

THE KOLPING CANADA NEWSLETTER

Easter, 2011

EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRAESES

Easter is only a spring festival for the unchurched. Even among Christians, some only enjoy the spring flowers, Easter eggs and the new buds on the trees. What the Gospel tells us about the Resurrection of Christ, the Redeemer, is often forgotten. An 'Osterspaziergang' - a sightseeing tour perhaps of the Okanagan Valley or Niagara Falls or the townships to the south of Montreal or our local city park - is not an option.

Our Christian faith starts at the basics of the Gospel: Incarnation, Suffering, Death and Resurrection. Lent was only the preparation for Easter. The Eastermessage mentions the grave eight times. The grave is at the bottom of all. But it is not the end of Christ's life. The stone, which seals the tomb, will be broken open in the Resurrection of Christ.

Witnesses to the Resurrection are Christ's disciples. With conviction, thousands of them - the early saints of the church - defended this message later on, even under the threat of martyrdom.

What we celebrate at Easter today is the same message which is celebrated 'worldwide' - which means, and is why we call ourselves 'catholic'.

Be firm and faithful in professing your Christian faith and Easter will be redeeming for you and your families.

Treu Kolping - Kolping treu!

Father Karl Hoeppe C.Ss.R., National Praeses

*Karfreitag soll die Koenigskinder zum Throne ihres Vaters fuehren,
dort ward das grosse Werk collbracht. - A. Kolping*

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Kolping International is working hard to find candidates to replace Msgr. Werner as our General Praeses. The election will take place in Rome on the

20th anniversary of Father Kolping's Beatification, the week of Oct. 24th to 29th, 2011.

Summary of the Kolping International Board of Directors meeting in Bukoba, Tanzania, on May 21, 2011:

The International Kolping Society and its members recognize the special position and responsibility of the individual in the order of creation and his or her responsibility for nature and the common environment.

We commit ourselves to the protection of human life in all its phases and to the safeguarding of human dignity.

We support measures for the preservation of the diversity of all plants and animals.

We promote a responsible use of energy and expansion of renewable energies.

We speak out against a patent for life.

By means of our educational work, we contribute to making people sensitive towards a gentle handling of nature and to pointing out specific measures against the destruction of the environment.

We initiate specific campaigns aimed at environmental protection and at the preservation biodiversity.

We motivate people to lead a sustainable and environmentally compatible lifestyle.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy Easter!

Treu Kolping, Steve Salb.

Die Auferstehung des Erlösers ist sozusagen der Anfang unserer eigenen herrlichen Auferstehung, die nunmehr ueber allen Zweifeln erhaben ist. - A. Kolping

NEWS FROM KOLPING EDMONTON

'Hello' from Edmonton where we are still looking at great mounds of snow in April. Our executive is unchanged from last year. We have held a few meetings and set our program for the year. This month will be our hunger meal fundraiser. Also our work will begin on Kolping Edmonton's 50th anniversary celebration in early September. Hopefully some of you can join us!

You will be informed of the events, dates and times, etc. later.

So our 'family' has lots of work to do together. And although our membership is not of youth, we do imagine that our example of dedication to each other and our community and the world will be a good one to all whom we encounter in our daily lives.

We wish you all a happy and blessed Easter!

Treu Kolping - Donna Novak

NEWS FROM HAMILTON

Our last meeting in 2010 took place on Dec. 11th - a Christmas Party with coffee, cakes and snacks, followed by Holy Mass.

On January 15th we held our Annual General Meeting with all executive members agreeing to stay on for another year.

No meetings were scheduled for February, March and April; however, our ladies are still holding their craft group meetings twice a month.

In closing we wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter Season!

Treu Kolping - Win Klaas

NEWS FROM KOLPING KELOWNA

Sunday, April 10th, the Kelowna Kolping Group met at the Mekong Restaurant for a meeting, with thirteen members present. Henry Wehnert began the meeting with a short prayer, during which we were asked to pray for our members Bertha Wehnert and Peter Schaefer, (husband of our member Elizabeth Schaefer). Both Bertha and Peter passed away this year. Henry suggested that we meet again some time in the summer for a family barbecue. He will investigate dates and availability of venues.

We also decided to have our combined Kolping Gedenkttag/Adventsfeier celebration again this year on Saturday, December 3rd.

