

Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens
Committee on Scouting

*Welcomes the arrival of the
International Peace Light From
Bethlehem to North America*



Ceremony of Reception and Passing of Peace

Thursday, December 11, 2014

3:00 PM

Our Lady of the Skies Catholic Chapel

JFK International Airport

Terminal Four, Upper Concourse Level

PROGRAM

Informal Gathering of Participants commences at 2:00 PM

Distribution of Programs – St. Mel Girl Scouts

Cards for Mailing of Peacelight Emblems

Terminal Four Short Term Parking Ticket Validation by Chapel Secretary
(Small donations to the Chapel are encouraged in exchange for the validation of your short term parking ticket)

Holiday Music Performed by Xaverian H.S. Chamber Orchestra
Under the direction of Joseph Loposky, Music Director

Lite Refreshments

Placement of Lanterns on Altar

The Formal Ceremony of Reception/ Passing of Peace will commence promptly upon the arrival at Terminal Four of the Peace Light Flame, from Vienna Austria, transported to us by Austrian/ Tyrolean Airlines arriving on Flight OS87

Welcome

Rev. Fr. Chris Piasta, Chaplain JFK International Airport

Introduction of Distinguished Guests

Paul D. Stanton, Diocese of Brooklyn CCOS Chairman

Opening Prayer

Rev. Fr. Thomas Vassalotti, Chaplain
Catholic Committee on Scouting - Diocese of Brooklyn/ Queens
Pastor Divine Mercy Parish, Brooklyn

Opening Hymn – Prayer of St. Francis

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness - only light, And where there's sadness ever – joy.

Oh Master grant that I may never seek, so much to be consoled as to console,

To be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love, with all my sole.

Make me a channel of your peace, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, In giving of our

Selves that we receive, And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Transfer of the Peace Light Flame and Sharing of Peace

(Members of the CCOS will transfer the Peace Light flame to Participant lanterns which have been placed on the Chapel Altar)

St. Mel Girl Scouts will distribute candles to participants to be lit with the Peace Light Flame.

All say:
“We gladly receive this light as a sign of our willingness
to be channels of peace, by our words and actions”.

[Candles “infused with the Peace Light flame” are now extinguished, and may taken by participants to be presented to others and sent with peace messages over distances where a live flame cannot be safely transported, such as to deployed military members, and Ebola response public health workers, etc.]

Reading from Isaiah

Scout Lector

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the Nation; thou has increased its joy. They rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men when they divide the spoil. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace”.

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. Upon the throne of David, and over this kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READING AND PEACELIGHT

Chaplains

Hymn
Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, we are family.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Special Guest Speakers

Mr. Wolfgang Kerndler, Austrian Airlines
Hon. Elected Officials
Rev. Members of the Clergy
Scout Messengers of Peace

Peace Light Hymn

We Sing, (to the tune *Edelweiss*), the a Hymn written by the Austrian Scouts and Guides and as a thank you salute to them, and our scouting friends in the Transatlantic Council who will represent the BSA and GSA at the 2014 Peace Light distribution ceremony in Vienna, Austria

Come, O Lord, be with us
Fill us with joy and thanksgiving
May our hearts flow with peace
Come with Your love, surround us.
Friendship and peace, may they bloom and grow,
Bloom and grow forever.
Bless us now, bless our friends.
Bless all mankind forever

Father God up above
All your blessings surround us

love and care, everywhere
In the world all around us.
Grant that our services may be of use
Bless the Peace Light endeavor
Father God, up above
Bless us now and forever

LORDS PRAYER

All

Closing Prayer

By Chaplain

May the peace of God and the love of mankind guide us throughout this special day and let our light so shine that men will see our good works and glorify God.

We are met in the spirit of thanksgiving and joy, for the Peace Light from Bethlehem is in our presence.

May the peace symbolized by this Light touch each person who carries it and each who receives it. It is through this sharing of the light of Christ that we pray for the peace of God be spread to all, this Christmas time and always.

The Grace

All

*The Grace of One we call Lord
The Love of God
The Fellowship of his kindly spirit
Be with us all evermore*

[Ample time for Photographs / Interviews by NET TV, The Tablet, Exchange of Peace light Distribution Dates, Locations, Routes, Sharing of Peace Greetings, etc.]

