



Girl Scouts®

Catholic Scouting Committee

Diocese of Manchester

153 Ash Street

Manchester NH 03104



Boy Scouts

Tel: (603) 669-3100 FAX: (603) 669-0377

Websites: www.catholicnh.org/scout & www.facebook.com/nhscoutretreat

Re: Girl Scouts & the Diocese of Manchester

Dear Brother Priests and all Colleagues in Ministry,

August 16, 2017

On April 2, 2014, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth (LMFLY) released a report of an investigation of and conversation with the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) which took place from 2013 to early 2014. The purpose was to provide information and understanding to Bishops, parents and leaders in order to provide guidance with respect to Catholic participation in and with Girl Scouts.

Information about the Background for the USCCB investigation: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/who-we-teach/youth/background-on-gsusa-and-usccb-conversations.cfm>

Answers to Questions that were posed by the USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/who-we-teach/youth/catholic-scouting-questions.cfm>

The Girl Scouts' statement about the dialogue with the USCCB: <http://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/girl-scouts-and-faith/catholic-church-relationship.html>

As a result of this investigation and dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Girl Scouts, it was discovered that while the Girl Scouts of the USA as a national entity do not have formal ties with organizations that would be contrary to the values of the Catholic Church, individual Girl Scout Councils have the freedom to decide with whom they may choose to collaborate or form relationships. Therefore it was recommended for individual Dioceses to establish "Memorandums of Understandings" with individual Girl Scout Councils making a pledge about those relationships, thus allowing for Dioceses and Girl Scout Councils to partner, as they have for 105 years since 1912, focusing on serving the girls, and giving the church the continuing opportunity to foster the personal and spiritual development of the girls and their leaders.

On Sept. 10, 2014, the Diocese of Manchester and the local Girl Scout Council (Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains) signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" based on the findings of the USCCB. Recently, on Aug. 16, 2017, we renewed and updated our "Memorandum of Understanding": Here is a copy for your reference: <https://www.catholicnh.org/assets/Documents/Family-Youth/Scouts/GirlScouts-MemoOfUnderstanding.pdf>

In the Diocese of Manchester our Catholic Scouting Committee has worked collaboratively with the local Girl Scout Council (Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains) for 40 years - since 1977. Through the years, the Girl Scouts have assisted the Diocese of Manchester in promoting Catholic religious awards and our annual Scout Retreat, while parishes and Catholic schools have provided meeting spaces for Girl Scout Troops. As a result, thousands of girls have been able to grow in their faith through scouting. This collaboration will be able to continue based on the principles outlined in the recently renewed "Memorandum of Understanding".

For more information about Scouting in the Diocese of Manchester, please check out our Website: www.catholicnh.org/scout and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/nhscoutretreat

For a history of the relationship between the Girl Scouts and the Catholic Church: <http://www.nfcym.org/nccgscf/>

For more information about the Catholic Church and Girl Scouting: <https://www.facebook.com/NCCGSCF/> ; <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/girl-scout-leaders-travel-to-rome-for-audience-with-pope-francis-attend-the-international-catholic-conference-on-guiding-world-council-300105249.html> ; and: <http://www.girlscoutsaz.org/en/about-our-council/news/2015/pope-francis-meets-w.html>

Any further questions, please feel free to contact me,

Blessings,

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