



October 22, 2015

Dear Bishops,

Pope Francis held an inspiring audience with the International Catholic Conference on Guiding (ICCG) on June 26, 2015, in commemoration of the organization's 50th anniversary. Members of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) participated in this special celebration held at the Vatican.

In his message to more than 200 ICCG delegates, Pope Francis praised the work of the organization and said, "Education is, in fact, the indispensable means to enable girls to become active and responsible women, proud and happy of their faith in Christ lived in everyday life. Thus, they will participate in the building of a world permeated by the Gospel." Indeed, Catholic Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world enjoy a long history serving their faith, families, and communities, in order to make the world a better place.

International Catholic Conference on Guiding was founded in 1965 as an International Private Association of the Faithful in accordance with canon law, to serve girls reached by Member Organizations of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Today, ICCG reaches more than 2 million Catholic girls from 46 countries and is under the umbrella of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

We are pleased to present you this copy of ***A History of Catholic Girl Guides and Girl Scouts***, published in commemoration of ICCG's 50 year history and its growth as a Movement beginning with Pope Pius X.

In the United States, we have witnessed the powerful message of Pope Francis to share the love and mercy of Christ with all people. Catholic Girl Scouts can provide a way to augment the personal and spiritual growth of girls and their leaders as espoused in *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*. The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) provides catechetical resources for Catholic Girl Scouts in grades K-12 (see www.CatholicReligiousRecognitions.org for more information). We encourage you to contact the NFCYM for assistance in implementing these programs.

For more than 100 years, Girl Scouts of the USA and the Catholic Church have collaborated to serve millions of American Catholic families that have been part of the Girl Scouts Movement. We hope that you find ***A History of Catholic Girl Guides and Girl Scouts*** both enjoyable and informative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Maria Chávez".

Anna Maria Chávez, CEO
Girl Scouts of the USA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Caggiano".

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Episcopal Advisor, NFCYM