



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Swansea, Massachusetts

Spring 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

One of our young parishioners who recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation is a member of the Boy Scouts of America / Troop 303. His name is Dylan Pacheco and despite not quite reaching his 15th birthday had already achieved enough merit badges to begin work on an Eagle Scout project. The rank of Eagle Scout, as you may be aware, is the highest award that a Boy Scout can receive, and the candidate for such an award has to have their project complete prior to his 18th birthday.

In my last parish, we sponsored Troop 24 of the BSA and so I have been involved in many Eagles Scout projects, but not with such a young candidate. Most have started and completed their projects "just under the wire" in terms of their age eligibility. I have never had a candidate with three years to spare!

In an Eagle Scout project, the candidate has to come up with a project, raise all of the funds to complete the project, recruit workers from the other scouts and friends of scouting, oversee the project and make sure that the project is completed entirely as planned. It is an awful lot of work and requires a great deal of time, effort, and leadership.

Dylan, for his Eagle Scout project, hoped to give something back to the parish. What he undertook was the repainting of the parish hall in the lower level of the church. With his crew, they washed all walls and painted surfaces; scraped, repaired, and prepared all of the columns, and then painted all the trim (three coats) and lastly painted all of the non-movable walls in the hall. They also cleaned the carpets in the center hall. And because Dylan's grandfather was a professional painter, he made sure to give Dylan tips and recommendations to make sure that his project would rival any professional paint job. The project is now complete, and I want to publicly thank Dylan and all those who assisted him in what can only be described as an incredible gift to the parish! Our walls are now a soft pale green with a creamy off-white trim.

Honestly, Dylan gave far more hours than an Eagles Scout project requires (almost enough for 3 such projects) and deserves our collective gratitude! He exemplifies everything that is good in our young parishioners and is a credit to his parents, his BSA Troop 303 and especially to our parish! Thank you, Dylan, from the bottom of our hearts for a great job!!! Your parish is proud of you!!!

Fr. Hamel