



Kolping Banner

Official Publication of the Catholic Kolping Society of America

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November 2008

Message from the German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth on German-American Day

Dear German-American Organizations:

We celebrate German-American Day and recognize the countless contributions made by German Americans for generations. With this message of greetings from the German Ambassador, Klaus Scharioth, we invite you to discover America's German heritage.

October 6, 2008

This year marks the 21st Anniversary of German-American Day. We are both pleased and proud to celebrate the long history of German immigrants and the many contributions Americans of German ancestry have made to the life, culture and economy of this country since October 6, 1683 when 13 families from Krefeld, near the Rhine River, arrived in Philadelphia. They later were to found Germantown, Pennsylvania, the first German settlement in the 13 American colonies. Today, German-Americans are the largest ethnic group in the United States: Some 43 million Americans, almost 15% of the population, claim German ancestry.

But German presence on American soil can be traced back still farther. Last year, America celebrated the 400th Anniversary of the Jamestown settlement dating back to 1607. At that time, a German physician and botanist by the name of Dr. Johannes Fleischer was among the first group of English pioneers to arrive in Jamestown. More German expertise was to arrive in 1608 with a group of German glassmakers, wainscot sawyers, and metallurgists, thus planting the seeds for America to become the world's industrial powerhouse, one could say. In April, I had the pleasure to attend the official commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Jamestown. It marked not only 400 years of America, but also 400 years of shared history as well as 400 years of German-American friendship.

The year 2008 also marks the 60th anniversary of the implementation of the Marshall Plan and the Berlin Airlift. The Marshall Plan raised a devastated Germany up out of the ashes and reintegrated it into the community of nations following years of Nazi brutality. During the Soviet blockade in 1948, the citizens of Berlin were faced with hardships, but once again, the United States stood by its friends. In more than 270,000 flights between 1948 and 1949, the "candy bombers" brought everything from potatoes to an entire power plant into the besieged city in order to help more than 2 million Berliners to survive the cold and hunger. The brave airmen also made children smile as they dropped a total of 23 tons of candy over Berlin during the blockade. The Berlin Airlift brought freedom and friendship. Thus, Friends Always is the very fitting motto of our commemoration this year.

In 1987, the same year German-American Day was officially proclaimed in the US, Ronald Reagan delivered his historic speech in front of the Berlin Wall. Pointing to the wall, he urged Mr. Gorbachev to tear down the wall. The speech provided prescient in that only two years later the Berlin Wall fell and people from East and West embraced again for the first time in 28 years. Next year, we will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the joyous moment. Germany will be forever grateful for America's role in helping bring about German reunification. We truly have reason to celebrate our lasting friends on this German-American Day!



Klaus Scharioth, German Ambassador

Kolping Banner

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Catholic Kolping Society of America

Mission Statement:

We, the members of the Catholic Kolping Society of America, extend the vision of our founder, Blessed Adolph Kolping, by promoting the development of the individual and family; we foster a sense of belonging and friendship through our program of spiritual, educational, charitable and social activities.

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- San Francisco Kolping Family, 440 Taraval Street, San Francisco, CA, 94116-2530, 415-661-8305

For more information about the Catholic Kolping Society of America, becoming a member, or establishing a Kolping family in your parish or community, please contact the Catholic Kolping Society of America, P.O. Box 4907, Clifton, NJ, 07015-4907, Telephone: 1-877-659-7237, e-mail: patfarkas@optonline.net.

Please visit the Catholic Kolping Society of America internet website at:
<http://www.kolping.org>



From the President's Desk ...

INTERESTING NEWS

My Kolping Brothers and Sisters,

Recently I was made aware of a very interesting web site, www.Headlinebistro.com. The title may be a little misleading. It has nothing to do with bars or restaurants. It is a web site dealing with news, news concerning subjects about the Catholic Church and National and International news. When you log on to the web sit, you can enter your e-mail address to receive a daily update on items concerning the Church and other matters. The good news is that there are no commercials. The web site is totally supported by the Knights of Columbus. There are articles that you may never read in the newspaper or see on television. Try it, I think you will like it.

