DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

MINUTES OF MEET1NG

March 26, 2023

Present: Deacon Charles Koressel, Bill Noll, Joe Dickinson, Tom Elsner, Deacon Tony Schapker, Matthew Kremer, Jim Voelker, .

The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer by Chairman Bill Noll at 2.05 PM at Good Shepherd Parish.

The minutes of the meeting of December 4, 2022 were approved by proper motion and voice vote.

Financial Report: There was no financial report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities: The Scout/Venturer Retreat was held on March 4, 2023 at Good Shepheard Parish with 10 scouts, 4 leaders, and 6 staff members. There were few evaluations, but in genera;. they were positive. There was a lengthy discussion of how to improve the attendance as the numbers have been decreasing for the past ten years. Suggestions included setting the date and place early before a unit plans their yearly activities (by the end of June), and then calling and talking to the leaders. Deacon Charlie recommended seeing if we could get St. Meinrad as a location as that was considered a draw in the past. When he checked before COVID, St. Meinrad talked about limiting it to 50 participants. Also inviting the Girl Scouts would be a way to increase numbers. Deacon Tony will check with St. Meinrad to find out what might be possible. The cost of having it at the Catholic Center was also a concern. It will be discussed further at the June meeting or an earlier Zoom meeting if necessary. Other possible locations include St. Joseph (Jasper) or Rivet High School in Vincennes.

The Faith Day was held on February 18, 2023 at Good Shepherd Parish with 11 Cubs and one Brownie, in attendance. Evaluations were generally favorable. Leaders from the Washington area of the diocese discussed the possibility of having a Faith Day there.

The Faith Day and Retreat reflected the emphasis on the Eucharist Renewal Initiative with the talks, activities, Eucharistic Miracle Exhibit, and patch. Work was done on the NCCS Eucharistic Adoration Activity Patch at the Retreat. Joe Dickinson will follow up with leaders of those attending to see if it was completed.

A possibility for next year’s theme is “I am with you always” (Matt 28:20). There is a logo design for the Diocesan Eucharist Adoration initiative that could be used for the patch. The theme chosen will continue to be consistent the Eucharist Adoration initiative.

Emblems: Bill Noll gave the information from the final report of Jack Martin before leaving the position at the end of February. So far in 2023 there are 17 Light of Christ and 15 Parvuli Dei emblems earned. In addition, there are 20 Light of Christ, 20 Parvuli Dei and 5 Ad Altare Dei in progress.

Membership: Jim Voelker was pleased to announce that the pack at Rsurrection Parish had been re-chartered. One unit award, the Pope Paul VI, was given to Pack 362. Unit recognitions neeed to be promoted.

Vocations: Matthew Kremer was disappointed he was still not able to get any eligible scouts to join the St. Dominic Savio emblem. He will continue to keep contacting those scouts who earn the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII emblems.

Training (Scouter Spiritual Development): Joe Dickinson reported he had one leader to take the training at the Retreat, and it went quite well.

Communications: Joe Dickinson said he would be updating the website after this meeting but encouraged any members who saw any errors or had suggestions for improvement to contact him. The committee was pleased with the articles and photos in the recent *Message* about the Faith Day and Retreat.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Noll indicated there are no new members.

There were no new applications for the Father Kreilein Endowment Award, Bill is going to try to promote the award to units.

The next St. George Trek will be in 2024. We will need to promote it including at the Scout/Venturer Retreat.

The Pastor Guidelines for the Diocese of Evansville is still have been puton hold due to possible re-chartering issues with units.

Bill noted that the Committee had been earned the NCCS Quality Committee Recognition for 2022.

Bill mentioned to the committee that Pastor approval is required for both the Bronze Pelican (verbal approval) and St. George (signature on application form). We have been lax in fulfilling this requirement in the past several years.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Voelker and Bill Noll, will attend the Council’s Ideal Year of Scouting on May 4, to promote Emblems and the activities of the DCCS.

Although the committee was in favor of including Girl Scouts at the Retreat, it was decided to hold further discussion untilmore definite plans for the 2024 Retreat are made because of possible limitations on the number of participants.

The next DCCS regular meeting will be held on June 11, 2023 at 1:00 PM at St. John the Baptist Parish (Newburgh).

CHAPLAIN’S COMMENTS

The meeting was closed with a prayer and blessing by Deacon Tony at 4:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Dickinson