

GRAND RAPIDS CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING FORMS FIRST VENTURING CREW UNDERWRITTEN BY SERRA INTERNATIONAL

Congratulations are in order as the Grand Rapids Catholic Committee on Scouting formed the first Catholic Venturing crew for students at West Catholic High school chartered and underwritten by Serra International, an organization formally recognized as the global lay apostolate for vocations in the Catholic Church.

In 2006, the Serra International Foundation approved a \$7,000 grant to fund the establishment of Serra Club chartered Venturing Crews or Sea Scouting units in Catholic High Schools. Each Serra Club will receive funding for ½ of the expenses for chartering a Venturing Crew. Crew 2207 of West Catholic, chartered by Serra Club of Grand Rapids, with 30 male and female members, ages 15-18, is the first unit launched under the new Serra Club program, followed by the Diocese of Phoenix and the Diocese of Kansas City. The units chartered by Serra Clubs will provide programs that are specialized in extracurricular activities at the high schools level. The success of the program will be based on offering quality programs that are not available to most Catholic High Schools, reinforcing the values and skills taught in Catholic High Schools. It further gives a venue to make ethical choices, acquire leadership skills, and advance knowledge and skills in the areas of high adventure, sports, arts, hobbies and religious life.

Since its' revitalization in 2006, the Grand Rapids Catholic Committee on Scouting received the National Quality Diocesan Committee Award for the second consecutive year, along with the dioceses of Youngstown, Columbus, Cleveland, Detroit, Saginaw, Toledo, Kalamazoo, and Cincinnati for Region 6 area. The numbers of Catholic religious awards recipients has also nearly tripled. Due to the generosity of several Knights of Columbus Councils, Assemblies, St. Anthony of Padua and Assumption of Mary parishes, religious emblems are provided at no cost to Scouts.

Crew 2207 has spent much of its' first few months conducting program planning and anticipating the first Venturing Area Two Assemblage at Gerber Scout Reservation in Twin Lake, MI, August 15-17, 2008.



DAY OF SERVICE “DUTY TO GOD”

The Grand Rapids Catholic Committee on Scouting invites you to a Day of Service on Saturday, September 13, 2008. This is open to all Catholic Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers and Scouters. This is an event to celebrate Service to Christ and the Catholic Church that will conclude with a mass. This will be held at Aquinas College, 1449 Wilcox, Grand Rapids, MI.

For more information, contact Bob VanEe at 616-450-0928 or Larry Wilson at 616-363-7346.

**The Great Pleasure in Life is Doing
What People Say You Cannot Do.**

~Walter Bagehot