



ICCS - CICS - CICE - IKKP

# CIRCULAR *Letter*

November 2009



## From the World ICCS Chaplain

Greetings to all my ICCS brothers and sisters,

I consider myself truly blessed and in awe of the responsibility of being named world

chaplain for the ICCS. I am happy to serve because the Church and Scouting have always been an important part of my life. As the Church and Scouting have given me much, I see this as a chance to give back.

As I reflect on the experience of being a scout in my parish's troop, I am grateful for all the wonderful, faith-filled people I came to know. Scouting helped to form my character. It taught me so much about many things such as nature, teamwork, service, positive values and the goodness of people. Scouting also encouraged me to acquire skills such as swimming and outdoor adventure, activities which still enrich my life. In some ways Scouting was an extension of my family life.

Scouting also had a beneficial effect on my spiritual formation. I recall fondly the outdoor Masses on Sundays and Holy Days at Scout camp. Grace before meals and the leader's words of inspiration at the campfire also showed that faith is lived at home and away. God is in nature too. I try to make these opportunities possible for the next generations.

In more recent years, I have become acquainted with many of you through our mutual involvement in the Church and the Scouting Movement. We have worked together on various Church and Scouting programs, projects and events around the world. Scouts enjoy a special bond in this great brotherhood of Scouting. Those of us who are also share common faith, are part



of an even greater community, the Body of Christ. I look forward to meeting many of you whom I have not yet met.

We face some challenges. But with a spirit of Christian love and Scouting fraternity, we can move forward. I hope to make relationships an important emphasis during the next years. I would like to see the strengthening of the bonds between all ICCS member associations, new and old. I will endeavor to strengthen the bonds that knit us together as one great big united Catholic fellowship. I would like us to be a real sign to the world of peace and unity. Also would it not be wonderful if we gave more youths a chance to be scouts in a solid program according to the vision of BP and with a strong connection with the Church?

May the Great Master of all scouts, watch over us and keep us in His Care.

*Rev. Leo A. LeBlanc*

## Dom Hélder Câmara (1909-1999) Prophet, forerunner and scout friend



In 1986 Dom Hélder Câmara, former Bishop of Recife in the North-East of Brazil, was honoured with the membership of the "Brotherhood of Saint George" by the ICCS Steering Committee. One year before, just when he had resigned from his bishopric of Recife, he has been the key note speaker of the ICCS Worldseminar in Benediktbeuern, Germany, in August 1985. He spent almost a week with the ICCS participants. I remember this event intensively: the appealing atmosphere of an old Benedictine monastery (then a college of the Salesians of Don Bosco), colourful and elaborate buildings from the time of Baroque, a dreamlike summer and all over the week music. Music by the valuable organ of the big church when we had our prayers and services and – more worldly – by the

singing at night under the vaults within the cloister, accompanied by guitars and the accordion of the unforgettable National Chaplain from Portugal, Filipe Vieira. And Dom Hélder Câmara joined us at night singing and playing the guitar also by himself

and having small and intimate dialogues with many of the participants. He gave us in Benediktbeuern a spiritual based orientation for an option for the poor, expressively for children and youngsters. This helped ICCS to work in its next Worldseminar 1999 in Durban / South Africa on a clear platform of social responsibility what then was expressed as a central dimension of ICCS commitment in a new Charter, in the Statutes and actually in a Statement of Identity of ICCS.

Dom Hélder who had a high esteem of scouting and its founder B.P. asked for a more resolute service to the poor children and youngsters and not to stay only in the milieu of a bourgeois society.

Catholics all over the world, lay people and priests, theologians and bishops, responsible persons in politics and society have asked for the beatification of Dom Hélder Câmara. This process seems to be in progress. Dom Hélder Câmara, a man with deep cultural interest and high talents of art (as actor, writer etc.) has become one of the strongest voices against the inhuman conditions of life of the poor. His protest came from his deep spiritual and social understanding of the gospel and his experience by living with the poorest in Brazilians favelas. He became one of most important forerunners of the theology of liberation, a prophet for the poor, sick, abandoned and exploited people. He was a fascinating spiritual writer with a great poetic ability. All his time as priest and bishop he tried to convince people not to fight with violence against any kind of injustice. He warned that violence would always increase in a spiral of violence. Finally it should be known that he was a great organizer of institutional help in social affairs and a strong promoter of any kind of education for children, youngsters and adult people too. Unfortunately his episcopal successor, narrow minded and of extreme conservative thinking, destroyed a lot of all that Dom Hélder had created for the poor.

