

Recommended Religious Emblem Presentations

Unfortunately, the formal awards ceremony at the Cathedral Basilica scheduled for March 7, 2021 has been canceled, however, formal presentation and recognition of the Scouts that have earned their religious emblems is very important.

The Committee is providing some recommended procedures below for you to recognize your religious emblems recipients in your own Pack, Troop or Parish ceremonies.

According to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting **Religious Emblems Reference Manual**, "The first rule in preparing recognition ceremonies is to keep them simple but impressive. The second is to remember that the ceremony is for the youth."

The Reference Manual (available at this link: <http://nccs-bsa.org/pdf/ReligiousEmblemsReferenceManual.pdf>) contains several recommendations for various types of recognition ceremonies beginning on Page 42 and excerpts from those recommendations are included below for your convenience.

There are three basic types of recognition ceremonies that are recommended in lieu of a Cathedral ceremony:

- Unit Presentations
- Parish presentations as part of regular Sunday Mass
- Parish presentations as part of Scout Sunday Mass

UNIT PRESENTATIONS

These emblems and adult awards can be presented at your Pack Blue and Gold ceremony or your Troop/Crew Court of Honor and ideally would be presented by your Pack/Troop/Crew Chaplain or your Pastor.

The following sample script could be read at the time of presentation:

-- <Presenter>:

We would like to take a few minutes of your time to recognize several young Scouts who lived up to the challenge of doing their Duty to God.

For Cub Scout Emblems: *They have taken the time to work towards a deeper understanding of their faith with their parents.*

For Scout/Venture Emblems: *They have taken the time to work towards a deeper understanding of their faith in guided small groups.*

They had no requirement to spend this time but chose to do so. For this, they have earned recognition.

If the presentation will be made by the Pastor, include the following blessing ceremony:

If I could have the servers bring forward the emblems for Fr. <pastor's name> blessing, <Names of additional leaders helping>, could you come forward to assist with handing out the emblems? (One leader hands the emblem to the scout, who shakes Father's hand (or alter as needed for COVID). The second leader directs the youth to where to stand for a group photo.

Servers bring tray to Father, who blesses emblems:

"Almighty God and Father, look on us in love and mercy as we gather in Your name. Bless these emblems. Help those who wear them to wear them proudly as a sign of Your goodness and of their love and devotion to You. Keep these Scouts always in Your care as they continue growing in wisdom, age and grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN."

For Blue and Gold ceremony:

-<Presenter>

I will ask each Cub Scout earning the Light of Christ emblem to come forward as I call their name and remain at the front.

Presenter calls the Light of Christ participants forward and they are handed their emblem by their adult leader.

Scout names

Not present, but also earning this emblem is <name>

Scouts, you may be seated.

-<Presenter>

"Parvuli Dei" means "Children of God." The objectives of this program are to help the Scout develop an awareness of God's love for each of His special, uniquely created beings; to help the Scout understand their identity as an important member of their family, their community, and as a member of the family of God; and to aid the Scout in their awareness of the responsibilities that grow out of God's love for us.

I will ask each Webelos Scout earning the Parvuli Dei emblem to come forward as I call their name and remain at the front.

Scout names

Not present, but also earning this emblem is <name>

Scouts, you may be seated.

For Scout/Venture Court of Honor:

-<Presenter>

“Ad Altare Dei” means “To the Altar of God”. This program is designed for Scouts of the Catholic Church with the goal of helping them to grow in their faith. By that we mean relating the knowledge of our faith – through the seven Sacraments, in particular – to the ordinary experiences of the Scout’s life.

I will ask each Scout/Venturer earning the Ad Altare Dei emblem to come forward as I call their name and remain at the front.

Scout names

Not present, but also earning this emblem is <name>

-<Presenter>

The Pope Pius XII program is based on vocations and is conducted within a peer group of Scout or Venture Crew members.

The goals of this program are: to have them examine how being a Christian affects their daily lives in the real world; to challenge them to evaluate their personal talents and abilities in the light of a possible choice of vocation or ministry that relates in some way to belonging to, and becoming more active in, the Catholic Christian faith community; to give them an opportunity to share their faith, and practice their religion among peers, while receiving guidance and feedback attuned to the ideals of Scouting.

