

Trek inspires Scouts to ponder their call

THE CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

SPARTANBURG—The challenge to continue the powerful, spiritual experience of the Bishop England Trek was accepted, and accomplished.

Returning recently from an 18-day hike with Scouts along the Foothills Trail in the Upstate, organizers expressed gratitude that they surpassed the challenge issued by Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone two years ago, when the event first began.

The Bishop England Trek is a collaborative effort of the Dioceses of Charleston and Savannah that seeks to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life among young Scouts.

"It is an opportunity for Scouts to experience backpacking within our own backyard," said Father Matthew Gray, Scouting chaplain for the Diocese of Charleston. "Hiking with priests and seminarians, they not only confront the hardships of the trail but also confront the hard question 'What does God want me to do with my life?'"

The teens are supported with daily Mass, prayer, vocations talks, and faith sharing with youth their own age, Father Gray said.

The event is named after Bishop John England and is patterned after the St. George Trek, an outdoor hiking and retreat experience established by Bishop Guglielmone about 25 years ago at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

This year attracted 16 participants, who gathered in Spartanburg on June 10 to begin their first day of the trek with a celebration of Mass.

Father Pablo Magione, vocations director for the Diocese of Savannah,



PROVIDED

Priests celebrate Mass for the Scouts along a scenic section of the Foothills Trail.

spoke to the Scouts and compared the trek to a spiritual pilgrimage to experience God and grow in spiritual life.

Each participant received a cross as a sign that he would use the hike as a personal pilgrimage to grow closer to God. They did this not only through prayer and spiritual growth, but also by facing challenges such as difficult terrain, exhaustion, dehydration and fatigue.

Every obstacle on the trail that one managed to overcome spoke of overcoming sin and temptation, organizers said.

In addition to Father Gray, adult advisers included Father Jason Adams, Diocese of Savannah Scout chaplain, Adorno Father Giovannie "Gio" Nunez, and two Adorno seminarians.

"I think it was a great opportunity for the Scouts to experience nature, solitude and silence away from the

noises of the world so that they could hear the call to which God is calling them," Father Gio said.

The trek concluded on June 18 with Mass at Oconee State Park, where parents were able to share the joy and success of the expedition.

In his homily, Bishop Guglielmone reminded the Scouts to continue to listen to God's call, always present in the silence of one's heart; and to maintain lessons in perseverance.

"It takes so much humility also for one to acknowledge difficulties on the trail and either pull off the trail or stop for rest to regain strength," the bishop said "An act of charity is shown when one stumbles and can't walk and others help. Charity indeed begins at home, but when we realize we are on the same pilgrimage in this world, we see the need of helping others."

Submitted by Jim Weiskircher

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

THE CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

The following is Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone's calendar for August:

Aug. 1-15—Out of office

Aug. 20-22—Provincial Meeting of Bishops and Priests for the Atlanta Province, Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston

Aug. 30—Lowcountry Community Dinner for Catholic Education, 6:30 p.m., St. Francis School's athletic center on Hilton Head Island

The Catholic Miscellany



**Most Rev.
Robert E. Guglielmone,**
Publisher

The Catholic Miscellany is successor to the United States Catholic Miscellany, the first national Catholic weekly newspaper, founded in 1822 by Most Rev. John England, first bishop of Charleston. The Catholic Miscellany tells the Good News, teaches the Gospel, inspires the faithful, and connects the community.

Deirdre C. Mays, Editor
editor@charlestondiocese.org
Christina Lee Knauss, Reporter
cknauss@charlestondiocese.org
Amy Wise Taylor, Reporter
ataylor@charlestondiocese.org
Caroline Lindsey, Page Designer
clindsey@charlestondiocese.org
Kelly Hargett, Advertising
khargett@charlestondiocese.org
Lauren Ketelhut, Subscriptions
lketelhut@charlestondiocese.org

SUBMISSIONS

The Catholic Miscellany is published biweekly on Thursday. News and advertising copy must be received at least three weeks before publication date. For complete submission guidelines, please visit our website.

MAILING ADDRESS: 901 Orange Grove Road
Charleston, SC 29407

PHONE: 843-261-0522

FAX: 843-804-9462

WEB: www.themiscellany.org

POLICY

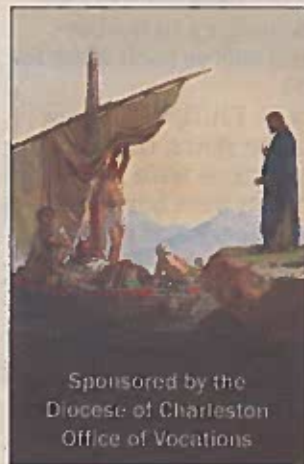
The Catholic Miscellany reserves the right to edit or reject any advertising, editorial copy or photos submitted to the newspaper. The Catholic Miscellany is not responsible for any unsolicited articles or photographs. Advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views or endorsements of The Catholic Miscellany, the Diocese of Charleston or the Bishop of Charleston.

MEMBERSHIPS

Award-winning member of the Catholic Press Association and the South Carolina Press Association.

The Catholic Miscellany (USPS 556820) is published at a subscription cost of \$17.50 per year at the Diocese of Charleston (sccatholic.org), 901 Orange Grove Road, Charleston, SC 29407. Periodicals postage paid at Charleston, SC 29407.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address notices to 901 Orange Grove Road, Charleston, SC 29407. Subscribers should send address changes to old and new parishes. (ISSN 1053-6558)



"Do not be afraid; henceforth thou shalt be a fisher of men." -Luke 5:10

Men's Discernment Retreat

Saturday, July 28, 2018 | 9 a.m.- Noon
Transfiguration Catholic Church in Blythewood

Come to a special Discernment Retreat for men considering the priesthood!

For more information or to register, contact Dan Lord at dlord@charlestondiocese.org.

Sponsored by the
Diocese of Charleston
Office of Vocations