The month of November is the month set aside to honor and remember our departed loved ones and deceased members. Let us all pray for them and ask the Lord help us to prepare for that day when we are called to Him.

I ask you to continue to pray for the cause of sainthood of Blessed Adolph Kolping.

Happy Thanksgiving.

*Treu Kolping,
Walter Amrein*

2009 Father Krewitt Scholarship

The Catholic Kolping Society of America awards one \$1,000.00 scholarship to further the education or training of one Kolping affiliated student who submits the essay most worthy of the scholarship in accord with the rules.

*Father Krewitt Scholarship Theme
"What would you like to see as your vision of
Kolping USA in the future?"*

Krewitt Scholarship Applicants must:

1. Be a member or the child (or grandchild) of a member of the Catholic Kolping Society of America
2. Provide proof of enrollment in college or post-high vocational program.
3. Submit an essay of no less than 500 and no more than 1000 words.
4. Not be a previous winner.
5. Mail application*, proof of enrollment, and essay *in triplicate* by **February 28, 2009**. Send documents to the address printed on the application.
6. Accept the decision of the judges as final.

*Application forms are available from the local Kolping families or from the national office or our web-site at www.Kolping.org. Please contact the Catholic Kolping Society of America at 1-877-659-7237 with any questions.



A Praeses Proclaims . . .

REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

By Father Paul Cao

Praeses of the Chicago Kolping Society

November is a special month for us. This is the month that the Church calls us to remember those who have gone before us. On the beginning of the month, November 1st, The Church celebrates All Saints and November 2nd, *The Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed (All Souls)*. We will be in a special way remembering all the faithful departed who have gone before us. We can be inspired by the holiness of those who have gone before us. We have the privilege too, of praying for them. On All Souls day, we remember the ordinary people who did ordinary things in respond to the love God gave them. They are the people who did very simple things day after day and poured out their lives to service of those around them. They were the people who gathered in our Church every Sunday to worship the Lord as the community and tried to follow Jesus faithfully every day of their lives. They might include our own parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, our relatives and friends. During this Month of November, the Church encourages us in a special way "to remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest." This month we remember those who have died with great love and fondness. We remember that we can continue to help them through our heartfelt prayers. We can visit the cemetery and pray for them there. We can make a visit to church, light a candle and pray for them too. We can offer masses and offer prayers, good deeds and our own reception of the Eucharist on their behalf. Our prayers on their behalf are

very helpful to them. We know that our bond with them has not been broken. We can remember the words of the Eucharist Prayer we may have heard at their funeral, "when the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven." We can continue to entrust them to God's loving care. We are united with those who have gone before us in the communion of the Saints. We can be certain of their help from their places in heaven. We can yearn too, for the time they greet us upon our arrival there. We can look forward to the time that all the mysteries that lie before us are removed when we see God face to face.

Until then though, we have work to do. We can be motivated by the generous love of the saints as we

strive to become saints ourselves. We can continue to pave the way for our children and grandchildren. They'll find it much easier in Jesus' footsteps if they see us walk that path first. We can live in gratitude too, for those who have loved us so much who have gone before us. This month is a good month for us to reflect how well we use the inspiration of the lives of the saints to help us follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We can ask ourselves how much easier we make it for our children and grandchildren to do the same. We can spend time in fervent prayer for the souls of those who gone before us during this month of November. We can be assured of their help and intercessions as we strive to live another day as a child of God. This month the Church also encourages us to remember all the souls who don't have anyone to pray for them, those who are abandoned. As members of Kolping Family, let us also pray for all the Kolping members who have gone before us and ask them to pray for us as well so that one day we may see them face to face in the Lord's heavenly kingdom.

THE 2008 ANNUAL KOLPING RAFFLE

Dear Kolping Brothers and Sisters,

Once again, we are holding our annual raffle.

The drawing will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2008.

