

Tuesday 22 February, 2005

To All Supporters of Scouting in the
Parishes of the Archdiocese of Atlanta

Dear Friends:

As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we know that the two commandments that guide our lives are "to love God above all else" and to "love our neighbor as we love ourselves." Those already involved in Scouting know that no other social movement for young people is better at teaching them how to follow these two commandments in real life situations. The Scout learns to show the love of God - for the sake of goodness itself, for the healthy and wholesome development of his or her own body and soul, and in order to "do good deeds" whenever situations arise that call for service and selfless sacrifice. Those who have not considered Scouting, both parents and young men and women, should consider this bonding of spiritual and real-life ideals, and ask whether your life wouldn't benefit by becoming a part of Scouting.

The Archbishops of Atlanta have all supported Scouting within our parishes, and throughout our society, and I am happy to take my place in continuing this tradition. I ask the families of our Archdiocese, especially those with children, to join me in this tradition, and through our action, to keep Scouting alive with those values that are inseparably linked to the Catholic Faith.

May God watch over all Scouts, preserve in them the ideals taught by Jesus Christ, and give them the strength to bring those ideals to life.

Sincerely yours,



+Wilton D. Gregory
Archbishop of Atlanta