

Dear friends of Catholic Scouting,

The BSA religious emblem program is designed to encourage the enrichment of each scout's faith within their chosen religious denomination. A key tenant of our mission at the Catholic Committee on Scouting Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese is to facilitate the Roman Catholic religious emblems program for scouting youth and adults within our diocese. We believe that it is critically important that each recipient receive recognition commensurate with the considerable effort required to earn each religious emblem. For this reason, we are changing the format in which religious emblems earned by Catholic youth will be presented going forward.

Effective March 1, 2021 the religious emblems earned by youth will be held until the 2022 emblem ceremony with Bishop Johnston. At that ceremony, the emblems will be blessed and presented by the bishop.

This change will bring about a new tradition in the presentation of the Catholic religious emblems earned, and will allow each scout of the diocese to come together alongside their peers in celebration and recognition of the effort put forth to earn their religious emblem. This change will also allow the scouting youth in our diocese to experience the same religious emblems presentation format already in place in virtually every other Catholic diocese in the United States.

The presentation of the *Bronze Pelican* and *St. George* adult emblems will remain the same.

Religious Emblem Counselors, Pack and Troop Chaplains and parents will still follow the procedure in place to order and pay for emblems on the CCS website: www.catholicscouting-kcsj.com. The paperwork will still be sent to me, and the emblems will be reserved for the ceremony upon receipt. They will no longer be mailed to scouting units for presentation.

The deadline for inclusion in the 2022 ceremony is January 31, 2022.

Please contact Mary Stoner, Religious Emblems Chair with any questions.