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To All Catholic Ministry Leadership in regards to Girl Scouts USA:

In light of recent questions regarding Catholic issues and their relationship to the programs of Girl Scouts of the USA, we would like to clarify that the role the Archdiocese of Detroit and the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) play in Scouting.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has given CYO administrative authority over all youth servicing programs that partner under Catholic auspices, including Girl Scouts of the USA. This includes administration of the Catholic Religious Emblems programs, providing counselor training for these programs, organizing retreats, days of reflection, and leader development, and administering Adult Awards for those serving in these programs. We are also available to help Catholic organizations organize new Scouting units.

At a national level, the programs we service are developed and administered under an operating agreement between the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and Girl Scouts of the USA, <http://girlscouts.org>. Each Girl Scout council, by agreement, provides local support and works in cooperation with respective Catholic units. The local Girl Scout Council, Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, is also the focal point for all forms of conflict resolution. Region 6 (MI/OH) NFCYM Girl Scout representatives are working in conjunction with GSSEM to address concerns regarding recent issues.

In a Catholic unit, leaders are to comply with current teaching on matters of faith and Catholic Social Teaching. Where Catholic girls are in troops of mixed faiths, parents should be advised of subject matter prior to presentation, and non-Catholic girls should be encouraged to seek the appropriate religious emblem of their faith. We also encourage respect for the faith tradition of each individual family.

Official statements regarding recent questions on the relationship between Catholic Scouting issues and Girl Scouts of the USA can be found on the website of the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts USA and Camp Fire USA at <http://www.nccgscf.org/faq>

Please feel free to contact us if you have further questions. We look forward to working with you in helping your girls receive their religious emblems.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Heath,
Executive Director,
Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)

Alan I. Tarlo Sr.,
Chairman, Archdiocese of Detroit/CYO
Catholic Committee on Scouting and
NFCYM Scouting Liaison -Region 6