NEWS RELEASE

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AHG's faith-based curriculum lays groundwork for lifelong followers of Christ

AHG graduate's Stars & Stripes Award film project garners attention from Catholic media powerhouse

CINCINNATI, Ohio — When American Heritage Girls (AHG, www.americanheritagegirls.org) was founded in 1995, Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay had a vision of a scout-type organization for girls that was rooted in biblical truths — a stark contrast to the rapidly declining morality of other big name scouting organizations. Thanks to Garibay's dedication to that vision, today AHG is known around the world as the premier faith-based, scout-type leadership development program for girls ages five to 18.

"Faith is foundational to the mission of American Heritage Girls," Garibay commented. "Christ is the focus and the reason for everything AHG does. In the AHG Oath, girls promise to love God. In the AHG Creed, girls commit to being reverent. The AHG Program is rooted in Christ. With our emphasis on faith, we at AHG hope that girls will become lifelong Christ followers. Girls will understand their identity in Christ, learn to submit to Christ, and seek God's will for their lives."

One *AHG* girl, Solenne, took her love of the Catholic Church and cinematography to create a film titled "<u>The Miracle of Bolsena</u>: A <u>Eucharistic Miracle Film</u>." The film follows the true story of Father Peter of Prague in Italy, 1263, and was produced entirely by volunteers during the summer of 2020 by Solenne for her *AHG* <u>Stars & Stripes Award</u> project. Solenne dedicated over 1800 service hours into the making of the film, in the hopes that it would allow more Catholics to come to believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. After graduation, Solenne's film received enough praise to garner an internship with Catholic film producer Augustine Institute Studios, which then led to a career.

"We at AHG are so proud to see girls like Solenne take their Catholic faith and apply it to their lives in such a tangible way," said Garibay. "AHG is designed to foster meaningful relationships with God and empower girls to shine the light of Christ into a world that sorely needs it."

AHG's Catholic Faith Awards Program — which was granted the nihil obstat with permission to print — honors the AHG Creed, Oath, and Mission while connecting what girls are learning in AHG with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Either as a Troop, a Unit, or individually with her family, girls can earn carefully curated medals (pins) and Segment patches that help them better understand their faith and how it applies in the modern world. In addition to the robust Catholic Faith Awards Program, AHG offers several Catholic patch programs to foster deeper learning of faith traditions within the Catholic Church. One such patch program is the new Eucharist Revival Patch. Through the Eucharistic Revival Patch and guidance of a trusted adult, American Heritage Girls will learn more about the source and summit of the Catholic faith and grow in a deeper

relationship with Jesus. The *AHG* National Catholic Committee comes alongside to promote and provide for the growth and spiritual development of Catholic members in fidelity to the magisterium of the Catholic Church.

American Heritage Girls was founded in 1995 when Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay became concerned with the direction the Girl Scouts of America was headed. Garibay, along with a group of concerned parents, wanted a faith-based, scout-type character development program for their daughters, and American Heritage Girls was born. Today, there are Troops in all 50 states and girls being served in 15 countries around the globe. Thousands of volunteer members across the country are helping girls grow in their faith, cultivate a heart for service, enjoy the great outdoors, and have more fun than they can imagine.

At *AHG*, girls ages five to 18 meet together as <u>a single Troop</u> at the same time and then break out into Units by Levels. This gives *AHG* girls the important social experience of interacting with friends and godly mentors of various ages; members also learn leadership skills within a group setting. *AHG* Troops are located in <u>local</u> <u>communities</u> across the nation. To hear more about the purpose, mission, and vision of *AHG* from *Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay*, <u>click here</u>.

AHG's "Raising Godly Girls" radio feature and Raising Godly Girls blog shares guidance and biblically based advice on many key topics affecting girls today — from bullying and identity to anxiety and body image issues. It gives parents, educators, and faith community leaders a set of tools, resources, and Scripture-based advice to assist in raising girls after God's own heart. The "Raising Godly Girls Minute" with Patti Garibay airs on 1000+ Christian radio stations across the country.

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To schedule interviews with spokespersons from *American Heritage Girls*, contact Media@HamiltonStrategies.com, Beth Harrison, 610.584.1096 ext. 105, or Deborah Hamilton, ext. 102.

To inquire about airing the <u>"Raising Godly Girls Minute"</u> with Patti Garibay, contact Michael Hamilton, 610.584.1096, ext. 101.