



Kolping Banner

Official Publication of the Catholic Kolping Society of America

Vol. 84 No. 1

October 2008

CONVENTION 2008 THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

The 37th National Convention of the Catholic Kolping Society of America was held Labor Day weekend, August 29 – September 1, 2008 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Our hosts were the members of the Philadelphia Kolping Society. The Sheraton Society Hill was the headquarters site for the convention.

Some conventioners arrived early to take advantage of the sightseeing opportunities. Activities for the convention began on Friday with registration and hospitality time to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

On Friday evening, the National Officers and the National Representatives held its meeting. Walter Amrein, National President, welcomed the members and introduced our guest for our weekend meetings, Hubert Tintelott, our International Secretary. Along with the usual business items, there was a discussion on representation on the National Board, the National Administrator becoming an independent contractor, the formation of the Kolping Development Institute and establishment of a National Office and Archieve at New York 88th Street facility. These proposals would be brought to the convention floor for discussion. The officer nominations were presented for approval, and the convention

agenda was approved. The meeting was then closed.

On Saturday morning, we had Mass celebrated by Fr. Engelbert Michel, Praeses of the Philadelphia Kolping Family. Following Mass, the convention was opened. Walter Amrein began the meeting by once again welcoming our delegates and our honored guest. We proceeded with the order of business, that being the seating of the delegates and nominations for National Officers' positions by Betty Amrein, chairwoman of the committee. Voting for the new officers immediately followed.

The new slate of officers were:

President – Walter Amrein, Cincinnati

Vice President – Bernard Preisser,
New York

Secretary – Helene Schrand, Cincinnati

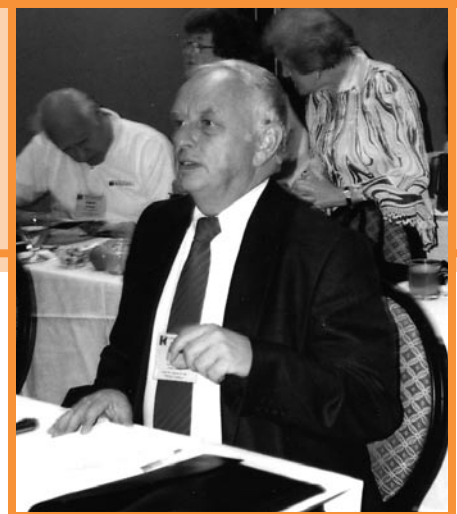
Treasurer – Ted Wilke, Cincinnati

Trustees –

Elizabeth Amrein, Cincinnati
Lisa Brinkmann, San Francisco
Frank Fon, Chicago
Charles O'Neil, Detroit
John Reitter, New York

Congratulations to all the new officers.

Discussions were then commenced on the four proposals. With regards to



Hubert Tintelott, International-Secretary, preparing for meeting.

representation by all branches on the National Board, it was stated that that would entail a by-law change, which would have to be presented at the 2010 convention. A vote was taken on that proposal, and it was vetoed.

On the National Administrator becoming an independent contractor, several delegates expressed their concern about the legality of that change. That too was voted on, and it also was vetoed.

The next discussion was on the Kolping Development Institute. This entailed quite a long discussion with the delegates. However, there were several points which were in need of clarification, and after a vote, it was decided that this proposal would be tabled until the 2010 convention, and it would be explored during the next two years.

The proposal for the renovation of a National Office at 88th Street was

(Continued on page 4)

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.

Episcopal Moderator:
Bishop John M. Quinn

National Officers:

Praeses: Fr. Bruno Kremp, O.F.M.
Associate Praeses: Fr. Albert Grosskopf, S.J.
President: Walter Amrein
Vice President: Thomas Schultes
Secretary: Helene Schrand
Treasurer: Ted Wilke
Trustees: Elizabeth Amrein
Lisa Brinkmann
Charles O'Neil
John Reitter
Ted Tegenkamp

Kolping Family Locations:

Brooklyn Kolping Family, 6504 Myrtle Ave., Glendale, NY, 11385-6250, 718-456-7727
Buffalo, New York Kolping Family, 1145 Cleveland Drive, Buffalo, NY, 14225-1257, 716-632-7360
Chicago Kolping Family, 5826 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60646-5544, 773-792-2190
Cincinnati Kolping Family, 10235 Mill Rd., Cincinnati, OH, 45231-1924, 513-851-7951
Detroit Kolping Family, 24409 Jefferson Ave., Saint Clair Shores, MI, 48080-1318, 586-775-9159
Holy Trinity Kolping, Passaic, New Jersey, 226 Harrison St., Passaic, NJ, 07055-6202, 973-772-4339
Los Angeles Kolping Family, 1225 S. Union Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90015-2021, 213-388-9438
New York Kolping Family, 165 E. 88th St., New York, NY 10128-2241, 212-369-6647
Philadelphia Kolping Family, P.O. Box 52651, Philadelphia, PA, 19115, 215-676-8977
Rochester, New York Kolping Family 284 Malden St., Rochester, NY 14615-2658
Saint Louis, Missouri, 4035 Keokuk St., Saint Louis, MO, 63116-3513, 314-776-5312
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...

REPORT TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dear Kolping Brothers and Sisters,

Twenty-four months ago at the Detroit convention, I was privileged to be chosen your president. Shortly before departing Detroit for home, I was approached by a distinguished long-time Kolping member, who shared his opinion with me that very few Kolping members knew me. He felt that I should become more acquainted with the Kolping families around the country and, in addition to that, that I should make them aware of my goals as Kolping president.

During the past twenty-four months, I have strived to increase the number of members and I have also visited six of the twelve Kolping families during this time. I will continue to stress the need for each Kolping family to recruit new members. I have also stressed that more Kolping families become involved at the national level of Kolping by volunteering to run for National offices.

During these past twenty-four months there have been two very successful Lenten Projects, for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Slidell, Louisiana. Over \$27,000 was raised for the parish school that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

Your National Officers and Trustees continue to explore the future mission of the Catholic Kolping Society in the United States.

I would like to thank Philadelphia Kolping for hosting the 2008 convention. They have worked very hard to prepare for a successful convention.

I would also like to thank the National Officers and Trustees and our National Administrator, Pat Farkas, for their hard work during the past twenty-four months.

I ask you to join with me in continuing to pray for the cause of sainthood for Blessed Adolph Kolping.

Thank you for the honor of being your President the last twenty-four months.

Walter Amrein

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

Name		Address		City/State		Phone		Branch	
No: 0116									
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									
No: 0116									

The Changing Face of Kolping International



Hubert Tintelott

This year K O L P I N G I N T E R - N A T I O N A L celebrates a very special anniversary, 40 years Action Brazil. Somebody may ask why is the decision of the International Convention 1968

so important, what makes this decision a historical one for Kolping. But if we look at the development of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL since that time, we will easily understand that 1968 was a watershed for Kolping. In 1968, Kolping was present in 14 countries in the world, mostly in Europe and in the U.S.A. mostly German-speaking Kolping Families. Today Kolping has Kolping Families in 61 countries and not any longer just in Europe but also in America – North and South, in Africa, Asia and even one in Australia. So since 1968 we have had a tremendous growth in Kolping. More than 2000 Kolping Families have been newly founded since 1968.

So what makes the decision of 1968 a milestone for the development of Kolping. The reason was that the delegates at the time bethought themselves of the beginnings of the Kolping organization. Adolph Kolping started his Society because he wanted to contribute to the solution of the Social Question of the 19th century. If you look at European history you can always read that Adolph Kolping was successful in this respect, he is known as one of the great social reformers of the 19th century. But the Social Question has changed in the past. This became really clear in the in the encyclical “Populorum progressio” by Paul VI in 1967. In his encyclical he stated that the Social Question has become a worldwide issue and that therefore new answers are necessary and that one answer is a strong commitment in development activities. The decision of the International Convention in Salzburg to start the “Action Brazil” was the answer of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL to this new challenge. The decision to start the “Action Brazil” signified that Kolping, the different Kolping Families and Kolping national organizations joined their forces in one country and did not

scatter its activities to many parts of the world. This decision was very wise because from that time on Kolping could not only start small projects in different parts of the world, a water pump here, a formation centre there, a professional training centre here and an agricultural project there, in every country with different partners. Since 1968 KOLPING INTERNATIONAL followed its own way of development aid, and one special feature of the development activities of Kolping is not only to start and finance projects but to start and found Kolping Families as self-helping groups, to form these self-helping groups together into self-helping national organizations which can not only realize projects but give the poor people also a voice.