Unfortunately it seems that no one from Kelowna will have the opportunity to travel to Rome for the celebration of the anniversary of the beatification of Father Kolping. Henry stated that he hoped that there would be more action promoting the canonization of Father Kolping. We'll just have to pray harder.

Henry closed with the prayer for Father Kolping and then had to rush off - he had an emergency phone call - there was water running down the street, possibly from a broken pipe in his house. Thankfully that was not the case.

After the official meeting, Dieter and I gave a short report with a few pictures of our projects in Uganda:

Our container was actually in Kampala when we arrived, but, due to red tape, it

took almost two weeks to release it. You just have to have patient in Africa. We finally opened it and started unloading by later afternoon. Besides the truck getting stuck in the mud, blocking the entrance and no light except for a couple of small flashlights and the headlights from one of the doctors' cars, it went well. Everyone just wanted to get finished and out of there. It amazes me every time how those poor, puny-looking young fellows wrestle all that heavy equipment off the truck...what's a forklift?

Besides the medical equipment, we had boxes and boxes of books, T-shirts and soccer uniforms, soccer balls, and so on. The Kolping Youth Sports Program in Kampala and Hoima received a good supply of everything. We also donated some boxes of books to KKH in the hopes that they would establish a library for the staff and their families.

It will be interesting to see whether that will happen.

Besides Dieter's usual Mulago Hospital tasks, we also went shopping for tools for the Kolping Vocational School outside of Hoima. Birungi K. Desiderius, Technical Services Co-ordinator, drove us to a huge supplier. "Barbara" took his list and started collecting the tools while we began counting the money - three million UGShillings is quite a pile! Desiderius was just thrilled when he saw all the tools. He says the classes are always filled and the young men are eager to learn. The school has had very few tools up to now, so that should help them.

Of course our little orphans were uppermost in our minds. This time we even had enough money to buy some medications for malaria, pain killers, heat liniment (the poor little kids with their twisted limbs are in constant pain, and the ointment gives them some relief.) We also achieved our goal of collecting enough money to buy food for the orphans for one whole year! Unfortunately, we had a call last week from Brother Prem who's in charge of the orphanage; he says food prices have tripled since we were there, so even with the infusion of our quarterly payments it just isn't enough. They can only afford to feed the children twice a day now, instead of three times. They have 300 children at the main orphanage in Kampala and 52 at the new facility outside of town. The kids were happy to see us again, especially when they saw all the other goodies we had brought with us. It's so busy now, they can barely house all the people - one poor young guy with both legs in casts from hip to toe was just sitting on his bunk in one of those dingy, dark dorms, strumming an old guitar. He grinned from ear to ear when Dieter tuned it for him and he could try again to get some decent sounds out of it. Little things like that make us feel so humble and make us realize we have to keep going back as long as we can and hope that we can pass on our work to someone younger.

The last week we flew to the extreme North of Uganda, to Arua, which is close to the Sudanese and Congolese border. It's a busy place, very rural, most of the women still have babies strapped to their backs, not like city people who carry babies on their arms like we do; but they're so cute on their mother's backs. We visited one school for girls that had several blind students. I couldn't help wondering - what chances does a blind person (a girl, at that) have in Africa? They supposedly teach them how to walk with a cane - in the jungle? On dirt roads or trails? In all these years we've been to Uganda, that was the first time we weren't greeted with smiles. Those poor girls know they have a hard path ahead of them. They seem to have a lot of Braille books and other supplies, plus two ancient blind men to teach them, but it all seems so hopeless. I hope I'm wrong.

It was a busy two days and among other places we visited several clinics and a rural hospital. If you ever feel like complaining about our healthcare system you should see what those people have to contend with. It's unbelievable and hard to describe. For instance, babies and toddlers, seriously ill with malaria,

attached to IVs, just lying there in dark rooms or outside on the 'porch' in their mothers' arms without making a sound; just patiently waiting for some help. Many of them don't survive or become severely crippled. Equipment and supplies are almost non-existent. Through the generosity of the Arua Rotarians, some equipment destined for Arua hospital, was put aside for Kuvula hospital, so they will have something, but they service a huge area - there are thousands of refugees in that area; they would need a major infusion of money and/or supplies.

We arrived back in Kampala the day before our flight out, thanks to the generosity of one of the Rotarians who drove us back (eight hours) because President Yveri Musevini had commandeered our plane for his own personal use. There's never a dull moment in Uganda!