*Baldur Hermans*

**Young is only  
who still has targets for his life**

*Dom Hélder Câmara died on August 27<sup>th</sup> 1999.*

## Pioneer trip to Iraq

In June 2009 the Secretary General Baldur Hermans and Father Imad Twal (Jordan), appointed member of the World Secretariat, visited Iraq, the autonomy region of Kurdistan. They met parish priests and youngsters in the Chaldean and Syrian Catholic communities in and around Erbil. The mission was to inform priests and lay people about the educational way of scouting and the specific religious and spiritual aspects and elements (pastoral chances) the church can offer through the scout movement to young people. There was a great readiness for starting with scouting in the communities as soon as possible.



Baldur Hermans and Imad Twal offered already during their stay first study circles about scouting. Scout literature in Arabic was given by Father Imad. Next steps will be amongst other things leader training and practical scout experiences. Our Jordanian friends offered already their assistance and cooperation. Limited by the difficult security conditions the trip was mainly concentrated on the Erbil region. An excursion was undertaken into the mountains to the East, the land of Ur in Chaldea that Abraham left when he set off to find the promised land.

## New National Chaplain for Palestine

The Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mgr. Fouad Twal, has appointed Father Ibrahim Shomali as new *National Chaplain of the catholic "Palestinian Scout Association of St. John the Baptist"*, member of the national Palestinian Scout Movement. He follows Father Firaz from Aboud. Father Ibrahim Shomali is well experienced in educational matters, for several years he has in charge for the Priest seminary in Bet Jala / Palestine.

## Steering Committee in Prague

The annual meeting of the Steering Committee of ICCS took place from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of September in Prague, hosted by the Capuchine monks in the Loreto Monastery. The pre-organization was very well done by our friend and representative to ICCS, Vojtek Dabrowski.

A full agenda had to be worked off. Main subjects: Evaluation of the last World Council in Rom, finances (budget, fees, Foundation, starting a Fellowship, selling



etc.), projects 2009-2011, World Youth Days and World Jamboree in 2011, web site and others.

A very special encounter happened by meeting Czech scouts who have been in scouting in the fascist and communist time, precisely then in the underground. The concept of a historical project: a scientific qualified book on (catholic) scouting in the time of Fascism in western and eastern European countries was presented by the General Secretary.

The participants could also see the busy preparations for the visit of the Pope to the Czech Republic the week after.

## DPSG - Pilgrimage ROMA 2009

160 members of the German Catholic Scout association, DPSG, celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their association through a pilgrimage to Rome. This was the follow up of a tradition of pilgrimages that have been done in 1935, 1950 and 1962 on special occasions, for example of the Holy Year 1950.

The first pilgrimage of the DPSG has been organized when the fascism had already come to power in Germany (and Italy) and gave cause for a lot of troubles to the most young participants by the Nazi authorities at the borders and later at home "*Christians are at the first place not people of great speaking but of action*" was the stimulant for the participants given by the Prime Abbot of the Benedictine monks in the basilica of St. Paul Out of the Walls. The scouts met the Holy Father in Castelgandolfo and with a special attention for the scouts the Pope addressed to them his wish to get "*a deep friendship relation with Jesus Christ*". The pilgrimage ended with celebrating the Eucharist in St. Peter. The German Auxiliary Bishop Heinz Janssen (Münster / Xanten), a former member of DPSG and now member of the ICCS "Brotherhood of Saint George", who has been all the ways on the pilgrimage with the scouts told at the last evening of the pilgrimage at a campfire his memories about his participation as a young scout in the DPSG pilgrimage 1950. Deeply being moved – what spread to his audience – he told that on this pil-



grimage he gave his scout promise and got a cross as souvenir. This cross is still going with him as Bishop.

## ConCordia 2010

For the 10<sup>th</sup> time there will be organized a "*Central European Scout and Guide Jamboree*" from the 2 to 11 August 2010 in Sztrilich Pál Scout Park / Budapest in Hungary. The organizers have expressed their interest for a good co-operation with ICCS (members). As motto for this event has been chosen: "*Many hearts, one beat*". Although this Jamboree is firstly directed to scouts and guides from the Eastern European countries the invitation is open to all scout groups from othe European countries. They are welcome! There will be special spiritual and religious accents and activities in the camp's program.

