



Parish Heartbeats: Stories of Faith In Action

“To follow Him, one must serve.”

*“On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.”*

For many people the words of this pledge are indelibly linked to the Boy Scouts of America. For parishioner Patrick Hawley these words became part of his life beginning at an early age. “I started in scouts with Pack 507 in first grade. I didn't really start to focus on scouting in any way until Boy Scouts in 5th grade, though. I got into scouting because my parents got me into cub scouts, and going to boy scouts seemed like the logical next step, and quickly Troop 507 made me want to do more.”

Recently Patrick was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. Many parishioners may be unaware of the fact that Pack 507 has awarded its members more than 50 Eagle Scout rankings since 1993. If you go to the lower level atrium of our church building you will see a plaque listing all the names of our Eagle Scouts from Pack 507.

Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouting. Around 7 percent of all Boy Scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank in 2012. As part of the requirements for Eagle Scout, a scout must complete a special project and demonstrate the ability to lead others.

In speaking about his Eagle Scout project Patrick said he built three wooden benches for Highland Elementary School. “I learned to plan things to be more efficient and

to procrastinate less. Scouting taught me that service for my community was a good thing, and that it wasn't hard. It's as simple as just picking up trash when you see it in a park or helping people with directions when they're from out of town.”

When asked about how scouting has helped him to grow in his faith Patrick said, “I think that scouting is completely in line with Jesus' message in the Gospels. He said that to follow Him, one must serve others, and in scouting, they teach you to serve others. It's no wonder to me why so many churches sponsor Boy Scout troops.”



The Boy Scout motto is: a Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. This certainly is true of Patrick and it is true of all our scouts, from Cub Scouts to Eagle Scouts. Take the time to review the names of our parish Eagle Scouts in the lower atrium. If you recognize any of the names, make sure to congratulate these young people when you see them.

For more information about how you can get involved in Pack 507 contact John Syers at 630-355-1146.

By Tom Cordaro

Parish Heartbeats is an occasional bulletin column that celebrates the ways St. Margaret Mary parishioners make a difference in the lives of others.