

The Raven

St. Benedict

Newsletter

Summer 2015



A role model for participation in scouting is the Most Reverend our own Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone, the Bishop for the Diocese of Charleston, who has had a substantial personal involvement with scouting which

started when he was a camp chaplain during his seminary years. Later he served as chaplain for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and had an eight year term as chaplain of the International Catholic Committee of Scouting as well as serving as the Holy See's liaison for scouting programs. Over the years he has received numerous awards and recognition for his support of and participation in scouting including the Order of the Arrow, the Silver Antelope Award, the Brother Barnabas Founders Award and the first class of recipients of the Silver Saint George Emblem. Most recently he received the Silver Buffalo Award, the highest award given by the Boy Scouts of America National Council for distinguished service to youth.

When asked about his experience Bishop Guglielmone said:

"Scouting can provide an excellent youth ministry program for Catholic parishes." He went on to say: "These are difficult times for our young people. The aspects of self-identity, confidence and Christian leadership are all objects for growth in an environment that is wholesome, safe and effective. The ideals of scouting – for both girls and boys – fit perfectly with the goals of Catholic education and formation."



The Bishop continued by stating: "The love and respect of the outdoors and all God's creation are a major priority of scouting; peer education and leadership development flourish in its programs; faithful and responsible citizenship are constantly presented and encouraged; respect of all people and appreciation for cultural interaction abound; churches and other religious groups have real opportunities to educate scouts, of their own faith, through very effective religious emblem programs."

On adult involvement in scouting the Bishop observed: "Scouting provides a unique opportunity for strong, adult role models both in leadership and in mentoring opportunities."

Bishop Guglielmone commented: "The many religious programs offered by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting are valuable tools in the work of promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life." He said: "A large number of current seminarians in the United States were scouts; many of them Eagle scouts".



With active Girl and Boy Scout troops, and a Cub Scout pack in the planning stage, scouting is one of the fastest growing youth programs at St. Benedict parish as well as in the Diocese of Charleston, where the Bishop himself has an impressive background in scouting.

The Girl Scout troop was formed in 2013. There are currently 24 active members. All the girls are from St. Benedict's parish which is unique since most troops are organized through schools. Being comprised of all Catholic girls provides an opportunity to put into practice the Girl Scout promise which reads, in part, "On my honor, I will try to serve God....."

The troop meets twice each month. It is organized by age group which starts with Daisy and currently progresses to Brownie, Junior and Cadette. The girls come from grades K through 6.

As part of the East Cooper Service Unit, the St. Benedict Girl Scouts are into more than selling cookies – as good as they may be. They are actively involved in numerous community projects including Thanksgiving baskets for Hospice families; coupons for military troops; Christmas caroling at local nursing homes; baskets for new born babies at East Cooper Hospital as well as participating in Serve Saturday at St. Benedict.

The girls work toward "Journey" awards that link experience, discussion and ideas which they explore together. As the girls progress through the Girl Scout ranks their awards signify new levels of achievement, skill and leadership. At the present time the Brownies are completing the "world of water journey"

The troop's five leaders are Wendy Albano, Silvia Hanna, Susie Quinlivan, Cathi Rider, and Deanna Cunnane. Father Vincent is a regular visitor to troop meetings.

The St. Benedict Boy Scout troop was started in 2012 and currently has 42 participants. The boys meet once every week and have at least one outing each month. This ranges from backpacking, whitewater rafting, target shooting, to canoeing and other water activities.

All is not fun and games, however. The troop engages in numerous community services programs including assisting on Service Sunday at the church; participation in "beach sweep"; distributing water at the Cooper River Bridge Run; landscaping and clean-up at Mepkin Abbey; landscaping at Restore; and similar activities that benefit the community.

The St. Benedict troop currently has two Eagle scouts. Eight boys have achieved Life rank which is just before Eagle. Of them, five are actively working on their Eagle project, the last requirement before achieving that rank.

There are 30 adults who contribute to the success of the troop. They engage in everything from committee membership to merit badges counselors as well as volunteers who keep the administration and organization working smoothly.

The boys are led by a group of dedicated scoutmasters who include Jason Aleksak, Andy Fisher, George Forni, David Grant, Brendon Loiselle, Sean O'Toole, Robert Puckett, Kirk Taylor and Donald Zimmerman. The Charter Representative is Rick Ferencz who serves as the liaison between the troop and St. Benedict's. Father Vincent is the troop chaplain.

Next on the horizon for St. Benedict's scouting programs will be the formation of a Cub Scout troop for first to third grade boys.

Spotlight

As Tom and Ceil Chimento nurtured their lifetime of love for each other, they also gave everything they are to the people in their lives.

Ceil grew up in San Antonio, TX with six older brothers. Her mother died when she was a child, and Ceil attended an Ursuline boarding school and then entered an Ursuline convent. While a novice, Ceil took a sabbatical to help her father and his new wife after the birth of one of their children.