This year's drawing will award three money prizes, including a \$1,500.00 First Prize!

You should have or will be receiving your raffle mailing shortly. There are five (5) raffles valued at \$5.00 each. Please try to sell all the raffles for a total donation of \$25.00. Return your raffle ticket donations by using either the enclosed envelope or by taking them to your local branch.

We must receive all returns by November 25, 2008.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Patricia Farkas

Catholic Kolping Society of America	
2008 RAFFLE	
1st Prize — \$1,500.00	
2nd Prize — \$1,000.00	
3rd Prize — \$500.00	
Proceeds to further the mission of Kolping: Banner - Development - Scholarship - Education Leadership Seminar - Training	
Drawing: DECEMBER 7, 2008	
DONATION: \$5.00	

KOLPING AT THE UNITED NATIONS *By John Reitter*



John Reitter and Hubert Tintelott after presentation of special award to John.

PART 2 of 2

One evening for dinner we joined with a large number of Bolivian Kolping families celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of Obra Kolping. In attendance were also about 25 members of Kolping Switzerland. Why were they there? The answer given was that it was Kolping Switzerland who partnered with Bolivia all these years and continues to maintain that relationship even today.

At the end of our stay we flew to Santa Cruz for a ten-hour stop before proceeding on to Miami. While there, we had lunch at the Kolping House and were even given a room to freshen up in or to take a nap. We chose to visit the Kolping clinic that I had heard so much about. What an amazing sight! Here was this five story building with a beautiful glass entrance way and a big orange and black letter K on top of the building for all the world to see. The first door to the right contained a very modern looking facility for eye care and indeed, about eighty thousand pairs of glasses are sold by Kolping there each year. It really is impressive to see so many little translucent envelopes lined up in rows all containing the customer's order, all imprinted with the Kolping logo on them.

Other offices offered a variety of medical services. The waiting room contained posters showing the stages of a baby's development in the womb and encouraging delivery and safe birth as opposed to abortion. The doctors only work there a few days a week and then return to their own practices. But

they really like to participate because they have access to the lab where blood work can be done. In addition to this facility, there is another Kolping clinic attached to the Kolping House. People are lined up at seven in the morning to get a visit with a doctor. And another Kolping clinic is being built right across the street. Remember however that this is Bolivia, so that you still see the five gallon can of freshly mixed cement being hauled up several stories via rope and pulley, then lowered again over and over. You can see the outer perimeter between one floor and the other being supported by what appears to be three inch thick tree branches. I have some interesting photos that I brought with me that I can pass around and show you later.

The most amazing thing is that the cost of a ten minute visit with a doctor of your choice is only 17 Bolivianos, or about two and one half dollars. Of course, depending on the diagnosis, other visits with specific doctors may be necessary at additional cost. This is an extremely successful and well respected operation. I understand that some Cuban doctors want to come and offer their services for free, just so they can practice medicine here.

When I meet with the NGO Committee on Aging, and we discuss the rights and needs of that ever expanding population called the elderly, I can talk to them about the Kolping facility built in Vienna which is not only a modern facility with wide halls, elevators, wheelchair accessible, and reflecting pools with lots of flowers and greenery, but is also a facility with a wing for single and unwed mothers and their children. This interaction between the young children and the elderly benefits both age groups and is delightful to witness.

When we talk in the UN about the need to communicate better electronically, about being able to view presentations and attend meetings via the internet, I am reminded about the goals Father David sets out for his Kolping families: to improve the yield of their farm plots by teaching them about that very latest technological advance called composting.

