

## **“It’s A Great Day For Scouting”**

### **V. Learning One’s Faith**

This is the second part of the BSA’s Family/Faith based program offered to all eligible youth and their families. Religious awards are offered by all recognized Religious Organizations that are Christians, Jews, Arabs, Buddhist, etc. in Cub Scouts (first through fifth grade boys), Boy Scouts (sixth through twelfth grade boys), and Venturing (boys and girls ages 14-20). The religious awards are similar to the Bass’ oaths to honor God, and are age appropriate. These awards are earned by our scouts, assisted by their adult partner, parents or guardians, as well as their Pastor, and appointed trained counselors. At each level they increase their knowledge about their faith. It increases the relationship between them, God, and their families while working on these awards. When they have earned the appropriate award, they receive a medal and a Square Knot for their uniform, which there are only two Square Knots that a scout can earn and wear as a scout, the other being the Eagle Scout Square Knot. Both, plus the Arrow O Light, can be worn as a scout leader. The scout’s pastor, the local BSA Council, and the Religious Award Committee, presents these awards. For those scout leaders that practice their faith openly in and out of scouting, being an example to others, are recognized by their church leaders, and the BSA with Religious Awards of their faith, which they also receive in most cases a medal and a Square Knot as well. There are units of one faith and others with many faiths, which through the BSA and those Religious Organizations, we learn that we can all live together, living our faith as we see fit.

### **“Finding Courage”**

by Joseph E. Wherry 1<sup>st</sup> PhD In the BSA’s  
(Boyscouts Of America’s) Family / Faith based program, we don’t lack for,

“Finding Courage”, nor do we, for Models of Courage. A great example

of, the latter, is \* St. George, whose former Feast Date was April 23<sup>rd</sup>, who is the Patron Saint of, England, Portugal, Venice, Genoa, and most noteworthy, for Soldiers, and Others in uniform, for Service Organizations, including BSA, GSA, etc. George lived in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Centuries, as a Soldier for the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who sent him on expeditions to Persia, and England, which he didn't become the Patron Saint of the latter, until the Battle of Agincourt, in 1415, by King Henry V. In 298, the emperor required all Soldiers, to worship the Roman Gods; so George left the Army. Later, the emperor outlawed Christianity, and George confronted the emperor, to plead for his fellow Christians. He became the unidentified hero, who tore up the edict, against the Christians, which caused

him to be tortured, and eventually beheaded. For Centuries, after his passing, the Legend, "George, and the Dragon", was popular. Although, it is fictional, it characterized, the real St. George, who valiantly fought evil. Note: The Legend is available, upon request.

\*Even though the St. George Award is the highest Religious Award, for the BSA's Catholic Leaders, it is not limited to them.