



ARCHBISHOP OF ATLANTA

October 13, 2004

To All Interested in Catholic Scouting

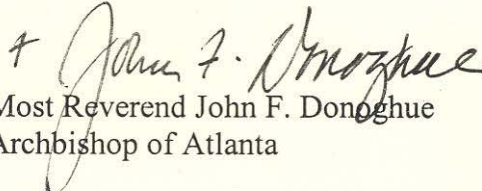
Dear Friends in Christ,

Among the most satisfying acknowledgements that I have ever received during my years as a bishop of the Church, one of the best came to me this year, when I received the St. George Medal for my contributions to Catholic Scouting.

I am convinced, that one of the most valuable actions we can take with regard to the proper formation of our young people, is to link the many fine disciplines of character inherent in the Scouting movement to the teachings of the Catholic Church. No one can gauge the depth of imprint that results from the marriage of these two forces for good in our country and world, except by examining the maturing lives of our young people, as they take their places in the leadership of our Church and our country. Over the years, I have never been disappointed in the results, and I have no reason to think that I ever will be.

For those reasons, I invite you now to consider participating in your local parish Scouting associations, as a way to help our young people be strong in character, and to promote the restoration of those values which have made our nation a light to the world. And with these meritorious goals, the unspoken benefit is that which is enjoyed, in terms of human happiness and fulfillment, by those who participate in Scouting leadership. Make these worthy aspirations - for our young people, for our country, and for the benefit of your own soul - a reality. Find your place in Scouting today.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Most Reverend John F. Donoghue  
Archbishop of Atlanta