If you look at the results alone in Brazil today, you can see what is possible if resources of Kolping worldwide are joined, if all Kolping Families in KOLPING INTERNATIONAL work together in one direction. Kolping Brazil today has approx. 400 Kolping Families with about 23,000 members. In the last 40 years, 892,522 persons got a vocational training, 219,044 people got a job, and more than 5.9 million people benefited in one way or the other from the activities of Kolping in Brazil. You always have to be aware that a great majority of those 5.9 million people were very poor and that with the help of Kolping they got new hope for their future life. But Brazil was only the beginning, we are now active with our development aid programmes in 24 countries, and every year more than 400,000 people benefit in one way or the other from those activities of Kolping. I think these figures make it clear to everyone why the year 1968 was so important for KOLPING INTERNATIONAL. But I think that the figures and the good results show at the same time what is possible if we join our forces.

Our appearance in the Catholic Universal Church and at international political level

You may imagine that the strong growth of Kolping in so many parts of the world also has been recognized by the leaders of the Church in the different countries, but also by the regional and continental bishop conferences and even by the Vatican. More and more

often, Kolping receives invitations from the bishop conferences to participate in seminars, but also to join special activities in the pastoral work. In December 2007, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL was invited by the Secretariat of State of the Vatican to take part in a conference of Catholic organizations which have a consultative status at U.N. level. In general it was discussed at this meeting what can be done at U.N. level to protect and defend Christian values. In the last years the influence of NGOs at U.N. level becomes stronger and stronger. Today nearly 3000 NGOs have a consultative status. But among these 3000 only 150 are Catholic organizations. So we have to see how we can work together and what can be done to become more successful also in this political field.

KOLPING INTERNATIONAL has found more and more respect not only at Church level. We notice the growing influence and reputation also at political level. For example together with another Catholic organization KOLPING INTERNATIONAL submitted a statement to ECOSOC on the topic of human work. The U.N. saw to the translation of this statement into different languages and it became an important subject for discussion during the meeting of ECOSOC in February. If KOLPING INTERNATIONAL has achieved such a good reputation at U.N. level in New York, this is also a result of the very successful work of John Reitter who is our representative at U.N. level in New York. Let me express a special word of thanks to John for his commitment.

The challenge for the future

If we look at the strong growth of Kolping in Latin America, Africa and Asia we have to recognize that at the same time we are losing members in our traditional national Kolping organizations, like Germany, Austria, Switzerland and so on. Of course this is a big challenge for us. On the one hand we see that, because of the strong individualism in Europe and I fear also in the United States, it becomes more and more difficult to attract people for a membership in any organization. People fear to take on responsibility. But at the same time we realize – at least in Europe – that as a result of this

(Continued on page 8)

CONVENTION 2008 *(Continued)*

reviewed, and New York offered costs and explanation of their intentions. This was favorably received, and that proposal will be put into motion by New York.

John Reitter also gave his UN report. Hubert Tintelott also said a few words regarding International Kolping.

Items for the Good and Welfare of the Society were also on the agenda. Joan Dobler of Cincinnati gave us some highlights for the convention in 2010 which will be hosted by the Cincinnati Kolping Family. She had some literature which she distributed to the delegates.

The Convention was officially adjourned on Saturday afternoon.

On Saturday evening we were bused to the Philadelphia Kolping facility where a barbecue was prepared, along with Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches, a great favorite. It was a beautiful evening, and there was dancing as well as Schuplatzer Dancers. Everyone had a great time and returned happy and tired to the hotel.

On Sunday morning, we processed from the Sheraton to Old Saint Mary's Church, approximately four blocks from the hotel. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bruno Kremp, National Praeses of the Catholic Kolping Society of America. It was a very beautiful Mass, concelebrated by all the Praeses that attended the convention. This is a historic church, built in the 1700's, and as you sit there and look up at the lanterns and chandeliers, you can imagine sitting there in the 1700's with candles burning in those fixtures. It was very impressive.

After Mass we returned to the Sheraton Society Hill where a brunch was served. The Distinguished Service Awards were presented and Hubert Tintelott gave a brief talk. The highlight of this brunch, however, was the award given to John Reitter. He was presented with the "Goldenes Ehrenzeichen, The Special Award of the International Kolping Society" pin for his extraordinary work with National Kolping and International Kolping and his tremendous efforts with the UN.

This is one of the highest honors from International Kolping that can be bestowed on a member. Congratulations John! You truly deserved it. The delegates and non-delegates now had the afternoon free and many went sightseeing for the day.