At the forums or discussions groups organized by the NGO Committee on the Family, I often find examples to

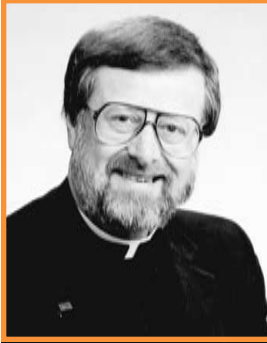
offer regarding life skills training in South Africa and the necessity to get the mother and father to agree to let their child be trained, for that child will surely be different than all the other children in the community. At the conference on the status of women, I support the efforts to fight for the right of women to own property, to be treated with dignity and not as chattel. I support efforts to outlaw gender mutilation and the selling of young girls into sexual slavery. I talk about the Kolping success stories with micro credit in India and the stories of young women learning to sew and ultimately hire others to help them with their small business. I talk about fathers in South Africa who need counseling because they were unable to manage their micro credit loans successfully, although their wives were able to do so.

Earlier this year I was approached by a Jesuit priest teaching at the University of Loyola. Father Tom was on sabbatical for a year to write a book about the history of Catholic NGOs at the United Nations and had heard about the Kolping Society from the ICO center. When we finally got together, Father Tom spent many hours asking questions and taking copious notes about the Kolping story. I hope we actually make it as a chapter in his book and become a part of Catholic UN history!

Later on this year at the invitation of Sr. Dorothy Farley, I will be speaking to her community at their convent regarding the life and times of Father Kolping and the work of the International Kolping Society.

I have been truly blessed to see first hand the great work that God does through the hands of his servants, the community of the Kolping brothers and sisters. I am honored to be able to share these experiences with you. Thank you for allowing me to do so. *John Reitter*

NOTE: *On behalf of the Executive Board, Congratulations to John Reitter upon his receipt of the GOLDENES EHRENZEICHEN – THE SPECIAL AWARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL KOLPING SOCIETY FOR HIS WORK WITH THE UN, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL KOLPING. John – You certainly deserve it!*



HEALING THE WOUNDS OF DIVORCE

by Fr. Albert A. Grosskopf, S.J.

Father Albert A. Grosskopf, S.J., associate pastor of St. Ignatius Church in San Francisco, is a leader in ministering to divorced individuals who suffer from feelings of loss, failure, and loneliness. In helping them reach reconciliation, he has also learned something about why marriages work or don't work.

"I thought the Church was against divorce!" That statement is often made to me when someone learns that I have a special ministry with divorced people. The statement prompts my reply: "Yes, the Church is definitely against divorce, and divorced people are strongly against divorce as well, but *the Church isn't against divorced people.*"

During an interview on a local television program, I reiterated that statement as I spoke of the more than 30 years I have been working with divorced Catholics, beginning at Holy Family Church in San Jose, where I founded one of the first Catholic divorce support groups in California – New Horizons, a group that continues to function in this healing ministry.

In 1974, the late Father James Young, C.S.P., founded the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics (NACSD). Today, the NACSD's Catholic Divorce Ministry is sanctioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. As a chaplain in this ministry, I am involved with the divorce support groups affiliated with the Separated and Divorced Catholics of the Bay Area. In addition to ongoing support groups, this ministry offers the Divorce Recovery Course, an annual Mass for the Divorced of the Archdiocese and Bay Area, and numerous social gatherings. It publishes a monthly newsletter "On Eagles Wings" with information about support groups, spiritual opportunities, retreats and other events in the San Francisco Bay Area. Visit the [Catholic Divorce Ministry](#) online.

Not uncommonly, men and women who experience divorce feel very isolated and alone, as if that experience had never happened to anyone else, especially in their family. They may feel excluded from the Church, burdened with a sense of failure, as if they had done something wrong that caused their divorce. Often, their sense of loss is the loss of a dream, the dream of a successful marriage, rather than the loss of a person. Support groups furnish a means for them to share their painful experiences and know that they have been heard and understood by others with shared experiences. This is truly a peer ministry.

For adults grieving the loss of a love relationship through divorce or separation, one such support program is the Beginning Experience Weekend. During this weekend session, trained peer ministers facilitate the grief resolution process and participants have an opportunity for in-depth healing time. Such weekends are scheduled at various times in the United States and abroad. Visit [Beginning Experience](#) for more information and schedules.