In 1956, Ceil came with her brother to Charleston and worked for the Charleston Planning Board. It was at a party at the Old Naval Base Officers' Club that she met Tom, a young Naval engineering officer and graduate of the US Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point). Ceil and Tom were married at St. John The Baptist Cathedral in 1958. The newlyweds moved temporarily to NY and then to CT, where they had two children. Tom was a civilian test engineer for an aircraft company and also continued to serve in the Naval Reserve Engineering Program.

Tom reported to the Charleston Naval Shipyard Design Division in 1961. The couple grew their family to four, but tragedy struck when a truck that backed up into a neighbor's yard on the Isle of Palms ended the life of their 18-month-old son Christopher, who was born on Christmas Day. With love to spare, the couple adopted



a baby girl and then welcomed into their family a three-day-old boy, born close to Christmas. They later adopted him, too. Ceil and Tom embraced a sixth child, becoming legal guardians of a teenage friend of one of their daughters. The couple's six children and seven grandchildren all live in SC, most nearby.

When Msgr. McLaughlin, pastor of Stella Maris, and Christ Our King Church asked Ceil to teach at Stella Maris/COK School, she consented and taught third grade for five years. In 1978, Tom accepted a two-year contract with the Department of Defense as Design Superintendent for the Naval Ship Repair Facility in the Philippines. With their two younger children in tow, off they went to Subic Bay where they lived overlooking the Harbor. They returned to Charleston when Tom accepted the position of Chief Design Engineer at the Charleston Naval Shipyard in 1980.

In 1988, Tom was asked to go back to Subic Bay for a second tour. It was during this stay in the Philippines that Ceil and Tom became very involved with the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa, now Blessed Teresa. Ceil and Tom themselves felt blessed to give wholehearted service to the poorest of the poor. Instead of simply enjoying life in the beautiful settings of Cubi Point, they pitched in with the Sisters who lived in a compound located in Olongapo City.

The Sisters' compound contained an infirmary, orphanage, chapel and living quarters. Ceil and the Sisters would drive up the mountains to help the locals who had no running water or sanitary facilities and lived in Nepa huts (bamboo shelters built on flimsy posts). They bathed the children in creeks and provided medical assistance. They also provided assistance to Muslim families in fishing villages. The Sisters indicated that the poverty in the Muslim sections of the Philippines was worse than in their native city of Calcutta. Ceil modified her Suzuki jeep to fit six Sisters in the back. Ceil worked tirelessly in the orphanage and taught the Sisters songs as they journeyed through the community in the jeep. Tom put the jeep to work by transporting sick people to the hospital. During the Christmas season, with other folks on the base, they helped the Sisters fill paper sacks with donated rice, sugar and beans for the poor people in Olongapo City. Families waited in lines exceeding two miles on Christmas Day for one of these sacks. Ceil met Mother Teresa when she visited Manila. Mother Teresa chose a location for her Manila Compound in close proximity to a garbage dump known as Smokey Mountain, since that's where the poorest gathered to pick through the trash. Ceil treasures a couple of letters she received from Mother Teresa.

After four years at Subic Bay, Tom was reassigned as Chief Engineer at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. In 1993, Tom retired, and the couple returned to the Isle of Palms. They moved to Awendaw 10 years ago and were anxious to find a parish closer than Stella Maris. Soon after meeting Msgr. Chet at the Cario middle school where he said Mass, Tom volunteered for the building committee and helped in the layout and design of the church. He and Ceil moved a mile from church, and Tom became the "on-site engineer" working with the architects and construction companies. Tom continues to assist the church in engineering and maintenance matters. A gardener all her life, Ceil tamed the church property, pulling up weeds and planting flowers (which she does to this day). She gathered statues, bought trees and put down pavers at the grotto by the lake. One day, as Ceil was planting flowers by the St. Benedict sign, Msgr. Chet introduced her to Father Dan who was visiting. "Here's the lady in charge of beautifying the church," he said. Her hands all grimy, Ceil demurred when Father extended his hand. "Give me that hand," stated Father Dan who is known to claim that Ceil is the reason he's at St. Benedict.

It's been an honor for him and Ceil to help the parish, Tom says. When people thank him, he responds in turn, "I thank you for letting us help." Ceil still sings with the choir and plays the piano at home. When they're in the car, Tom says, he'll start singing, and Ceil will chime right in. As if on cue, this splendid couple, married 57 years, did just that, sang together—a love song, of course.



St. Benedict News : New Mass Schedule effective Sunday, September 13

Saturday: 5:30 PM Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

Heart to Share

A holy heart is compelled to be a sharing heart and such a heart reflects the attributes of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We as a parish are so grateful for the 257 parishioners who recently volunteered to participate in many of the ministerial opportunities available here at St. Benedict parish. Thank you all for sharing the grace of your God given talents for the building of His Kingdom on earth and the greater glory of His name.