For further information and details look on website: [www.concordia2010.hu](http://www.concordia2010.hu)

## New leadership of DPSG

The Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg (DPSG) got a new leadership on national top. New Chief Commissioner as man is since January 2008 Manuel Rottmann. He succeeds Tobias Miltenberger. Manuel is coming from DPSG in the diocese of Essen. As new female Chief Commissioner has been elected Kerstin Fuchs coming from the DPSG in the diocese of Mainz. She started at the 1<sup>st</sup> of October and succeeds Ute Theissen who served as Chief Commissioner for seven years. Thanks to those who served and finished. Good luck and the Lord's blessings to the newcomers!

## A high decoration for our Secretary General

Baldur Hermans has been decorated with the "*Cross of the Order of Merit*" of the Federal Republic of Germany by the President of State on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The award was handed over by the President Minister of the Land North Rhine Westphalia, Jürgen Rüttgers, a former member of DPSG. Baldur has been awarded for his commitment to international scouting, in social projects and in cultural and educational affairs. Congratulations!

## Central European Pastoral Seminar 2009

For the 8<sup>th</sup> time the annual "Central European Pastoral Seminar" took place from 1 to 4 October in Presow, Slovakia. There have been 22 participants, priests and leaders on national level, from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland and Germany. The participants got to know life and the holy liturgy of the Greek Catholic Church because the seminar happened in

the Greek Catholic Priest Seminar of the diocese of Presow. The topic of the seminar work was the content and the way of publishing of a "Handbook for Cup Scout leaders" on catholic and spiritual education. The book will be ready in 2010. The participants have elected a running team for the future that includes a representative of all countries. In 2010 the Central European Pastoral Seminar will be organized in the south of Poland. There was a big wish that also other central European countries should be involved next year – especially those which have been already present in the past.

### Scout Week in Taizé 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2009

Scout Week in Taizé was a joint initiative between the Taizé community and members of the ICCS EM Region. The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic order in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. It is comprised of a little over 100 brothers who come from Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions. Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work.



The Taizé community is an example of 'communal living' that wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples. Scout Week in Taizé provided an opportunity for young Scouters to experience this simple life shared with others.

The programme of Scout Week in Taizé was designed to help young leaders in Scouting view their daily life in the light of the Gospel: pray together three times a day; reflect on the core elements of faith and explore the Promise, the Law, and the Principles of Scouting.

As with all things in Taizé, the programme was very simple, but also very effective. The aims and objectives were reached through short plenary inputs based on extracts from the Gospel stories with people having the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings in small group. During the course of the week participants met to explore specific elements of the Scout Promise and Law and attend workshops on the relationship between Scouting and Duty to God. Opportunities were created for the

exchange of ideas and good practice among the associations present.

The original planning team were Christoph Kubina, Annette Westerwalbesloh, Xandi Fischhold and Gerry Glynn. The on site team in Taizé were: Christoph, Annette, Fr. Wolfgang and Fr. Luc. A total of 56 participants attended (young adults and leaders between 16 and 30 years) from 8 countries (Egypt, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain). Interest in attending was also expressed from Ireland and Jordan but practical difficulties prevented participation.

Living conditions were simple - participants had a choice of either indoor, small dormitory accommodation or sleeping in tents provided by Taizé – meal time was also a communal activity, with participants taking turns serving their fellow pilgrims the simple but nourishing menu which Taizé provides for the pilgrims.

The team were pleased to extend a warm welcome to 6 Scouts who were already attending Taizé, 4 from DPSG – Germany and 2 from CNE – Portugal. There were quiet a number of Scout Groups attending Taizé who expressed surprise when they met the participants of 'Scout Week', saying they would have applied to participate but were not informed by their national association of the event! During the week the Regional Secretary (Gerry Glynn) had the opportunity of visiting the brothers of Taizé and meeting with the participants.

So as to gain the most from the activities it was agreed that participants should be able to communicate in English and French – however, as some participants were unable to speak either language it was possible to provide simultaneous translation in a number of languages and at times it was as if the Holy Spirit was present, assisting with the 'speaking in tongues'.

An evaluation of the event was carried out at the end of the activity and the findings indicate that 96 % of the participants would wish to have another Scout Week. It is hoped that the planning team for 2010 will consist of participants from 2009.

A full report and presentation was made of Scout Week in Taizé, at the Annual Seminar-Council meeting of the European Mediterranean Region, held in Celje, Slovenia in November 2009.