On Monday morning we gathered

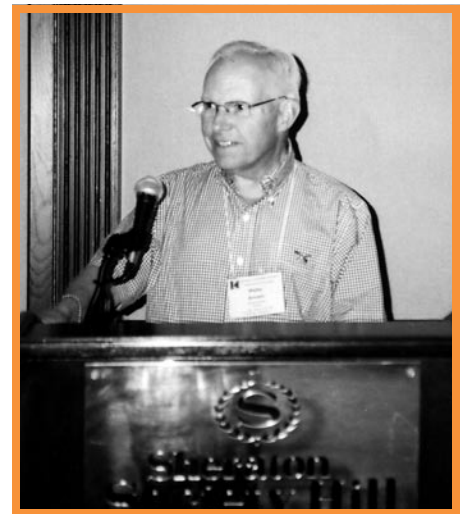


Delegates from New York and New Jersey getting ready for meetings.

for our closing Mass, celebrated by Fr. Winfried Kellner of the Rochester Kolping Society. After Mass, there was an informal meeting of delegates and non-delegates where they could voice their opinions and offer suggestions, as well as present any questions they may have. A short meeting of the new officers followed.

I would like to thank all those who attended the 37th National Convention and a special thank you to the Philadelphia Kolping Convention Committee for an outstanding job. On behalf of the officers who will lead our society for the next two years, I sincerely ask for your prayers and hope you will support them.

Patricia Farkas



Walt Amrein, President, opening the meeting Saturday morning.

2008 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

- Brooklyn Anne Novotny
- Buffalo Christa Maier
- Chicago Clifford Grammich
- Cincinnati Regina Albers
Ray Kunze
Phyllis Lunnemann
Christine Janszen
- Detroit Rosalinda Seubert
- Holy Trinity Marie Steiner
- Los Angeles Joseph Meyer
- New York Marlene Bittermann
Bernard Dengler
- St. Louis Enola Ziebol
- San Francisco . . . Patrick Biesty



Roz Seubert of Detroit being congratulated by Hubert Tintelott.

KOLPING AT THE UNITED NATIONS *By John Reitter*

PART 1 of 2

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!*

Over the years, there have been many lofty pledges to halt disease, help mothers and children, and wipe out hunger. In September of 2000, the United Nations convened the UN Millennium Summit, a meeting of world leaders to determine a concrete plan for improving the quality of life in the developing countries. And this time, things were different.

Eight Millennium Development Goals were adopted by 189 countries, representing a compact made by governments of both rich and poor countries as well as key institutions that determine the fate of many low-income countries. Responsibilities were explicitly outlined, strong focus was placed on implementation, performance would be monitored and the Goals themselves were time bound, targeted for achievement by 2015.

The first Millennium Development

Goal is the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. The mandate is to reduce the proportion of the population living on less than one dollar a day by half, and further, to reduce the proportion of the people who suffer from hunger by half as well.

It wasn't until two years ago however, that recognition was given to the role that work and employment play in providing the means to achieving this very ambitious objective. It now forms a subset of the first Millennium Development Goal and was indeed the focus of the 46th session of the Commission for Social Development as evidenced by its theme "PROMOTING FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL."

It is no coincidence that the five year theme adopted for Kolping families around the world at last year's International Convention in Alsopahok, Hungary also centers on the world of work. The Christian concept of work as espoused in the principles laid out by Father Kolping in his writings and the Catholic Church in its encyclicals indicate that human work is not only a necessity to earn a living, but also an opportunity for self development and a service to the community. The Kolping Society places special emphasis on fashioning a world of work that embraces



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

human dignity.

The nine day session of the Commission for Social Development is one of the most important meetings of the year because civil society in consultative status with ECOSOC has an opportunity to express its opinions via written intervention and influence the commission's output document with suggestions and comments to members and staff.

To this end, the International Kolping Society and the Association of Charities jointly submitted an excellent and well received intervention to the Commission for Social Development. This was the product of a dialogue between member unions of the German Federation of Unions and a working group of the German Commission for Justice and Peace. A statement such as this has to be submitted in writing several months in advance to be considered for acceptance, translated into six languages, and then distributed to member states for their consideration. This was accomplished and the statement now sits in the UN records as E/CN.5/2008/NGO/2. Do not bother to write that down since we have loaded the document into the Kolping USA website. You can read it in its entirety at www.Kolping.org and then click on Kolping Society at the United Nations.