History of the ORF Peace Light Program

The Peace Light, symbolic of the Light of Christ especially evident at Christmas, is meant to promote peace, harmony and unity among the people of the world regardless of race, ethnicity or creed. For several decades, the International Scouting movement, Boy and Girl Scouts, have actively promoted global peace and harmony through the distribution of the Peace Light.

Now in its 29th year, the Peace Light from Bethlehem campaign was originally organized by the Austrian Broadcasting Company - ORF (Linz) - and was part of a large charitable relief mission - Light into Darkness, for children in need in Austria and abroad. Since 1986, there has been a great deal of cooperation between Scouts and Guides in many countries which has allowed the light to travel throughout Europe, such that the light is passed on 30 European Countries and for the past decade on to America, Canada and Mexico.

Each year, a child from Upper Austria travels as a pilgrim to obtain the light from the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is then flown to Austria from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries for use at ecumenical services throughout the Continent. Scouts and Guides then take the light on to other churches, hospitals, old people homes, prisons, and places of public, cultural and political importance - to anybody that appreciates the significance of the "gift".

In past years the light has been presented to Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, Mikhail Gorbatschow, former King Hussain of Jordan, EU President Romano Prodi and other member of the European parliament, the UN Troops in Kosovo, US Military Chaplains, the Rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral in NY, and to the families who lost children at Sandy Hook, CT. At St. Paul's Chapel, on Broadway, in NYC a Peace Light Lantern and flame is displayed on the Church Altar, presented as a tribute to the Church's role in providing spiritual support and a place for quiet reflection and peace for Ground Zero rescue and recovery workers following the tragic events of 9/11.

"The Light of Friendship & Peace" was first introduced to the United States in the year 2000. It was flown over from Oslo, Norway with a brief stopover in London, England before landing in Bartlesville, Oklahoma the headquarters of Phillips Petroleum Co., the sponsors of the flight. The light quickly spread to six states in the heartland of America. Following 9/11/ 2001, the Peace light was presented to the City of New York as a gift intended to acknowledge the work of rescue and recovery workers who responded and lost their lives at Ground Zero, or as a result of the other tragic events that occurred that day.

The Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, and the Greater NY Councils BSA International Representative again have the privilege of welcoming the Light to the North American Continent, at the request of Austrian Scouting and now in conjunction with the World Organization of the Scouting Movement (WOSM) and the International Division of the Boy Scouts of America.

Special thanks to our friends in Austrian Scouting and the all the professionals of Austrian/ Tyrolean Airlines, especially Mr. Wolfgang Kerndler and Mr. Thomas Schuetzel, the VIP's with us today, who were responsible for the planning and safe execution of the transport of the Peace light Flame from Israel to Vienna, Austria and from Vienna to the JFK, NYC, USA.

Following the reception at Our Lady of the Skies Chapel the Peace Light will be distributed by hundreds of Girl and Boy Scouts at various locations nationwide in order to promote peace and harmony. If there is to be World Peace it must begin at a personal level. Please note that while Scouts send the peace Light and receive it for the people of the United States, the symbol, when presented as a gift, can benefit and uplift people from all walks of life, ages, religions, cultures, etc. Our Committee's goal is to see the Light, distributed to as many possible religious groups, organizations, and individuals on the North America Continent, as possible during Advent, or before Christmas, New Year's Day 2015, and The Epiphany of the Lord, January 4, 2015.

Many Churches use the Peace light Distribution in Advent worship services, parish tree lighting events, and many even maintain the Peacelight year round using the flame to ignite their Sanctuary Lights, Baptismal Candles, Votive Lamps, School and Rectory hot water heater and stove pilot lights. The Plast, Lithuanian, Ukrainian and Polish Scouting Associations in the USA and Canada are strong promoters of the Peace Light program.

