

PARVULI DEI



Children of God Activity Book

Libro de Actividades Niños de Dios



National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

For Bear Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts of the Catholic Faith



Published with ecclesiastical approval

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting

operates under the auspices

of the United States Conference of Catholic

Bishops.

Nihil Obstat: Rev. Robert M. Coerver
Censor Librorum

Imprimatur: Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann, D.D.
Bishop of Dallas
May 9, 2003

33085
ISBN 0-8395-3085-4

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2203 New Printing
First Printing 1987

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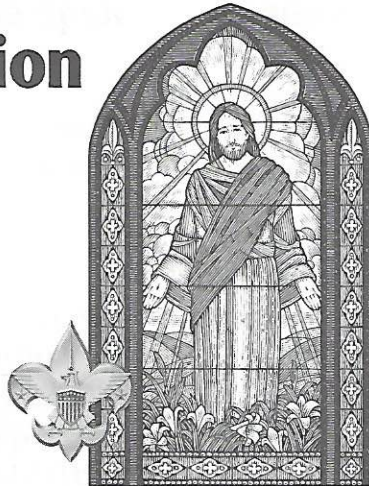
Parent's Introduction

Program Goals and Objectives

The Parvuli Dei program was designed for Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts of the Catholic Church who are 8, 9, and 10 years of age.

The purpose of the emblem is to help young boys explore a wide range of activities in order to discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their families and parishes and to develop a positive self-image through the contributions they make to the group or community.

The presentation of the emblem is made through the authority of the bishop, the Diocesan Scout Chaplain, or his delegate. It is advisable that a parish priest or Scout chaplain have a role in the program.



The program activities are simple ones. They are family oriented, and much of the success of the program depends upon the parent(s)/guardian(s) or other adult who acts as an adviser to the boy within the extended-family environment.

IMPORTANT: Review the entire book before starting the program.

Step 1

Goal

To help your child of this age develop an awareness of God's love for each one of His special, uniquely created beings.

Objective

The activities suggested in this section help your child gain an appreciation of the wonder and glory of all life, which is created by God. Your child should begin to understand that he is not like anyone else and, just as all beings created by God, he has a special part in God's plan.

Step 2

Goal

To help your child become aware of and understand his identity as an important member of his family, his community, and the family of God.

Objective

In these activities, your child should be helped to recognize the talents and gifts with which he has been blessed and how he can show God his love and appreciation by sharing these gifts with others.

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Step 3

Goal

To help your child develop an awareness as a member of his parish and of the Body of Christ.

Objective

Through the activities in this section, your child can begin to recognize what others contribute to the parish and the Church and develop his unique, personal contributions.

Step 4

Goal

To aid your child in the awareness of the responsibility of service to others, which grows out of God's love for us.

Objective

The value of service is explored in the activities of this section. By sharing his material things, thoughts, and feelings, and his time, talents, and prayers, your child can learn to communicate and care for others as well as grow in love and forgiveness.

Step 5

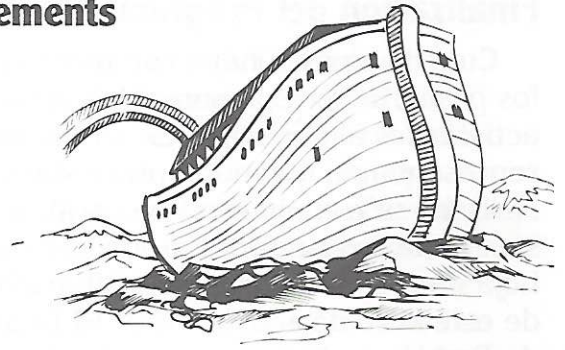
Goal

To help your child to grow in love and forgiveness.

Objective

The value of service is explored in the activities of this last section. By sharing his material things, thoughts, and feelings, and his time, talents, and prayers your child can learn to communicate and care for others as well as grow in love and forgiveness.

