

RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



*Polish National
Catholic Church of Canada*

Published for
the Church by
Scouts Canada and
Girl Guides of Canada

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Membership in the Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada is open to all girls and boys who wish to make the promise, regardless of race, colour or creed. The purpose of the *Guide/Scout* programs is to assist girls and boys in character development by encouraging them to be responsible citizens of their country. An important part of the program is to assist in the spiritual growth of each girl or boy in their own religious community. Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts uphold the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

THE EMBLEM

The Christian Religion in Life emblem consists of a great circle, the symbol of eternity. In the circle are the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet, *Alpha* and *Omega*, a symbol of God, and a reminder that the worship and service of God form an essential part of life from beginning to end.

REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the program differ in each faith and denomination and are prepared nationally by the churches or religious bodies to suit their particular needs.

INSTRUCTION

It is the responsibility of the group/section committee and leadership team to arrange for instruction of candidates with the candidate's own spiritual leader or appointee.

PRESENTATION

Presentation of the emblem is made by the candidate's spiritual advisor, and can form an impressive part of a regular *Guide* or *Scout* meeting, a church service, or a special evening for parents/guardians.

STAGES

The Religion in Life program is in four progressive stages, colour-coded and adapted to the age groups concerned.

- Stage 1 — Yellow Border (about 7–8–9)
- Stage 2 — Green Border (about 10–11–12)
- Stage 3 — Blue Border (about 13–14–15)
- Stage 4 — Red Border (15+)

Candidates may start at any stage appropriate to their age and capabilities. Only one emblem — the latest stage earned is worn.

WHERE OBTAINABLE

The emblem may be obtained from provincial offices or through regular badge channels.

WHERE WORN

Girl Guides of Canada — see *Policy, Organization and Rules*.
Scouts Canada — see *By-Law, Policies and Procedures*.

STAGE 1

1. Repeat from memory the Ten Commandments of God, the Five Commandments of the Church, your Promise, and explain the meaning of each in your own words.
2. Name and explain in your own words the meaning of the Seven Sacraments.
3. Memorize the Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy. Explain.
4. Memorize the Six Truths of Faith and the Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost. Explain.
5. Define Prayer. Repeat: The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, The Apostle's Creed, Glory Be, Acts of Faith, Love, Hope, and Grace before and after meals.
6. Give evidence of regular attendance at Holy Mass and Religious Instruction.
7. Give at least ten hours of service for the church. (Select projects from the "Acceptable Service Projects" listed on the back of this pamphlet.)

STAGE 2

1. Name and explain the Five Conditions for a Worthy Confession, explain the basic ways of avoiding the occasions of sin, and describe the proper way of going to Confession.
2. Give evidence that you are practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy in your life, through the daily Good Turn.
3. Compose your own prayer. Recite Grace before and after meals at home and at camp.
4. Demonstrate correct etiquette of greeting a Bishop, Priest, and when passing the church.
5. Know the basic points of first aid to Christians. That is, know when to send for a Priest and how to prepare the sick room when a Priest calls to administer Holy Communion or Holy Unction. Know how to baptize in an emergency.
6. Give evidence of supporting your parish church in a manner approved for your age. For example: financial, manual, altar or choir service.
Show membership in one or more of the parish youth groups.

7. Explain the meaning of all parts of the Symbol of the Polish National Catholic Church.
Describe what the Polish National Catholic Church is. Write a composition of its history and development in America, Canada and Poland.
8. Give an account of the history and activity of your local parish. Know the names of the Prime Bishop, your Diocesan Bishop, your Pastor and Assistant Priests. Describe the division of the church by dioceses.
9. Give at least twenty-five hours of service for the church. (This may include the ten hours in Stage One. Select projects from the "Acceptable Service Projects" listed on the back page of this pamphlet.)

STAGE 3

1. Describe how the Polish National Catholic Church functions through its executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.
After consultation with your parish Priest, write a composition on the Eleven Great Principles of the Polish National Catholic Church.
2. Prepare a map or chart showing the boundaries of your diocese, indicate the location of all parishes included in the diocese. Explain our relationship with the Old Catholic Church, Intercommunion with other churches, membership in the Local, National and World Council of Churches.
3. Show what the Polish National Catholic Church does to help young men enter into the priesthood. How can your local parish help?
What can a laymen do to help his local parish?
4. Learn one or more of the Polish National Catholic Church hymns and lead group singing at our church youth gatherings or while at camp.
Make a pilgrimage to another of our Polish National Catholic Parishes, take part in a complete service and present a log of this pilgrimage.
5. Give further evidence of supporting the work of your parish through its youth program.
Give further evidence of regular attendance at Holy Mass and Religious Instructions.
6. Define and explain the meaning of Holy Mass.
Name and explain the principal parts of Holy Mass.
Identify the vestments and articles used for Holy Mass; also identify the liturgical colors of the church seasons.
7. Name and describe other worship services of the Polish National Catholic Church.
8. Make a chart of the liturgical year and a list of all Holy Days of Obligation. Explain.
9. Give at least fifty hours of service for the church. (This may include the twenty-five hours in Stages One and Two. Select projects from the "Acceptable Service Projects" listed on the back page of this pamphlet.)

STAGE 4

1. What is the Holy Scripture? How is it divided? Learn the important books of the Old and New Testaments.
2. Show evidence that you regularly participate in Holy Mass and other worship services.
Explain the correct etiquette of attending Holy Mass and behavior in the church.

3. Demonstrate your ability to set up a temporary altar and place in proper position all articles necessary for the celebration of Holy Mass.
4. If possible, accept a responsible role of leadership in a parish youth organization, and show evidence that you are fulfilling this role.
Show ability to lead a youth group of your parish in prayer at a gathering.
5. Show evidence that you have continued to attend Holy Mass and Religious Instructions regularly at your church.
6. Participate in a United Youth Gathering of the Polish National Catholic Church and present a log of the experiences that you witnessed there.
7. Memorize a scriptural passage. (A Psalm, The Beatitudes, Love, 1 Cor: 13)
8. Give at least one hundred hours of service for the church. (This may include the fifty hours in Stages One, Two, and Three. Select projects from the "Acceptable Service Projects" listed on the back page of this pamphlet.)

ACCEPTABLE SERVICE PROJECTS

1. Serve as an altar boy.
2. Sing in the parish choir.
3. Distribute church bulletins or other literature to homes in the community or at church gatherings.
4. Collect and distribute clothing and food to the needy of the parish.
5. Serve as a messenger for the parish.
6. Repair parish property and equipment.
7. Decorate parish property for special occasions.
8. Prepare posters and announcements for parish events.
9. Plant and care for shrubbery, trees, flowers, and lawns at parish grounds.
10. Repair hymn books or other books of the parish library.
11. Serve at parish dinners and help in the kitchen.
12. Help to construct and paint scenery for plays and programs presented at the parish hall.
13. Take part in programs, plays or concerts sponsored by the parish.
14. Serve as a leader or teacher in any parish activity.
15. Assist in editing of church papers, bulletins, etc.
16. Other service projects of a similar nature may be submitted for service credit, if approved by the parish priest.

Approved by the
Prime Bishop of the
Polish National Catholic Church
Most Rev. Thaddeus F. Zielinski, D.D.
and
Rt. Rev. Joseph Nieminski, B.A.
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