Quality Unit Award, *Pope Paul VI*, was presented to Pack 32, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Qualifications for that honor were adult leadership response to training, with Scouts participating in the religious emblem programs of their particular levels in scouting.

The prestigious *Gold Medallion Award*, with its distinctive banner, was presented this year to Crew 304 of St. Ignatius

School. Accepting the banner were Oanh Nguyen, founder of the school, and Victor Nguyen, principal.

The *Gold Medallion* was established to identify and recognize the outstanding Catholic Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, and Venturing Crew in each of the 15 episcopal regions of the United States. Winners are chosen because they excel at providing youth with quality religious activities, religious emblem participation, outdoor activities, and special events that encompass the religious, vocational, and educational aspects of Catholic Scouting.

Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting offers counselor training

The Fort Worth Catholic Committee on Scouting will conduct two *Ad Altare Dei* counselor, cub coordinator, and refresher trainings May 12 and 20 from 7 to 9:30 p.m., and May 16 and 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Education Wing of St. Philip the Apostle Church, located at 1897 W. Main Street in Lewisville, or at a trainer's home, depending on the size of the group.

Applicant must bring a "Religious Emblem Counselor Application" signed by their pastors, which can be found by looking on page 10 of *Emblems Program*, along with other information. Applicants must also have a current youth protection certification from the Boy Scouts of America, and a current "Keeping Children Safe" certification from the diocese, and should bring a Scout and counselor handbook for the program they wish to be trained

in, and a highlighter.

According to event organizers, certified counselors not trained in the last two years are expected to come to the first hour of any period as part of their Continuing Education in Religious Emblems. This time will focus on the administrative aspects of the program, not how to conduct classes. Based on situations in the past this training is most necessary. Pack/Parish Cub religious coordinator training is included in the first hour of training.

There will be no training at the Scout retreat in the fall and pre-registration is required. To RSVP, e-mail Tom Moore at tommyjoe2@verizon.net. Other dates and locations may be available based on demand. Dates for the *Pope Pius XII* medals will be scheduled on an "as needed" basis. Please contact Tom Moore to coordinate.