Requirements

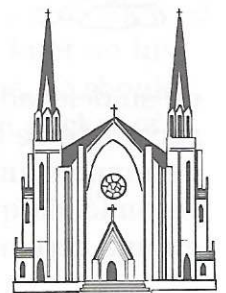


Each participating Cub Scout or Webelos Scout must have his own *Parvuli Dei* Activity Book.

The requirements in this activity book are addressed to your child. However, they are not designed for him to be able to read and fully understand by himself. You will need to read and explain them to him. You can also help your child complete written requirements, wherever needed. In addition, there are several Bible stories that you will be asked to tell to your child. The scripture references for these stories are given in this activity book. These scripture passages are best told to your child in a story-like format and not necessarily read straight from the Bible. To aid you in this task, a children's Bible would be appropriate.

To support you in this program, a Religious Emblems Coordinator for your parish or Cub Scout pack is helpful. It is your role and responsibility to work with your son on this program. The role of the pack Religious Emblems Coordinator is to be a resource and support for the parent(s). The pack Religious Emblems Coordinator does not work directly with your child.

This program is prohibited from use as a den project.



PARVULI DEI

Program Completion

When your child has completed all steps, he presents his activity book to his parish priest or representative, who interviews him and reviews his written or visual work. The priest or representative will then sign the appropriate application form (located at the end of this activity book). The Religious Emblems Coordinator or the parent/guardian then sends the completed application to the Diocesan Scout Chaplain for final approval. The Diocesan Scout Chaplain or his representative may order the emblem through the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

The fee is determined by the diocese, and it is recommended that the parish or Cub Scout pack allocate the funds to pay for the emblem.

Presentation

The Parvuli Dei emblem is given in special recognition by the Catholic Church to a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout for advancement in spiritual growth and religious knowledge.



Presentation of the emblem is made through the authority of the local bishop and the Diocesan Scout Chaplain or his delegate. It is advisable that the parish pastor, priest, or Scout chaplain has a role in the presentation. It is encouraged that the emblem be presented at a parish ceremony.

Eligibility

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting has developed the Parvuli Dei program under the auspices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

To be eligible to work on the Parvuli Dei program, your son must be a registered Cub Scout or Webelos Scout and also be of the Catholic faith. In order to receive the Parvuli Dei emblem, he must complete all requirements before he starts the sixth grade.

This program has been developed for use by Catholics of Roman and Eastern Catholic churches, in communion with the Vatican, Rome. Scouts of those particular churches are eligible to participate in this program.



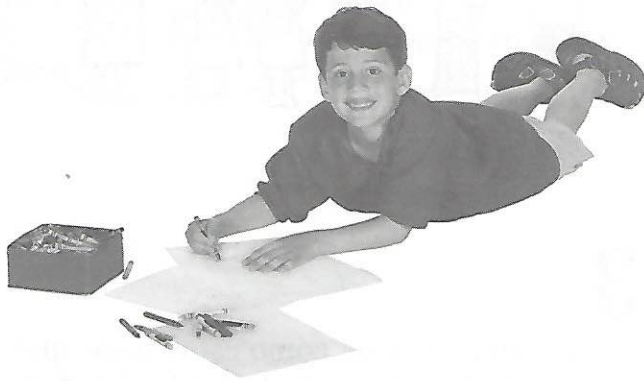
Emblem

The emblem is a medal depicting the Holy Family and suspended from a bar that bears the inscription "Parvuli Dei" (Children of God). The Boy Scouts of America has authorized it to be worn over the left pocket of the uniform shirt for ceremonial occasions.

The Cub Scout or Webelos Scout who receives his religious emblem is also allowed to wear the universal religious knot on his uniform with the insignia device. It should be sewn centered above the left pocket of the uniform shirt.

Scout's Introduction

Hello!



Today you are going to begin a new adventure! By doing the projects in this activity book you will soon

- find out that you are a special person,
- discover more about your family,
- make new friends,
- learn about Jesus and the unique work that you can do in the family of God.

This is your activity book. It will be a record of the things you will do and learn. You will be able to write stories about yourself and your family, draw and paste pictures, make things, and share your thoughts and feelings with other people. Most important, you will become closer to God through prayer and will serve Him by doing things for others.