As residents of the World Capital City of New York we have a special interest in seeing that the Peace Light's message reaches the families of U.S. Military and Government personnel worldwide, especially those who are currently deployed and will be far away from their families during the Christmas and the New Year Holiday. In the past the Peace Light has been presented to Military Chaplains, representing soldiers stationed from Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, Fort Bragg NC, the Pentagon and other duty stations as far as San Diego, Cal. The Scout Units of Transatlantic Council of the BSA annually distribute the Peace Light widely on the European Continent to American families and military members working abroad.

Joe Reding of Boy Scout Troop 113, in Bayport Minnesota, continues an amazing Peace project this holiday season, by maintaining a Peace Light distribution and tracking tool on his Web Site. "www.peacelight.org". Joe tracks and maps the movements of Peace Light by zip codes across the USA, Canada, and Mexico. Scouters Roger Knutson and Joe Reding personally logged more than 10,000 miles traveling roundtrip to NYC to gather the flame at JFK in 2010 & 2011. In 2012 Joe Reding also developed a "Facebook – North America" web site. You are welcome to join this site and share your Peace Light distribution plans and news with other members.

According to the ideals of Scouting, Scouts pledge to encourage everyone, all nations and peoples, through personal contacts to actively create Peace and fear-free living in their environments, this by being tolerant of those with different ethnic, cultural or religious beliefs and backgrounds than their own and performing acts of peace.

THANKS

To Fr. Chris and Alice for hosting today's event at JFK's beautiful Our Lady of the Sky's Chapel

To our Chaplain's Fr. Tom and Fr. Joe for serving as the lead participants in our Ceremony.

To the elected officials and other members of the Clergy who have taken time from their schedules to celebrate with us today.

For The Tablet Story and NET TV Coverage of our event today. Thanks to the DeSales Media Group for sharing the Good News about the Peace Light

Ceremony of Reception and Passing Of Peace Event Emblems will be sent to all who participated in today's event at JFK - A gift of NYS Senator Martin Golden

If you are planning a trip to Europe, consider booking with Austrian Airlines, who make North America's participation in the World Peace light program possible.

To all "Messengers of Peace" who have traveled from near and far to be here today to receive the Peace Light flame originating at the Grotto of the Nativity, Town of Bethlehem, and City of Jerusalem, Israel. Have a safe journey home.

Best wishes from Most Rev. Nicholas Di Marzio, 7th. Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, to all for a safe and joyful Advent and Peace Light sharing experience.

Let us all prepare the way of the Lord! Show and share your peace and love with all by your personal actions and good deeds.

You are invited to send information about your 2014 Peace Light Distributions including photos and links to published articles about your Peace Light events to Peacelight@peacelight.org and pdstanton@aol.com You will find links to the UK and other World Scouting Peace Light Program contacts at these websites

<http://peacelight.org> www.bsainternationalpeacelightusa.org
<http://www.peacelight.org.uk/>



Messengers of Peace

Advice for the Safe Distribution of the Peace Light

Remember at all times, common sense safety measures will avoid accidents.

Lamp oil should be used in appropriate lanterns. When carrying the light in a lamp, ensure the flame is low, and that the lamp is properly burning, that there is no spillage of oil, paraffin fuel, or excess on the lamp.

The lamp should be transported and displayed on a firm surface, except when being carried. Unsupervised children should not be allowed near lamps or containers.

When on the move, endeavor to restrict movement to a minimum.

The top of lamps will become hot depending on the flame, and we advise the wearing of gloves for the person removing, handling or refilling the lamp. The bottom of the lamp should not be hot.

When refilling your lamp, we recommend that the light is passed on to a candle, so that the lamp is extinguished before refilling. Do not over fill lanterns.

When passing the flame to another lamp the use of a long wax taper is advisable.

The live flame should be enclosed by the lantern as soon as practical.

When transporting the lamp in a car or vehicle, it is recommended that someone other than the driver keep a watch on the lantern and transport container.

It is recommended that you carry a fire extinguisher if traveling with the Peace Light in a vehicle and have one available at any transfer or distribution locations. We sure to allow for adequate ventilation in a car for driver and passengers.

There are several photos of safe transport containers that have been constructed with cheap materials that you can view on the websites listed on the prior page.

Go well and safely with your Peace Lights.

- North American Peace light Committee