



Diocese of Rockford

555 Colman Center Drive
P.O. Box 7044
Rockford, Illinois 61125

(815) 399-4300
Fax (815) 399-4769

Office of the Bishop

July 28, 2015

STATEMENT BY THE DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD REGARDING

THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP POLICY:

Locally and nationally, the Catholic Church has enjoyed a strong relationship with the Boy Scouts of America based on the shared goal of encouraging young boys and men to grow their leadership skills through faith, sound morals and sound moral behavior. The Boy Scout Program is used by many Catholic parishes and organizations as a constructive and viable extension of youth ministry.

On July 27, the Boy Scouts of America Executive Committee adopted a resolution amending its adult leadership standards policy “to allow chartered organizations to select adult leaders without regard to sexual orientation, continuing Scouting’s longstanding policy of chartered organizations selecting their leaders. This change allows Scouting’s members and parents to select local units, chartered to organizations with similar beliefs, that best meet the needs of their families. This change would also respect the right of religious chartered organizations to continue to choose adult leaders whose beliefs are consistent with their own,” according to the Boy Scouts of America.

While the Catholic Church teaches that those who experience same-sex attraction are welcome in the Catholic Church, and are always to be treated with dignity and respect, the Church also teaches that sexual acts belong within marriage between one man and one woman, and that everyone – young or old, married or single – is called to chastity, through which we grow in our understanding of love.

The scouting units chartered by parishes and Catholic organizations in the Diocese of Rockford will continue to operate in conformity with the truths of our Catholic faith and in conformity with the Church’s teaching. This means that all leaders and volunteers in the diocesan scouting programs will continue to uphold the teachings set forth in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The leadership and volunteers of all scouting units in the Rockford Diocese will also continue to be required to adhere to all diocesan policies regarding child protection and moral conduct.

All scouts, parents, adult leaders and volunteers choosing to participate in units chartered and sponsored by Catholic parishes and Catholic organizations will be expected to continue all scouting activities in accordance with these policies.