When you have completed the projects in this activity book, you will have a story about how you have honored God by sharing your time and talents with your friends and family.

Step One ♦ God and His Creation

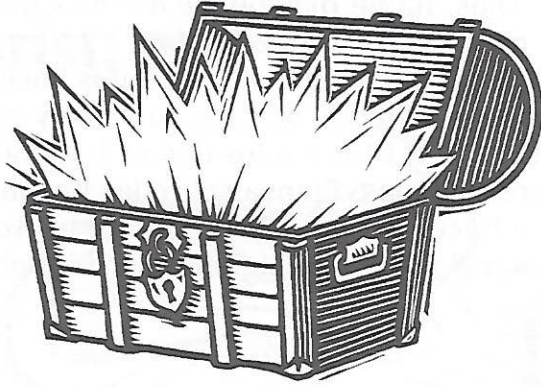
When we look at the world around us, we can see that it is beautiful and that no two things are exactly alike. The world was made by God and is ours to enjoy and care for. We learn about God's creation in **Genesis**, the first book in the Bible.

1

Ask your mom or dad to help you find the story of creation in the Bible and read it together (Genesis 1).



5



God has given each person special gifts and abilities that are unique. He gives us these qualities not only because He loves us, but also because He wants us to use them to help others and to reveal Himself through us. In that way, we are like treasure chests filled with many valuable things. You may already know what some of your treasures are. Others may still be hidden, waiting to be discovered.

Draw and cut out a treasure chest for each person in your family, including you. When you have finished, gather everyone together and give each one a chest and a pencil or pen. Ask each family member to write his or her name on the front of the chest and give it back to you.

On the back, list one or two special gifts or talents they have. Then ask each one to pass his or her chest to the next person. Have them write what they think is special about the person. Keep passing the chests along until everyone has added a "treasure."

Afterward, give each person his or her chest. Ask each member to share their treasures with the family.

Now answer these questions.

- a) What did you learn about yourself that you didn't know before?

- b) Did you discover any treasures that you and no one else in your family possesses?

- c) How often do you tell others about the special qualities or "treasures" they have?

Completion of Step One

Scout's signature

Date

Parent's/guardian's signature

Date

Step Two ♦ God, Our Father; His Son, Jesus Christ; and I



God has shown us His love by creating the world. He showed it another way too by sending His son, Jesus Christ, into the world. When Jesus was born that very first Christmas, shepherds from a field and three wise men came to see Him. They all brought presents, but the important thing is that each one gave the baby Jesus the very best he had. This wonderful story is in Chapter 2 of Luke's gospel, in the New Testament.

Because you are a child of God and a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout, you also have a lot to give to Jesus. This is the gift of yourself, and since you are so special in God's sight, no one else can give exactly the same thing you can.

To become a Bobcat, you had to do a special good deed. You show your love and thanks to God and others by doing good deeds. Think about the good deeds that you do and read once again in your *Wolf Cub Scout Book* what being a Bobcat is all about.

1

To show their love, respect, and belief in Jesus as savior and king, the shepherds and wise men visited Him in the stable where He was born and brought Him the finest gifts they had.

If you were a young shepherd boy, what would you give to the baby Jesus or do for Him? Paste pictures, draw, or write about your gifts in the space below.



2

Think about the things you can do for Jesus today. Paste pictures, draw, or write about yourself doing these things and put them inside the "present."



- e) After each person has received a symbol of his or her light, finish with the third reading: Matthew 5:14-16.
- f) Write down what you felt about the prayer service. How did you feel about your family praying together?

5

When God created the world, He was showing us how much He loves us as His children. What are some of the ways you can show the members of your family how much you love them? After you have done something to show your love for them, either write about or draw what you did in the space below.