*(Further information on this Seminar-Council, in the next Circular Letter).*

Gerry Glynn

### World Youth Day 2011 – Madrid

World Youth Day (WYD) 2011 will be held in Madrid, Spain from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August. This is the second time the international celebration for Catholic Youth has taken place in Spain. In 1989, World Youth Day took place in Santiago de Compostela, Northwestern Spain, which, according to tradition, is the burial place of St James the Apostle.

World Youth Day is a youth-oriented Roman Catholic Church event that is open to all young people irrespective of their individual faith and belief.

In previous years, (1997 Paris, 2000 Rome and 2006 Köln), Catholic Scouting through the efforts of: SdEF, AGESCI and DPSG played a significant role in providing participants who were also Scouts with a supplementary programme during the event. And so it will be in 2011 in Madrid – MSC (Movimiento Scout Católico) together with their brother Scouts in Minyons Escoltes I Guies St. Jordi de Catalunya have formed a planning team whose task will be to organise the 'Scout Zone'.

In the past, young people attending WYD did so as part of a parish contingent, however, the host committee are seeking direct registration for Scout groups and if this becomes possible it will be the first time that Scouts will be recognised by the Church as pilgrims, in their own right.

2011 may seem a long way away, but planning has already begun. Earlier this year, in June, a preliminary planning meeting was held in Madrid – the purpose of this meeting was to evaluate the experiences of



XXVI WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011  
MADRID, SPAIN

DPSG and their hosting of the Scout 'zone' in WYD 2006 in Köln.

ICCS World and the EM Region are committed to supporting the Madrid hosts in the staffing of an Information Centre/Meeting Point, this will be similar to the one in the Jamboree Village at the World Jamboree 2008 in the UK. ICCS will also facilitate one day forum topics such as: Catholics in Scouting; Evangelisation; Peace Education; Peace and Justice; Racism, Equality, Immigration; etc.

The planning team is currently considering such matters as: the management of direct registration for Scout participants, the infrastructure design of the Scout village, the recruitment and selection of the IST (International Service Team), etc., etc. The biggest challenge facing the team is the effects of the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden – this event finishes one week before World Youth Day in Madrid begins.

A presentation was made of progress to date at the Annual Seminar-Council meeting of the European Mediterranean Region, November 2009

Gerry Glynn

## Inter America Region – The new Regional Chaplain



*My dear friends, Greetings in the Lord !*

*As you are aware, with the completion of his term as "World Chaplain" and subsequent ordination and installation as Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina (USA) our beloved and esteemed "Father Bob" left a significant vacancy for ICCS. I was personally thrilled – but not entirely surprised – that Fr. Leo La Blanc was appointed to this critical position. We are blessed to have Fr. Leo as our "World Chaplain" and the added advantage to his following Bishop Bob is a clear continuity for ICCS and its mission.*

*Subsequent to the above changes, an opening for Ecclesiastical Assistant for the Inter-America Region occurred. Fr. Leo contacted me and asked if I would be interested and willing to serve in this capacity and informed me that he was also asking other possible candidates. Needless to say, I was humbled that I would be considered, but informed Fr. Leo that if offered and approved I would be happy to serve. Imagine my surprise when he informed me in Galveston, Texas (USA) at the annual NCCS meeting that I had been approved and would officially assume this position effective 1 July 2009.*

*So, who am I and what recommends me as Chaplain for the region ? Allow me to share a few bits of information and perhaps a few insights.*

*I am 59 years old and have been ordained a priest for 31 years (27 May 1978). I have been a member of the Scouting movement for 51 years (52 come November) since I joined as a Cub Scout. I am what we call a "Lifer" ! Scouting meant a great deal to me as I was growing up and I credit Catholic Scouting and many of the priest-chaplains and other adult leaders as a major source of support for my own vocation to the priesthood. In Scouting I have been blessed with a variety of volunteer positions including Den Leader, Scoutmaster and Commissioner among others. I received my Eagle Scout in early 1965 and also my religious emblems as a youth. I have also received a number of recognitions on the Adult level including several from the NCCS (including the Silver Saint George) and even the Shofar award from the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. I have served since ordination as a chaplain on various levels including National Chaplain for the NCCS. I have served on 4 National (USA) Jamboree staffs (it was in 1981 that Fr. Leo and I first worked together) and was also the Catholic Chaplain (BSA) for the World Jamboree in England for the 100th anniversary of the movement. I have also been a chaplain at*

