

**Statement Regarding 6 February 2013 Announcement  
from the Boy Scouts of America**

**“For over 100 years the Boy Scouts of America has provided a wonderful opportunity for boys and young men to develop character and virtue and to exemplify the values of service, community, friendship, leadership, and fundamental duty to God. Young people need supportive formation encouraged by a community of peers and virtuous leaders. We would hope that the Boy Scouts of America will continue to provide young people a formative experience grounded in virtue and directed by service to God and others. All leaders and organizations that serve young people have a responsibility to protect and foster a life of virtue according to their particular mission. Organizations have a duty to select leaders that model virtues and core values with integrity; Catholic chartered units will continue to provide leaders who promote and live Catholic values. This is a matter of responsibility, not a matter of unjust discrimination which is always wrong and contrary to the inviolable dignity of every human person. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) will participate in the Boy Scouts of America’s initiative to listen to its members’ concerns regarding a change in its membership policy. The NCCS will offer input based on Catholic teachings and values.”**

*United States Conference  
of Catholic Bishops Liaison  
to the National Catholic  
Committee on Scouting*