Completion of Step Two

Scout's signature

Date

Parent's/guardian's signature

Date

Step Three ♦ Jesus, Our Church, and I

1

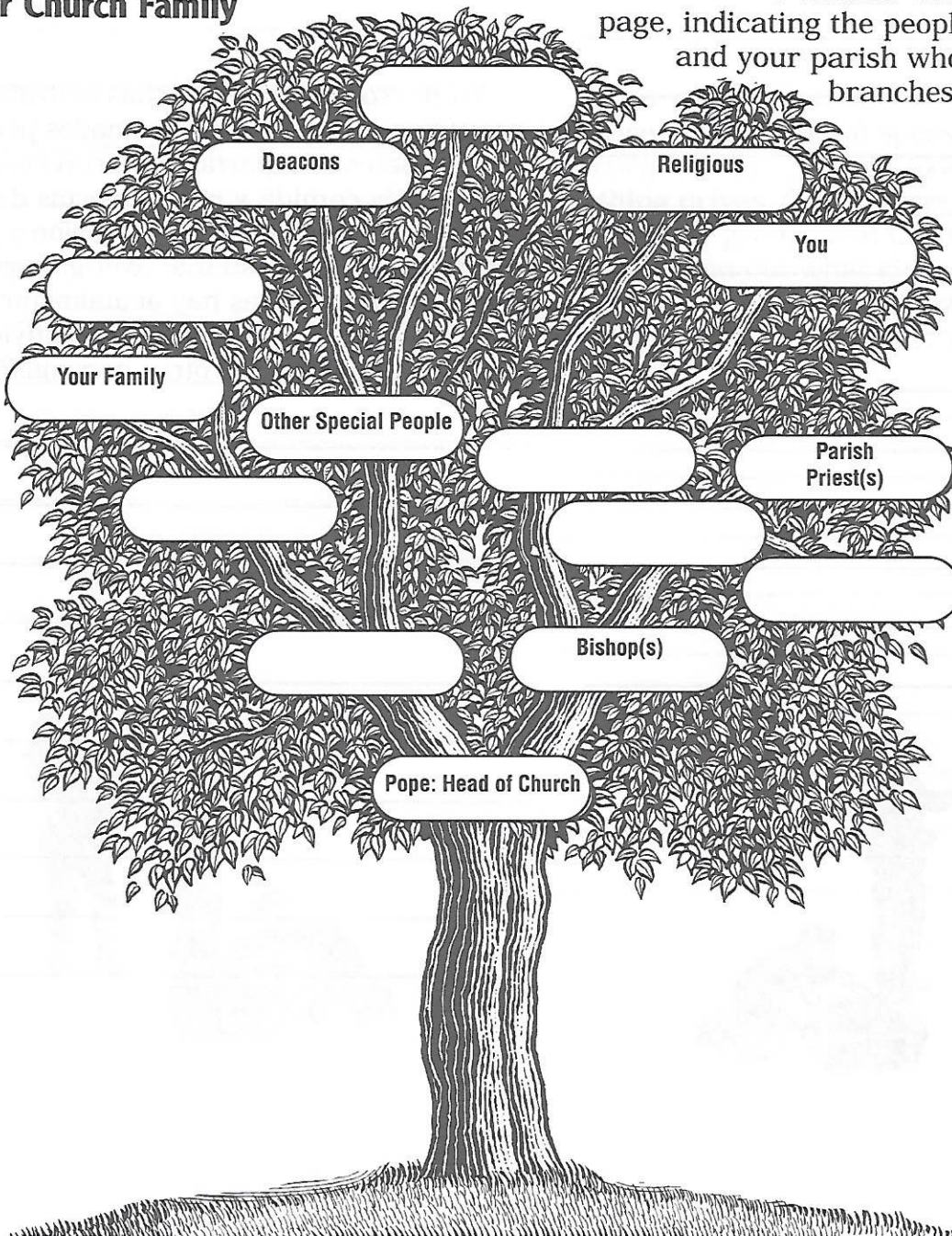
Since Jesus loves us so much, He calls us to become a special part of His family, and we call this the Catholic Church. He wants all of us to be faithful members of our Church and this is part of your Cub Scout Promise: "duty to God." Read in the Bobcat section of the *Bear Cub Scout Book* or *Webelos Scout Book* how you can keep this promise.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus compared His Church to a living, growing vine and its branches. In this parable, He explains the close, family-like relationship between God the Father, Himself, and His children who make up the Church.