*the BSA's National High Adventure Base & Training Center – Philmont Scout Ranch - in the mountains of northeast New Mexico for over 20 years. (My favorite "job" by far !!!) Obviously, Scouting in general and Catholic Scouting in particular are a significant part of my life and story and I am humbled and grateful for the opportunities that the movement – and the outstanding people who make it come alive – have afforded me. In the past my contacts with ICCS were limited to the gathering in Tunisia and hosting some international Scouters at Philmont over the years. I began this new phase of my ministry on 1 July 2009 and began my "learning curve" quickly with a Regional Seminar in Asuncion, Paraguay in late July into early August and it is invigorating to meet Catholic Scouters from many different countries, cultures and challenges that share the same vision and sense of deep commitment to youth through Scouting in the Catholic Church.*

*As I begin this new ministry, I respectfully ask that you pray for me and all in the Inter-Americas Region that we may be worthy Servant-Leaders to His Scouts and Scouters and continue to build the Kingdom here on earth.*

*May the Lord richly bless all of you as you minister to His children – especially in the Scouting Program – and may He caress you tenderly in the Palm of His Love.*

*Father Don*

Rev. Donald K. Hummel, D.Min., FAPA  
Ecclesiastical Assistant (Chaplain)  
Inter-America Region - ICCS-CICS-CICE



## ICCS African Sub-Regional Workshop in Uganda



An ICCS Workshop for the English speaking African countries was successfully held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October in Namugongo, Kampala (Uganda). Participants came mainly from Uganda and Tanzania. The pro-

gram contents were presented by Msgr. David Kyeyune (about African Synod), Mr. Ronald Kamara (AIDS/HIV), Fr. Pierre Bacca (Youth Pastoral), and Baldur Hermans and José A. Warletta, from ICCS Secretariat. Fr. Caesar Matovu and the Ugandan Scouts assured the coordination and support.

Namugongo is the place where a group of Christians were martyred in 1886. Today a modern Shrine, close to the place of our workshop, remembers these facts.

## World Scout Interreligious Symposium - Kampala, Uganda



The 3<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Inter-religious Symposium was held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October in Kampala, Uganda. This event was organised by the World Scout Inter-religious Forum (WSIF), an informal network of religious groups/organisations in Scouting, and hosted by the International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS) and The Uganda Scouts Association. From ICCS were present the Secretary General, Baldur Hermans (who is also the chairman of the WSIF), Fr. Leo LeBlanc, World Chaplain, and José A. Warletta, as well as some Associations members of ICCS: DPSG (Germany), SGF (France) and CNE (Portugal).

## Inter-American Sub-Regional Seminar – Luque, Paraguay 2009

The Sub-Regional Catholic Seminar of the ICCS Inter-American Region for Youth and Adult Catholic Resources was held at EMMAUS Retreat House in Luque, near Asuncion, Paraguay, from July 31<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event brought together 33 participants from 7 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and U.S.A.), representing their own NSOs at the event.

The theme of the Forum was 'With the Strength in Christ, Today and Always Catholic' and the focus was on assisting National Scout Associations in improving and developing their Spiritual Programme in their own countries, thus increasing the force of work done on a national level. The participants shared their own knowledge and experiences and worked together to further enhance the methods and tools used in their own associations.

The event was a series of training sessions, workshops, moments for reflex ion and brief and interesting Masses. For the workshops, small groups were formed to explore



the Centre Physician an Surgens College of Accra. The meetings were chaired by The Regional Coordinator, Mr. Hubert Douampo, and Father Victor Adjamagbo, Regional Ecclesiastic Assistant.

Participants made a good use of the two meetings to set down a new view in order to make the Africa ICCS Region more dynamic and touched on as follow:

- The problems that jam the fluid functioning of the ICCS Africa Region.
- There is not any regular Regional Council held because of the lack of quorum to renew the structures.
- The lack of informations between the members associations, the regional secretary office and general secretary of ICCS.
- The ICCS doesn't support the member associations to develop and sustain spirituality into their association.

Participant Associations reaffirmed together their will to meet regularly and participate to the activities of the ICCS. Aware of stirring up the ICCS Africa Region, the Associations present at that meeting of Accra decided about an Ordinary General Council of ICCS Africa Region to take place from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010 to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2010.



Two countries proposed themselves to host this meeting: RCD and Gabon. The scout officials of RDC and Gabon should propose to the coordination team the available centers and especially the costs.

