

Spirituality within the Catholic Scout Association of Portugal



we
want
to
share

Spirituality represents an important and indispensable dimension, within the Scouting principles laid down by the CNE. The general Scouting principles envisaged by Baden Powell and its relationship with spirituality and religion – explicit in the texts he wrote-, allied to the inheritance of the jesuit priest Jaques Sevin contributed to the definition of the orienting principles of the CNE, since its founding in 1923. Equally important within this context were the characteristics of the Portuguese society at the time, a predominant catholic culture, particularly accentuated during some periods of the 20th century which moulded the CNE's structure and its relationship with religion, specially with the catholic church.

The CNE was founded within the catholic church and considered an ecclesiastical movement, without ever disregarding the scouting principles.

It is therefore a scouting movement lived by catholics, and it is in that quality that the CNE participates in the universality of the church, assuming its missionary role in the world, respecting the different cultures and religions, whilst presenting Jesus christ as the Saviour of the human race. This explains why in the designation of the CNE there is a reference to Portuguese Catholic Scouts.

Taking into consideration the seven elements of the scouting methods, outlined in the Renovating Educational Process and because it is a movement lived by catholics, we identified a method of applying the process. An example of this, is that the Law and Principles be interpreted considering the revelation of the new testament, as the better path to follow Jesus Christ.

Apart from the organic liaison with the church, our scouting methods are based on christian values, in such a way that the Mystique and Simbology give form to the basis underlying the progression scheme. In our particular case the Symbolic Framework reveal unequivocally the catholic spirituality we embrace.

Spirituality has its own space within the CNE, with particular emphasis on the christian way of doing things, but this does not mean that it is more important than any other dimension. To us, it is the inspirational factor of all educational activities that requires the complements that the other dimensions convey.



Corpo Nacional de Escutas
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