Your parish is made up of people who have shown this same kind of relationship: priests, deacons, sisters, brothers, and others like you and your family.

Read John 15:5 and then fill in the spaces shown on the Church "family tree" on this page, indicating the people in the Church and your parish who make up the branches.

Our Church Family



Step Four ♦ Jesus, His People, and I



Jesus was always kind and good and never tired of doing things for others. He taught people and healed the sick. He did something for everyone He met.

There are many bible stories that tell us of God's wish that His children love Him with their whole heart, soul, and mind. Because we love Him this way, He wants us to show it by loving our neighbors just as we love ourselves. What does this mean? It means that sometimes we don't always like what we do, but we forgive ourselves anyway. And there are times when people do things to us that make us unhappy, but because God loves us no matter what we do and forgives us, we must do the same thing for others. This is really doing our best.

1

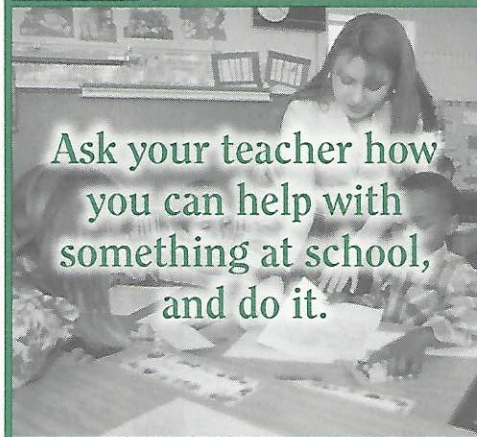
One bible story that shows this unselfish kind of love is about a man who was good and kind to a complete stranger. It is called the story of the Good Samaritan and can be found in Luke, Chapter 10, verses 30-37. Read this story with your parents, and then explain it to them in your own words.



4

Sharing Responsibility Tic-Tac-Toe

In this activity, complete any three good deeds by either working across, down, or diagonally.



Free space
(Write in your own activity.)



5

Pretend you are a person in business. Think about some of the things you could sell that the world or your community needs to make it a better place. Write or draw these things in the "store window" below.



Step Five ♦ Children of God, Other Cub Scouts, and I

Jesus calls us to do our best to serve God, our families, and others at all times. The Parvuli Dei emblem, which you will soon wear on your uniform, is just one of the things that tells others you are a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout who is giving his best to make our world better.

Even though you are a young boy right now, always remember that you are an important person—important to your parents, your family, your parish, and especially to God.

Your emblem will also tell others that you really love them and care about their needs. You don't just say it with words, but like the Good Samaritan, you go out of your way to show it. Your emblem says that you are willing to always "Do Your Best" in whatever you do or give.

1

Together with your mom or dad, read the story of Zaccheus, a man who was willing to do all he could to know Jesus better and to serve Him. It can be found in Luke, chapter 19, verses 1-9. Now answer the questions below.



Questions About Zaccheus

a) What was Zaccheus' job?



b) Zaccheus wanted to see Jesus, but it was hard for him. Why?

c) What did he do to solve this problem?

d) When Jesus spoke to Zaccheus and told him He would visit his house, Zaccheus was very happy. He was so happy, in fact, that he did something. What was it?

4

Parvuli Dei Emblems Application



Make a banner out of fabric or paper. This banner should show designs that tell about you, some things you have learned, or activities you have done to receive your Parvuli Dei emblem. For example, your banner might show:

- a) God's creations: sun, moon, stars, animals
- b) Symbols of God and Jesus
- c) The gift of yourself; a talent
- d) Things for which you are thankful

Share your banner with your community! You may be able to share your banner at church, school, or a pack meeting! Present your banner to your parish priest, school, or pack for display. Your Cub Scout Religious Emblems Coordinator may be a great resource for ideas.

Completion of Step Five

Scout's signature

Date

Parent's/guardian's signature

Date