Sometimes, when people who are unfamiliar with the concept hear of the Church's process of marriage annulment, they may make assumptions based on incorrect information. I consider this process to be a healing process rather than a legal one, a way of learning how one makes important decisions, assisting in the necessity of grieving,

putting closure on a past painful relationship, and opening up new possibilities. One misconception may be that a declaration of nullity, a term I prefer to annulment, may render the children of an annulled marriage illegitimate. Not so, for there was indeed a legal marriage, although it fell short of being an intimate partnership of married life and love established by the Creator, as described by the Second Vatican Council. Other misconceptions may be that the process takes an extraordinarily long time, costs a huge sum of money, and must always be decided in Rome, all of which are not true. Often, petitioners for a declaration of nullity come seeking, not an opportunity for a remarriage in the Church, but simply an opportunity for closure on a painful part of their lives and a resultant healing experience. I find that diocesan tribunals, the local venues where cases of nullity are handled, are staffed by canon lawyers, men and women, some priests, some laity, who are very sensitive to the pain of those petitioning for a declaration of nullity. Theirs is a ministry of remarkable compassion and sensitivity.

My many years of ministry with divorced people also have convinced me of the importance of the Church's insistence on adequate marriage preparation. My experience tells me that couples today wait longer to prepare for marriage and the prospective partners seem to be older than in previous times. Significantly, this seems to indicate that one of the major problems in marriages today is fear: fear of making a lifetime commitment, fear of failure. Engaged couples may be really scared of making such a commitment for a lifetime because they may not have witnessed a healthy and loving marriage in their growing-up years. Fear often has to do with the fear of vulnerability, fear of being hurt, which inhibits trust. Only in an environment of shared trust can love grow and develop, a love that can form the basis for a shared sacramental, covenantal relationship for a lifetime.

Most dioceses require a six-month preparation period for marriage. During this period, a priest, deacon, or pastoral minister may use an instrument called Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study (FOCCUS) to provide couples with a personalized profile and pertinent data that fosters shared discussion with each other over the course of several preparation sessions. Couples are assured that FOCCUS is not a test, nor is it a pass/fail situation. Additionally, a weekend Engaged Encounter provides a valuable opportunity for enhanced sharing on a deeper level.

Our contemporary society often falls short of supporting healthy marriages and families that nurture and love the children that are the future of our world. Hopefully, adequate marriage preparation will in time diminish the high incidence of marriage failure and divorce.

COLOGNE

50 years of personal cooperation in development within the Kolping Society

In 1958 the first eight development aid workers from the ranks of the Kolping Society were trained and sent to Ethiopia to build up a leprosy station there. This anniversary was an opportunity for the Board of the Social and Development Aid of the Kolping Society Assoc. (SEK e. V.) to issue a declaration on June 9, 2008. In it the continuing importance of development aid at personal level was stressed and it was made clear that within the field of development cooperation it is not alone a matter of passing on expertise, but also a matter of being a bridge-builder between the cultures. Against this background the SEK e.V. is demanding by these states the financing of development aid workers who come from the countries of the South. "The personal cooperation in development aid must not remain a one-way-street", General Secretary Hubert Tintelott demanded.

Apart from long-term assignments of the development aid workers the Kolping Society is also demanding and supporting voluntary services of several weeks or months of duration. Also this way of personal cooperation is a means of mutual understanding between the cultures and for the promotion of international solidarity.

ALBANIA

Clean potable water for schools and 30 families

For many people, the supply with clean potable water is a major problem



and many diseases have their cause in contaminated water. Having said this, it becomes more understandable how a drilling of a well for the supply of potable water for thirty families and a school became an event which was welcomed by the whole population of the village enthusiastically. In mid-June the well which was drilled on the initiative of the Kolping Family and with the support of the Kolping Society Albania and KOLPING INTERNATIONAL and the respective water conduit were inaugurated in Shelquet. The Kolping Family thus proved that it not only cares for its own members, but also is putting out actual initiatives for the solution of problems concerning society.