We wish everyone a blessed and happy Easter.

Trey Kolping - Gisela Howald

***Editor's note:** every time I read one of Gisela's reports, I'm left with many questions. We know that she and Dieter go to Africa with the Rotarians and that they take time out to visit Kolping projects while there. It would be nice to know what they actually do, (both the Rotarians and our Kolping members). How many people are in the group? What do the containers actually contain, and from where do they get all the stuff? How is the money raised, year after year? It seems to me that any money sent to Africa through the above projects could do a a lot of good, and we would know for certain that it got there, to the right place; food for the orphanages, for example.) And where do the many millions of Foreign Aid dollars from the West actually go? Finally, why has no one in Kolping Canada expressed a willingness to help with this project? What do YOU think?*

NEWS FROM KOLPING TORONTO

Once again it was a very successful St. Nickolaus and Christmas party, with many children.

Thank you to all the ladies who made the pea soup for the Lenten Meal at St. Patrick's. With the help of the male choir we managed to collect \$1750 for Share Life. With the well known organizational skills of our president Werner Scheliga, things went well. The soup was '...good to the last drop!'

"Silence...our Gift to Others": 33 Kolping members from Toronto and Hamilton took part over the weekend at our annual retreat at a beautiful property just north of Toronto. It is sad, however, to see that more and more of our friends are now not able to come, due to illness and old age.

The Annual General Meeting did not bring much of a change, it is more or less the same as last year.

A happy Easter Season to one and all.

Treu Kolping - Steve Salb

Weil der Herr auferstanden ist, ist das Christentum unsterblich, unueberwindlich, wahrhaft das Reich Gottes auf Erden. - A. Kolping

NEWS FROM KOLPING VANCOUVER

A warm hello from "Canuck Town", where the excitement surrounding the Stanley Cup playoffs is eclipsing the not-so-popular federal election campaign!

Our annual General Meeting was held on February 5th. After the opening prayer, a minute of silence was observed in honor of two members who had passed away, Gerda Dolinskis in November 2010 and Hans Welscher in January of this year. Hans, who had moved from Vancouver to Prince George, BC, 37 years ago, had never lost touch with Kolping Vancouver all those years and had celebrated his 60-year member anniversary in May 2010. After a brunch served by Christel Bernemann, Magdalena Marquadt and their helpers, the executive submitted their reports. Our president, Horst Zimmermann thanked the executive, volunteers and all the unsung good souls who worked behind the scenes performing various tasks during the past year. The election process was short and painless. As there had been no nominations submitted for the four positions open for election, Horst Zimmermann, Gustavo Romero, Erika Zimmermann and Erika Fahrman declared their willingness to stay on for another 2-year term. Our slate of officers is as follows:

President: Horst Zimmermann

Vice President: Guenther Vetter

2nd Vice President: Gustavo Romero

Secretary: Erika Zimmermann

Treasurer: Hanna Bierhaus

Social Convenor: Erika Fahrman

Editor and KCNL Reporter: Rose Vetter

First Trustee (appointed): Dieter Fahrman

Project Jucuaran in El Salvador is making steady progress. The building has been remodelled, housing the computer school and Internet cafe, which will employ two people, and it is hoped that the annual pilgrimage, which fills the town with many faithful every February, will generate a good income. Father Montoya and his assistant Douglas Monjaras have been working hard on these projects. Mr. Tovar of Kolping Mexico has been very supportive and has held a two-day seminar to aid them towards the goal of founding a Kolping Society in the community.

Our Annual Lenten Meal always attracts a large crowd and is generously supported by the members of Holy Family Parish. After Mass on April 3rd, the hall was filled with about 120 people who partook of a humble bowl of lentil soup prepared by our chef Horst. Again this year, the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement were the recipients of this year's collection. The sisters, along with volunteers, not only distribute lunches and clothing to the downtrodden poor of Vancouver, but offer spiritual counselling to alcohol- and drug abuse victims. Sister Mary Anne had taken time out from her busy schedule to come and give us an interesting insight into their selfless labour of love.

On behalf of Kolping Vancouver I sincerely wish all of you the hope, joy and

blessings of our risen Lord. Happy Easter!