### Palestinian Holy Family scout group

*With Christian and Palestinian greetings, we would like to begin our brief letter to thank all of the people that were glad to contact with us (the Holy Family scout group) and help us through our independent and Christian path to help our country and parish; the holy family church and parish in Ramallah Palestine.*

*Since the holy family group scout is the only Christian scout in Ramallah Palestine we try to increase the Christianity in each soul of our members by applying God words and commandments, by trying to live the Christian life humbly.*



The Secretary General with the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Msgr. Fuad Twal

*As a brief explanation of our scout group; it was established in 1996 through the help of father Louis Fabro (the head of the church and parish at that time). It is the first independent Christian group in Ramallah till this day. The active body of this scout is made of 130 Christian scouts; they're the sons and daughters of these Parish families.*

*These members are categorized into 5 groups according to there age and gender; The Rangers (boys from the age 15-19), the Girl Guides (girls, 13-18), the scouts (boys, 13-15), the Parade (boys, 6-12), the flowers (girls, 6-12). Each group is observed by an adult leader that is assigned by the head commander of the scout group and council.*

*The name of the group has a lot of connotations that increase the importance and*



related topics and develop useful tools that can be used by associations. In the event we had also some time where in groups, we created new REME Educational Activities.

Some of the Sessions topics were: The Role of Chaplains in the Scout movement and the Role of the Spiritual Assistant, the relation between the Youth people and the Catholic Church, Current problems of the youth people, Ecumenism and inter-religious, new resources for the communication and broadcasting of the catholic scouting.

Saturday and Sunday, we profited the charm chapel to celebrate two masses, hosted by the world and regional ICCS Chaplains respectively, helped by all the Fathers from the different NSO. The event also includes a City-Tour, around Luque and Asuncion (Paraguay's Capital), an outdoor barbeque and the Regional Council was interviewed by a local newspaper, by the way the participants visited Asuncion's Cathedral and the Beautiful Church in Luque.

We are grateful, to the National Scout Association of Paraguay, which hosted this event, with a nice warm reception to all the participants and with a careful organization, to the Chilean participants for their joy and enthusiastic behavior, to the Brazilian, Ecuadorian and Bolivian, scouts for their interesting comments and their commitment participation, and we have to stress the benefit and amazing participation and collaboration of the Argentinean Scouts, who give the catholic taste at every moment onto this event.

Throughout the event the participants gained an insight into better practices and learned how other associations work, as well as making new friends and contacts from around the Americas.

### Accra - ICCS Africa Region Meeting

Met in the fringe of the 14<sup>th</sup> Africa Scout Conference that took place in Accra, Ghana, from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009 some scout officials, Chief Commissioners, National Commissioners, International Chief Administrator and other officials, whose associations are full members or observers members of Africa ICCS Region, met on the 11/10/2009 and 11/11/2009 to

### Visit of the Pope to Jordan

May 2009



value of the group. Firstly, it's the name of our Parish and church. Secondly, one of the scout fundamental goals is to construct a roof that gather and bond all the Christian youth under, through all the circumstances and situations they pass through, to create a wide Christian family with the scout members filled with love, care, respect, responsibility and forgiveness.

Therefore the name of our scout group symbolize our basic and fundamental goal to gather all the Christian and Palestinian youth under the roof of a healthy, educated, religious, loving, caring and respect house. Since we're living in a bad situation due to a lot of reasons such as; the Israeli occupation that limit our paths and builds a lot of borders and obstacles to hamper our Christian scout path. Nevertheless, there is an internal conflict between the political parties which may lead to huge civil war. Furthermore the fact that we're the minority in a Muslim society doesn't make our task easier. Nevertheless we should not forget the lack of financial budget that the

scout face through the year which freezes the scout activities (such as the camp) and doesn't help in the maintenance of the musical instruments that we use in the ceremonies and scout parades.

Furthermore the scout believe in some perspectives that help the scout to reach the fulfillment of the basic goal, such as; religious perspectives (the scout weekly meetings begin with a small prayer to clarifies our souls and to increase Christianity in our

scout members souls) and other social perspectives too, because we are trying to create fully respected generation that can handle any responsibility, and can help Jesus to carry the cross through the torture and sacrifice path. Nevertheless we are willing to create a healthy community that bond youth through rang of different activities. The major activity that each scout member waits for is the summer camping that we do at different places in Palestine to increase and deepen the scout spirit in out scout member.

Nevertheless the scout organize a lot of activities rather than the scout spirited ones such as artistic activities, sports, social workshops that relate to a lot of major issues and phenomena in our lives (drugs, sex, early marriages, mixed marriages smoking).

Through this humble and brief letter of recognition we will be glad to bond with all of the Christian scouts in the world through all of the communication ways that the world provide to reunite the Christian spirit.

**ICCS**

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