POLAND

Partnership for Peace

From June 13 to 15, 2008 the third German-Polish partnership meeting took place. The partnership meetings are designed to deepen the contacts between the Kolping Society of Poland and the diocesan organization of Essen, which have established a partnership. In view of the changeful history full of tensions between Germany and Poland, time and again subjects take center stage which can help reduce the existing frictions and open up ways for a peaceful

and truthful cooperation. At this year's meeting the subject of peace took center stage and the foundations for a peaceful coexistence and ways of education for peace were discussed intensively. Part of the agenda was also a retrospective into history and an overview of the partner relations between the Kolping

Societies of both countries and the partner relations between the German and Polish cities. The meeting was not only an enriching educational experience, but for 34 participants from the diocesan organization of Essen and for more than 100 participants from Poland, it also meant that by deepening the personal relations the work in partnership could be strengthened further.

ROMANIA

Episcopal Conference gets information on the Kolping Society

Three representatives of the Kolping Society in Romania were invited to attend the meeting of the Romanian Bishops' Conference in Sibiu on May 15, 2008 in order to provide information on the work of the Romanian Kolping Society. For more than 30 minutes, the representatives of the Kolping Society were given the opportunity to present the work of the Kolping Society and its new development after the political changes in 1989. The illustration of activities in the field of vocational training found special interest. On the basis of the given information two bishops in whose dioceses the Kolping Society is not yet active have issued an invitation to the Kolping Society to start building up Kolping Families there and have reiterated their active support.

National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund received the following contributions for the month of September 15, 2008 to October 15, 2008.

In Memory of Herbert Bush, deceased member of the Los Angeles Kolping Society
Los Angeles Kolping Society

Kolping Society National Endowment Fund
c/o Lisa Brinkmann
311 Greene Street
Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

NEW MEMBERS

Listed below are new members who have recently joined the Catholic Kolping Society.

DETROIT

- David & Linda Fletcher
Clinton Township, MI
- Conrad & Peggy Leder
Clinton Township, MI
- Bruce & Nancy Sellers
Clinton Township, MI
- Carolyn Steele
St. Clair Shores, MI
- Debra A. Szpont
St. Clair Shores, MI

NEW YORK

- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas O'Gorman
Buchanan, NY
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kogler
Crompond, NY
- Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Yee
Westbury, NY

PHILADELPHIA

- Barbara Ann Monahan
Bristol, PA

Welcome to all new members. Patricia Farkas

ROMANIA**First Hike for Peace by the Kolping Society Romania**

This hike was inspired by the International Kolping Hike – which was initiated after World War II – to link the individuals of antagonized peoples and to find ways for peaceful cooperation. From May 1 to 3, 2008, the Kolping Society of Romania in cooperation with the diocesan organization of Alba organized the First Hike for Peace for all Kolping Families of the country. 206 members from 20 different Kolping Families took part in this First Hike for Peace. In Luke 10:5 it says what Jesus told his selected disciples: “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house’.” It was the intention of the organizers to reiterate this assignment. In Romania – seen from the outside – there is peace, but in the hearts of the people – in their individual “own small world”, there is merely just conflict, tension and negative feelings which often affect the outside and often enough affect the community, as Diocesan Praeses Barciz Lajos, one of the organizers stressed in his speech. On the one hand, the Kolping Families are characterized by different historical and cultural traditions, but on the other hand there are also differences caused by ethnos and rite. Jesus Christ alone can give true and lasting peace and reconciliation, which is only facilitating cooperation between the many different people and communities. This was something that was a shared view by all the participants. The Hike for Peace led through the pilgrimage site of Sumuleu Ciuc, through the cities Miercurea Ciuc and Odorheiu Secuiesc as well as the Harghita moun-

tain range. In the Kolping Recreational Center of Ivo further church services were held, as well as meditations, singing at the campfire and a joyous final evening and many talks among the members took place.

Due to the good response, the Second Hike for Peace of the Kolping Society of Romania will be organized in 2009. It will be hosted by the regional organization of Moldava in 2009.

