

Seven Scouts from Housatonic Council Complete Ad Alteri Dei

On June 12, 2009 seven Scouts from Housatonic Council were recognized by Bishop Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport for successfully completing the Catholic Scouting Religious Emblem, Ad Altare Dei. Bishop Lori present each Scout with the Ad Alteri dei Medal. In addition, Scouts were awarded the religious emblem knot by their Troops during a Court of Honor.

The focus of the Ad Altare Dei Emblem (which means "to the altar of God") is to help Catholic Boy Scouts to grow in their spiritual experience and relationship to God and the church. Completing the award requirements were: John Rosa (T55), Zack Ryan (T55) CJ Mojcik (T55), Joey Delgado (T28), Chris Wilson (T55), Alex Poulrde (T55), and Bobby Sura (T55).

Ad Altare Dei classes began in November 2008 and met every Sunday through March at St Joseph's Parish, Shelton. Course Counselors were Tom Wilson (VP Program Housatonic Council) and Fr Nick Pavia (Parochial Vicar, St Joseph's Parish). Also assisting was Kim Plourde . The course focused on the seven sacraments of the Catholic faith. In addition the youth were required to complete a service project to the Church, attend a religious retreat and included a visitation to the veterans hospitalized at the West Haven Veterans Hospital.

Also recognized at the event was Troop 19, St Joseph's Parish Shelton for earning the Catholic Quality Unit Award - Pope Paul VI. The award recognizes units chartered by a Catholic sponsored organization for excellence in adult training and leadership, service by the unit, religious emblems, religious activities, vocation awareness, relationships and membership. Accepting the Award on behalf of the Troop was Ray Spagnolia, Scoutmaster.