

Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens  
Committee on Scouting

*Welcomes the arrival of the  
International Peace Light From the  
Grotto of the Nativity, Town of  
Bethlehem, City of Jerusalem, Israel to  
North America*



Ceremony of Reception and Passing of the Peace  
Saturday, November 28, 2015  
3:00 PM

*Our Lady of the Skies Catholic Chapel*

JFK International Airport  
Terminal Four, Upper Level

## PROGRAM

Informal Gathering of Participants begins at 2:00 PM

Distribution of Programs – CCOS Members  
Cards for Mailing of Peace Light Emblems

Terminal Four Short Term Parking Ticket Validation by Chapel Office Secretary  
(A donation to the Chapel Fund is encouraged in exchange for the validation of your short term parking ticket)

Placement of Lanterns on Altar

Lite Refreshments

The Formal Ceremony will commence promptly after the arrival of the Peace Light flame and VIP Couriers on Austrian/ Tyrolean Airlines/ flight OS87 from Vienna, Austria

### Welcome

By Rev. Fr. Chris Piasta, Catholic Chaplain JFK International Airport

### Opening Prayer

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

### 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's doubt, true faith in you.*  
*Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is 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 soul.  
Make me a channel of your peace; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.***

### **Passing of the Peace Light**

(Members of the CCOS will transfer the Peace Light flame to lanterns which have been placed on the Chapel Altar)  
(Saint Mel Girl Scouts will distribute candles 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” can now be extinguished, and taken by participants to be presented to family or others or sent with a message over distances where a live flame cannot be safely transported, such as to deployed military members and world health and disaster relief workers, etc.]

### **Reading from Isaiah**

Scout

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them have light shined. Thou hast multiplied the Nation; thou have 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.*

## INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Paul D. Stanton

Diocese of Brooklyn

Chairman Catholic Committee on Scouting

## Peace Messages and Prayers

Offered by Select Participants and Guest Speakers

## 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 2015 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

Closing Prayer  
Fr. Joseph Zwosta

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 to be spread to all, this Christmas time and always.

The Grace  
(Said by All)

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

[Time for Photographs Preparing lamps for safe travel, etc.]

## History of the Peace Light

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, when safety allows, 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. The contingent Peace Light Teams develop elaborate distribution schedules, including coordination with railroad timetables and hand-to-hand transfer points at stations, terminal ports, and international borders. Scouts and Guides then take the light to houses of worship, hospitals, old people homes, prisons, and places of public, civic, cultural and/or political importance - to anybody that understands the significance of the "gift" of Light.

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 the Peace Light Lantern and flame has been displayed on the Church Altar, 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.

The events of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 focused the resolve of the UK Peace Light team to get the light to "Ground Zero". The Austrian Organizers allowed the light to be collected before the Dedication Service in Vienna by a group of Boy Scout of America members working in Germany. These scouters took the light to Paris, and passed the light to British Scouts in Western Europe, who then passed it to a courier from Dover, who then brought it to Calais where the UK Organizers collected it and brought to back to Dover, UK. From Dover the light was collected by another UK Organizer who took it to Luton



Airport. At Luton the Peace Light was transferred to Phillips Petroleum corporate jet, which had stopped for refueling during a flight from Stravanger, Norway to Maine USA. In Maine the flight was met by members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America who managed to move it across the country working with Aggie Donch a GSA member who worked on the railroad as a locomotive engineer. Aggie and Michael Cortner, a Deep Sea Fellowship Scout member, arranged to deliver the Peace Light to the city morgue and recovery workers at Ground Zero.

The Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, and the Greater NY Councils BSA again have the privilege of welcoming the Light to the United States, at the request of Austrian Scouting and in conjunction with the International Division of the Boy Scouts of America and WOSM, following its long journey from the Grotto of the Nativity in the Town of Bethlehem, City of Jerusalem, in Israel, to Vienna, Austria and finally safely across the Atlantic Ocean to NYC.

Special thanks to our friends in Austrian Scouting and the professionals of Austrian/Tyrolean Airlines for making this cross Atlantic Ocean Peace light Distribution possible. 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 groups, organizations, and individuals as possible during Advent, Christmas, New Year's Day and the Feast of the Epiphany 2016.

Many Churches use the Peacelight 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, Polish and Ukrainian Scouting Groups in the USA and Canada also widely support the Peace Light distribution 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 peacekeepers 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 Holidays. In the past years the Peace Light has been presented to Military Chaplains, representing soldiers extending from Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, Fort Bragg NC, the Pentagon and other duty stations including 29 Palms, in California. The Transatlantic Council of the BSA, following the Vienna Austria Ceremony of Dedication, distributes 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](http://www.peacelight.org)". He tracks and maps the movements of Peace Light by zip codes across the USA, Canada, and Mexico. In 2012 Joe Reding also developed a "Facebook – North America" web site. You are welcome to join his web sites and digitally share Peace Light distribution plans, photos, and news with other members.

Worldwide, communities seeking international friendship and peace are a special concern of all Boy & Girl Scouts here and abroad. 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 environment by being tolerant towards members of different ethnic, cultural and religious groups. Scouts are encouraged to commit personal acts of Mercy and to become active World Scouting Messengers of Peace. Their individual and group projects are being recorded by the WOSM in its Scout Messengers of Peace web site.

## THANKS

To Fr. Chris Piasta and Alice, the Chapel Secretary, for hosting today's event at JFK's beautiful Our Lady of the Sky's Catholic Chapel. Also a salute to the New York/ New Jersey Port Authority Police and Department of Homeland Security/ Customs and TSA for helping with our logistics and safe transfer of the Peace Light and our VIP Couriers.

To Fr. Tom Vassalotti and Fr. Joseph Zwosta, and other Clergy members for serving as the Celebrants for our 2015 Peace Light Event

To the Members of the Diocese of Brooklyn Catholic Committee on Scouting for your support of the Annual Peace Light Arrival Event

To the Austrian Scouting and UK Peace Light Organizers for ongoing planning, promotion, coordination and exchange of information, ideas, and good news about the ORF Peace Light

To the professionals of Austrian Airlines/ Tyrolean Airlines for safely bringing the "gift" of the Peace Light Flame and the message the light represents to us in North America in time for Advent, Christmas and New Year's Day 2016.

To the Girl Scouts and Leaders of St. Mel's Church, Flushing, NY for the gift of candles, so everyone can leave with a "Peace Light" infused candle to share with others

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

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

You are invited to send information about your 2015 Peace Light Distributions including photos and links to published articles about your Peace Light events to [Peacelight@peacelight.org](mailto:Peacelight@peacelight.org) and [pdstanton@aol.com](mailto:pdstanton@aol.com) You will find links to the UK and other World Scouting Peace Light contacts at these websites

[www.bsainternationalpeacelightusa.org](http://www.bsainternationalpeacelightusa.org) <http://www.peacelight.org.uk/>