



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

*Office of Youth Ministry
Brian K. Johnson, Director*

27 October 2011

To: Parish Catechetical Leaders (Directors of Youth Ministry and Faith Formation)

From: Brian K. Johnson

Re: Girl Scouts USA

As many of you are aware, there has been growing controversy surrounding Girl Scouts USA and its alleged connection to Planned Parenthood. Please note the following statement which has been approved by Cardinal DiNardo and will also be placed on the Archdiocesan website.

Archdiocesan Committee on Scouting's latest statement on Girl Scouts USA:

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's Committee on Scouting understands the Girl Scouts of the USA and its local leaders do not take a stand on or advocate for or against any issue regarding girls' health and sexuality. It is the Committee's understanding that the Girl Scouts' policy precludes any sanctioning or funding of Planned Parenthood activities.

The Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting believes engagement with the Girl Scouts is the best way to influence a secular organization that provides admirable character development for thousands of local youth, including many Catholics. The Committee encourages parents to actively ensure that Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, American Heritage Girls and Catholic Daughters troops associated with the Catholic Church are presented with the Church's teachings and that the sanctioned activities of these organizations do not undermine the Church's teachings.

If you have any questions or you are questioned, please refer all inquiries to Jenny Faber, Archdiocesan Director of Communications (jfaber@archgh.org or 713-659-5461).