Treu Kolping - Rose Vetter

Des Christentums hoechste Pflicht ist Menschenliebe, die Gottesliebe bedingt sie untrennbar von sich. - A. Kolping

NEWS FROM KOLPING WINNIPEG

We had a cold and long winter here in Manitoba with lots of snow. Some lucky members got away to for a few weeks to warmer places in the south or on cruises, but most of the rest of us endured the time at home, going bowling, singing and so on. Now we have April and another Spring flood is coming our way!!! The new, widened floodway should be able to handle the massive amount of water coming from the Northern US and Saskatchewan , and we still hope that it will be not too bad. This morning it was announced that Hwy 75, our route into the US, has been closed.

We had only a few scheduled activities over the winter , and here is an overview: On December 6th, our Adventsfeier took place. We enjoyed the Gluehwein and Stollen. Father Glofcheski told about his experiences during the time when he was Chaplain with the Canadian Armed Forces in countries all over the world. Some members read meaningful stories for the Advent season and we sang a few Adventslieder accompanied by George Broder with his accordion.

The Christmas Party on December 19th, as always the highlight of the season , was a great success. After reading of the Gospel, some singing and a glass of wine, everyone got into the spirit . Even without a program our children and grandchildren came forward to the stage singing, playing instruments and performing for us. Our Kolping ladies choir under the direction of Elena Gerstner sang their beautiful Christmas songs. Finally, St. Nikolaus came and was very busy handing out the gifts. Then we had Coffee with home-baked cookies. It was a lovely afternoon. Convenors were Frank Strauss (decorations) and Joe and Regina Knoll.

On January 9th, we had our Annual General Meeting following Corporate Communion. Father Glofcheski opened the meeting with a prayer. The President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Auditors then gave their reports, and Frank Strauss took over as Election Chairman. After many nominations for the position of President and even more nominations for that of Social Chair, Joe agreed to go on as our President, again, and Elena Gerstner volunteered to be our new Social Chairperson. After that all other positions were quickly filled. We thank our out-going Social Chair, Margret Littau, for her many years of faithful service; she was always there, and nothing was ever too much work for her. All other executive positions are the same as last year.

Our Bowling Tournament took place on April 3rd at Mosienko Lanes, and afterwards we had our get-together in the parish clubrooms. All enjoyed sandwiches, donuts and coffee. A week later, on Sunday, April 10, we had our Communion Breakfast. After Holy Mass, celebrated by our Praeses, Father

Kevin, everybody came over to the hall for a brunch with Fried Chicken , a variety of salads and baked goods. Convenors for this event were Bertha and Simon Pesun and Frank Strauss. Bill Burchuk, the convenor of the Bowling Tournament, announced the winners and presented each one with a bottle of wine. The winners - without handicap - are Elena Gerstner and Frank Strauss, and with handicap are Rose Abendscheon and George Broder. After the short meeting, during which the president thanked Elena for playing the organ for us, a collection was taken up (thank you, Adolf) for the disaster in Japan.

In early May we will hold our 'wind up' at which we will have a quick meeting followed by pizza and a Spielabend. In the meantime, we wish all members and their families a blessed and happy Easter, and a wonderful spring and summer!

Treu Kolping - Hans Kessling/rk

*****Driving through the Dakotas this year, we were certain that the 'severe flooding' predictions reported as far away as Southern California, were overdone. There is very little snow left in the fields, and the ditches are mostly dry.**

Before the last 'severe' flood all the fields were just one huge, endless lake. (A magical moment: - we saw a group of swans - more than 15, swimming and feeding against a copse of dark trees; and of course it was all just heaven for all the returning ducks, geese, cranes, loons and our many other shore birds.)

The Red River drains North and South Dakota and part of Minnesota (the rest flows into the Mississippi). The Assiniboine comes out of Saskatchewan and joins the Red in the center of our city - the exact spot is known as the "Forks" and is being developed for tourism. The whole area is a flood plain. All the water flows into and 'through' Lake Winnipeg to the North and is gone in no time. Thousands and thousands of acres were originally, and should still be, wet-lands, but humans and progress have changed all that.

So far the sand-baggers are still at it. It's a party in some places, with neighbors bringing coffee and food, especially when cops and fire-fighters are involved. The ones who like the situation the best are the high-schoolers, who get out of school for a few hours to pitch in. (When I was in high school , at St. Joseph's School, the only thing that we could ever hope for to do that was a funeral, where our girls' choir got to sing. Kids have it so good these days!) RK