DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 30, 2014

Present: Bill Noll, Joe Dickinson, Deacon Charles Koressel, Chad Sergesketter, Kevin Sergesketter, Tom Elsner, Tom Dieter, Jack Martin, Emily Thompson, Jim Schmitt, Jim Voelker, Lori Robinson, Rose Luebbehusen

Excused: Mike Harris

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Noll at 1:00 PM in the library of St. Theresa School. He opened with a reflection on the Gospel reading for March 26th (Matthew 5:17-19) from the Notre Dame website. The writer was inspired by what he had seen in the faith of young people who following Jesus and extending His teachings by living them.

The minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2013 were approved by proper motion and voice vote. It is also noted that today’s meeting was originally scheduled for March 2, 2014 at the end of the Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat, but was postponed until today because the Retreat ended a day early because of a winter ice storm.

Financial Report: No financial report was given. The report on the recently completed Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat is not yet complete.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Emblems: Mike Harris was not present, but Jim Schmitt did report that two adult emblems were presented this year. He and others commented that we need to identify other worthy individuals and recognize them through this program. Mike is still providing training as needed for the religious emblems.

Membership: Jim Voelker handed out a written report on the number of unit awards--Helping Hands (13) and Pope Paul VI (7)—given this year. As chairman of the committee on religious emblems for the Buffalo Trace Council, he also gave out information on religious emblems in the Council--both Catholic and non-Catholic. He pointed out that now females in crews are allowed to earn the Ad Altare Dei. Also each Boy Scout rank will now have a duty to God requirement.

Vocations: Jack Martin volunteered to chair this committee which had been vacant since the death of Jack Thompson. He reported that there were eight new members of the Order of St. Dominic Savio—one a female which is a first. Twenty-four members helped with and did a good job with the Scout Retreat. Ten members helped with the Cub Scout Faith Day. Next vocation day is January 10, 2015 although there will be a meeting of new candidates sometime in December.

Activities: This chair is still vacant. Jack Martin reported on the Cub Scout Faith Day held on March 8, 2013 at the Catholic Center. He was pleased to announce that Kathy and Ken Egler who coordinated it this year were joining the DCCS and would coordinate it again next year (March 7, 2015). It was well attended and went well. There were 81 Cubs and 46 adults representing 15 packs. Jack submitted an article concerning Faith Day and it was published in *The Message*.

Chad Sergesketter reported on the Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat which he felt was successful even though it ended on Saturday night, March 1st, because of a predicted ice storm. There were 101 scouts (including 4 female Venturers) and 53 adults in attendance. This number was less than in previous years that continued a gradual decrease over the years from 190 in 2010. Chad felt that the new site of the Catholic Center worked out well and with this year’s experience it should be easier next year. He appreciated the cooperation of members of the DCCS who worked on the Retreat and the staff of the Catholic Center who were quite helpful. The programs worked well although it was mentioned that some of the youth groups were too large which made certain activities more difficult. The music ministry involving a number of St. Dominic Savio members went well and promises to be so for the future. Chad has not yet tabulated the formal comments from those who attended but noted that there were not a lot of responders this year. Joe submitted an article concerning the Retreat and it was also published in *The Message.* Chad also brought up the idea of pursuing the creation of a special Council Shoulder Strip just for the DCCS which could be given to attendees of Catholic scout functions. The committee thought it was as good idea. Chad will discuss the possibility with the Buffalo Trace Council. Next year the Retreat will be held on March 13-15.

Training (Spiritual Formation): Tom Dieter reported that five new scouters completed the recent Spiritual Formation Course at the Retreat. He thought it went well although he would have liked to have had more participants. He thanked Joe Dickinson and Cris Goldbach for their help. He also said that because of health problems he would like somebody to take over the chair of this committee. He will keep on until someone can be found. He has one person in mind that he is going to ask.

Communications: Joe Dickinson reported that the DCCS web page is not currently up-to-date. It was pointed out that the map of the Diocese and the Boy Scout Councils representing the various Counties within may have an error. Joe will review this. After the minutes of this meeting are completed, he will send the latest updates to Steve Dabrowski. The webpage can still be found at:

<http://www.evansville-diocese.org/youth/scouting/Home%20Page.html>.

Chapel Maintenance: Tom Elsner will be visiting the chapel soon to see what is needed. In the meantime he has finished a new cover for the podium. There are plans to install the French drain on the camp workday on May 17, 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Noll announced that our DCCS had received the Quality Diocese Award for 2013. He will order patches for those who want them. He thanked the committee for their work in this achievement for another year.

NEW BUSINESS

There will be a St George’s Trek at Philmont in July 2015. The committee will consider interested candidates, and Jack Martin will form a sub-committee under Vocations to make a choice. Members of St. Dominic Savio will be especially encouraged to apply. The DCCS will pay the cost of the Trek. Participants will pay their own transportation.

Bill also announced that the Biennial Conference will be held in San Diego, California, in April 2014.

Jim Voelker will be representing the DCCS at the annual Ideal Year of Scouting put on by the Buffalo Trace Council on May 1, 2014. Kevin Sergesketter encouraged others to help out in presenting what the DCCS does through handouts of dates of upcoming events and pictures of past activities. It was suggested that free registration for Cub Scout Faith Day or the Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat could be given out as a door prize.

The next meeting will be held in the Elizabeth Room of the main church at St. John the Baptist Parish (Newburgh) on June 29, 2014 at 2:00.

CHAPLAIN’S COMMENTS

Deacon Charlie expressed his appreciation for the work done in the two recent retreats. Since the closing Mass with Bishop Thompson on Sunday had to be cancelled because of the weather, he was happy the Bishop did visit the Retreat on Saturday afternoon and witnessed some of the activities.

He closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing about 2:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R. Dickinson, Jr.

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