

# The North Star Award

Introduced in 2011, [The North Star Award](#) is a way for councils, areas, regions, and the national council to recognize non-scouters for distinguished service to youth; on the same level as the Silver Beaver Award, for registered volunteers. Recently, the Capitol Area Council recognized Bishop Joe Vasquez (details below) of the Diocese of Austin for his service, support, and endorsement of Scouting America and its attributes. Are there faith-leaders in your Council that have helped strengthen relationships or led by example in service to Scouting?

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Bishop Joe Vasquez\* is an exemplary leader in the Catholic Church in the United States and the Diocese of Austin serving 25 Central Texas counties and including Scouting America, Capitol Area Council. As Bishop he has presided over the annual Catholic Scouting Recognition Mass, adult trainings for Catholic Scout leaders, staff resources for implementing scouting at Catholic parishes, Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and Scout Sunday in his 127 parishes. He also publicly recognizes the value of Scouting and continues to support establishing new Scouting units in the diocese.

With strong and stable leadership, especially in the formation and support of young people, Bishop Vasquez provides guidance for young people in the development of their Catholic faith and their ability to share that faith to the world. He holds an annual three-day, 2400-member teen conference for formation, prayer and celebration. Bishop Vasquez stresses the importance of education and service to others, as well as supporting families so that young people can thrive in their homes, churches and wider communities.

Bishop Vasquez is not a registered Scouter, but he goes above and beyond to support Scouting in his community as he publicly recognizes that scouting is a resource that strengthens families, develops leadership, citizenship and faithfulness and provides mentorship at a time when our society is in dire need of each of these attributes.

\*Effective March 25, 2025 Most Reverend Bishop Joe Vasquez is now Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