I will ask each Scout/Venturer earning the Pope Pius XII emblem to come forward as I call their name and remain at the front.

Scout names

Not present, but also earning this emblem is <name>

Scouts, you may be seated.

-<Presenter> Thank you all for your time.

PARISH PRESENTATION – REGULAR MASS

If your Unit chooses to present these emblems at a regular Sunday mass, each Unit should work with their Pastor to determine what type of ceremony works best for them, but the following suggestions should be useful for planning your individual ceremonies.

After the *Prayer after Communion* and before the *Concluding Rite*, the lector calls up the recipients by name. Their parents accompany the Scouts. Both stand in the sanctuary facing the congregation. The Celebrant addresses the congregation in these or similar words:

“If we want to be happy, we must come to know, to love, and to serve God and others. Scouts recognize that they have a duty to God and for a Scout to be reverent. These Scouts have made a serious effort in growing in their faith, knowledge, and service of God. In recognition of their efforts, they are being presented with the [name of the emblem(s)] Religious Emblem.”

The Celebrant blesses the emblems using one of the recommended blessings below, or something similar:

Blessing #1:

“Almighty God and Father, look on us in love and mercy as we gather in Your name. Bless these [emblem names or just emblems]. Help those who wear them to wear them proudly as a sign of Your goodness and of their love and devotion to You. Keep these Scouts always in Your care as they continue growing in wisdom, age and grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.”

Blessing #2:

“O Lord bless these emblems in Your name. May those who wear them keep faith with You and live long lives of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.”

Blessing #3:

“Almighty Father, we ask Your blessing on these medals made by human hands. We see these medals as a sign of our Scout’s interest in our faith. We see these medals as signs of their growth in the knowledge of our faith and by their practice of our faith. This interest, growth and practice are shown by the work they did in acquiring this emblem. We ask Your continued strength and guidance in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.”

The Celebrant presents the emblem to the Scout’s parent to pin on the Scout’s uniform shirt (or the celebrant may pin the emblem on the Scout himself). The celebrant presents the pocket card or certificate to the Scout and congratulates them.

If there is a parent’s miniature pin to be presented, the celebrant adds:

“Acknowledging the role the parents play in their child’s religious formation, we are happy to recognize them with this miniature pin.”

At this time the Scout pins the mother or father.

PARISH PRESENTATION - SCOUT SUNDAY OBSERVANCE

Many Units present emblems in their own Parishes on the official Scout Sunday (Sunday in the week that contains February 7th). Not only does this recognize the Scouts achievement of the emblems but it also promotes the emblems programs and shows the parish community the religious aspect of Scouting.

Suggestions on how Scouts and Scouters can be involved in a parish Sunday liturgy for Scout Sunday Observances are given below:

Entrance:

The Scouts, dressed in their full uniforms, can do the following:

- Greet the faithful at the doors of the church.
- Pass out programs, bulletins and/or missalettes. Process in with the American, Papal and Unit flags.
- Carry in the cross and candles.
- Act as altar servers.

Liturgy of the Word:

The Scouts can do the following:

- The readings (with the proper preparation).
- The intentions for the Prayers of the Faithful. These or similar intentions could be added:
 - a. For Scouts and Scouters throughout the world that the Holy Spirit may help them to live up to the ideals of the Scouting movement, we pray to the Lord.**
 - b. That Scouts everywhere may act as brothers and sisters toward one another and may work for peace, we pray to the Lord.**
- The Homily could relate the Scripture of the day to the Scouting movement.
- After the Homily or before the Concluding Rite, the unit leaders can be called forward and commissioned to fulfill their responsibilities.

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Scouts can do the following:

- Take up the collection
- Bring up the gifts of bread and wine and possibly one or more symbolic gifts such as a Scout emblem, religious emblems, booklets and logbooks, etc.
- Renew Scout Oath or Promises
- If adult Scouters are Eucharistic Ministers, they can help with communion

Emblems presentation ceremony:

Follow suggestions above for Parish presentation of emblems at a regular Sunday Mass.

Other Suggestions:

- Scout musicians and singers could form a music ministry for that day
- A Scout or leader could give a short witness about what Duty to God means to him or her
- The Scouts could help clean the church after the Mass