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Scouts honored at ceremony at St. Philip the Apostle

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By Valerie Schmalz

Girl Scout Josette Padilla, 13, taught second grade religious education students how to pray the rosary at All Souls Parish.

Cub Scouts Frank Wercinski, 8, and his brother Hale Wercinski, 7, worked on the Christ the Light award with their parents to understand the sacraments of holy Communion and reconciliation.

They are among more than two dozen scouts who will receive religious medals and badges June 9 at a Catholic scouting ceremony at St. Philip the Apostle Church in San Francisco.

“The Girl Scout Law absolutely complements the Catholic faith,” said All Souls parishioner Annette Padilla, whose daughter Josette will receive the Women in Scripture award. Padilla will also be honored June 9 with the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award, for Catholic scouting leadership. Padilla said the Girl Scout law emphasizes helpfulness, respect and caring, while the Girl Scout promise is “On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country and help people at all times and live by the Girl Scout Law. “

Scouting builds leaders, is committed to service, and pledges devotion to God and country, all values that support the Catholic Church’s values, said Greg Miura, scout leader of Boy Scout Troop 101 at Our Lady of Angels Parish in Burlingame. “The way I see it, involvement in the church and in scouting are both character development in various degrees,” said Glenn Bugos, scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 206, and a member of St. Matthias Parish in Redwood City. Bugos’ three daughters and son will receive awards June 9.

The Catholic Scouting awards give scouts “a chance to better understand their own religion, to get the awards that are so important to scouts and to be better Catholics,” said Keith Blackey, founder of the Catholic relations committee for the Pacific Skyline Council of Boy Scouts on the Peninsula.

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are non-denominational organizations that profess belief in God. Each organization offers scouts the opportunity to earn badges in their faith traditions, which they can wear on their uniforms along with other merit badges and rank advancements.

The Catholic scouting awards for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and coed Venture Scouts are approved by the church and

track sacramental preparation so that younger scouts work on projects related to first reconciliation and first Communion and older scouts focus on confirmation and projects related to young adulthood, Blackey said.

“I can’t say enough good about Boy Scouts; the positive effects it has on young boys and helping them grow into young men and the type of young men they become,” said Connie Uland, whose son Patrick earned Eagle rank from San Francisco’s Forest Hill Troop 88 in January.

“When you think about what society tempts our kids with – scouting helps our kids get involved in healthy activities,” she said. “It’s just a wonderful, wonderful organization.”

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