



Office of Faith Formation
Oficina de Formación en la Fe

Memo

TO: Clergy and Lay Ecclesial Ministers
FROM: Dennis Johnson, Jr.
RE: Boy Scouts of America
DATE: 31 May 2013

On May 23, 2013 the Boy Scouts of America's 1,400 voting members approved a resolution to remove the restriction denying membership to youth on the basis of sexual orientation alone. The resolution also reinforces that Scouting is a youth program, and any sexual conduct by youth involved in Scouting is contrary to the virtues the organization promotes. The resolution takes effect January 1, 2014. The membership policy for adult leaders was not under consideration and remains unchanged.

In response to this action, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting has said that it will study the policy within the purview of Church teaching and in collaboration with local bishops (and their delegates) to determine its impact on Catholic chartered Scout units and their activities.

I want you to be aware of these developments and will keep you informed of any pertinent updates. The Diocese of Orlando has benefited over the years from having several Catholic chartered Boy Scout Troops and countless young men and boys have been positively influenced by their existence. If you have questions or concerns, you may contact me directly (djohnsonjr@orlandodiocese.org / 407.246.4913).

In 1997, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops outlined some principles and approaches in *Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers* which may be helpful to you and/or your staff. (See link: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/homosexuality/always-our-children.cfm>).