SWITZERLAND**Work with senior citizens has to become a part of our profile**

“The Kolping Society as a community encompassing several generations with a future – also actively shaped by the Generation 60 Plus” – this theme took center stage as regards to content in this year’s central conference of the Kolping Society of Switzerland in Gossau on June 7, 2008. In view of the fact that 72% of the members of the Swiss organization are over 60 years of age, the delegates posed themselves the question of how the society can be actively shaped in future in view of this structure of members. A consensus was quickly reached that the people above sixty years of age do still have a great potential and even more spare time in comparison to employed persons and that this also means special chances for their actual commitment. The Kolping Society of Switzerland will therefore increase its work with senior citizens and make offers to elderly members, how they can keep fit both mentally and physically and how they can remain open for new insights through an increase in education. Especially in a time where the generation of employed workers has to retire from many areas

of the commitment of civil society due to the dual burden of work and family, working actively with senior citizens gives a chance for the assumption of activities in society. The goal would have to be: Not to retire but to retyre, not to back out but only to change tyres.

UGANDA**KEDEP opens up its own office in Mityana**

On May 31, 2008 KEDEP (Kolping Entrepreneurs Development Program) opened up its branch in Mityana and the house was inaugurated solemnly by National Praeses Peter Isingoma. KEDEP is the financial institute of the Kolping Society of Uganda for the promotion of small enterprises and it issues credits for entrepreneurial activities. KEDEP was officially founded in 2002 and has at present a capital base of 450 million Ugandan Shillings and about 750 clients. Due to its limited resources KEDEP is concentrating its activities within the dioceses of Hoima and Mityana. By opening an office in Mityana KEDEP now has a branch in both towns and has nine members of staff. As another financial institution apart from KEDEP the Kolping Society of Uganda has established savings and credit groups in all Kolping Families. These savings and credit activities are exclusively at the disposal of the members while KEDEP is active beyond the boundaries of the Kolping Society. The Kolping Society of Uganda at present has 239 Kolping Families with 7384 members and thus is the strongest national organization in terms of members in Africa.

KOLPING ON THE INTERNET

While updating Kolping.org website, I came across an interesting news article in the International News Archives. The article is from Kolping Germany entitled “Breakfast for Singles”. The Kolping Family Eslohe observed a need in their community and actively chose to do something about it.

They observed that older people experience loneliness as a result of the death of a marriage partner and children living and working far away from their parents.

Kolping Family Eslohe felt that a simple concept of a joint breakfast was a worthy endeavor to pursue. They would invite single persons for breakfast on every first Saturday of every month. At first they found that

the response to the invitations were minimal at best, however, with time the concept began to take root and more people began to take an interest and go to the “Breakfast for Singles.” The Kolping Family Eslohe found that these little get togethers establish new contacts that go beyond monthly meetings and a way for older people to break out of their loneliness habit.

Can this concept be applied to your Kolping family? Perhaps its time to place that ad in your local hometown or parish newspaper promoting the benefits of participating in Kolping again.

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A Parent's Thanksgiving Prayer



Thankful are we, Lord, for worrying moms, scolding dads, spoiling grandmas, coaches who correct, and children who manage to giggle and wiggle out from underneath the burden of it all. Love, the purpose of our planning ways. Love, the glow that saves our days when sticky fingers, potty chairs, and curfews could gather like a perfect storm to thwart. Delicate, our task of training tender hears. Thankful we are, Lord, for your love that authors it all. Your perfect love, our safety net. Thankful we are for you.

Happy Thanksgiving
From the Editor and Staff of the Kolping Banner

*Please Remember
To Pray For All
Our Dear Departed
Members Who Have
Gone To Their
Eternal Rest*

BUFFALO
Jerry Brandl

CINCINNATI
Richard Breitenstein
Edward Meier

DETROIT
Joe Doeren
Sonia Schroer

LOS ANGELES
Herbert Bush

SAN FRANCISCO
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