The eighteen paragraph statement in summary points out that work promotes peoples creativity, flexibility and self realization; that the "right to work" and "rights at work" are linked to provided decent work; that basic

(Continued on next page)

RVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS



Distinguished Service Award Recipients

KOLPING AT THE UN *(Continued)*

training, further training and a stable social security system promotes secure social peace; that education, subsidized training and access to micro credits will go a long way to easing the problems of informal workers who total almost two thirds of the working population in many countries. Elimination of undue bureaucracy and establishment of legal security leads to the creation of more jobs and makes it easier to enforce core labor standards. Legislatures must make this happen.

Meanwhile, a Civil Society Forum was convened the day before the opening of the session of the Commission for Social Development was to begin. Under the leadership of the NGO Committee for Social Development, we (Kolping and about 200 other members from a variety of NGOs) spent the day listening to presentations and breaking out into groups trying to forge a document that would become the Civil Society Declaration, "Making Copenhagen Work: Decent Work for a Decent Life." On the following morning our statement was read into the record and presented to the Commission as the first order of business. Among the many points presented were the following highlights:

- We affirmed that when we put people at the center of everything we do we take the first step in making a decent life possible for every member of society.

- We recognized that employment is not only a response to societal needs, but it also contributes to the well being of the person, the family and the community.

- We reaffirmed the central importance of employment and decent work to poverty eradication and social integration.

- We proposed that governments alleviate the plight of women in poverty by finding creative ways to remunerate unpaid work such as child care, care of the aging and the critically ill.

- We proposed that governments adopt a consultative framework for dialogue with key stakeholders, including representatives of civil society.

- We recommended that the subject of full employment and decent work be taken up as a thematic debate in the General Assembly.

One other item of significance and interest occurred in the fall of last year. The Vatican invited the International Kolping Society to participate in a "FORUM OF CATHOLIC INSPIRATION NGOs" in Rome from November 30 to December 2. In New York, Kolping's membership in the International Catholic Organizations Information Center and many years of working with the Director of that group, Sr. Dorothy Farley, has given Kolping exposure to Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio and the Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the UN. Part of the reason for the Forum was to foster mutual knowledge and synergy with the Holy See and its representatives.

The Forum was to provide an interactive space for the participants to share their experiences, priority areas and challenges in their important commitment to working for the dignity of the human person in the Community of Nations. Mr. Hubert Tintelott represented Kolping at this unusual opportunity. The idea of how to better improve the dialogue and interaction of NGOs of Catholic inspiration and the Holy See at the international level is still being addressed.

I must admit that in the subsequent meetings that I attended there does not appear to be a readily achieved

consensus on how to bring this effort to a successful conclusion. Indeed, the future of the ICO centers also seems to be in doubt. Many of the religious orders who have NGO status are not ready to relinquish their own specific agendas or missions to focus on Holy See directed objectives. On the other hand, Catholic lay organizations do not have the logistics or organization to band together to form a large single voice coalition. Nonetheless, we continue to meet and hopefully, one day, some positive results will emerge.

One of the things that excited me most about my work at the United Nations during the past 12 years was the many opportunities I had to talk about Kolping and to share experiences with other NGOs. As a member of the International Board of Directors for the past five years, I have had the unusual opportunity of observing first hand just how amazing the work of the Kolping community is.

For example, this past May we had our International Board meeting in Sucre, Bolivia. Our accommodations were the brand new Kolping hotel situated on the side of a hill overlooking the city. The people here are very poor with many of the children offering to shine shoes constantly and others offering little pieces of candy for sale. The airport has only one runway and no radar to assist planes in landing. At approximately 7000 feet of elevation, if the pilot can not see the runway, he doesn't land and you wait for the next day to try again. There are only two flights a day into Sucre. One afternoon we were able to visit the local Kolping training center. We found about ten women engaged in cutting hair and styling, giving facial beauty treatments, manicures and the like. Father Roland immediately volunteered to get a free haircut, and he later exclaimed that they treated each strand of hair with reverence! We also visited the rooms where they taught sewing, a meditation room with a golden bust of Father Kolping predominantly displayed along with religious Kolping literature, and a kitchen where courses in cooking and food preparation were taught. The kitchen was only capable of holding eight people, but an additional 20 people could take a course standing outside and observing, particularly the food presentation. My wife, Betty, was enthralled with the variety of fingernail designs that were available.

(To be continued next month)

National Endowment Fund

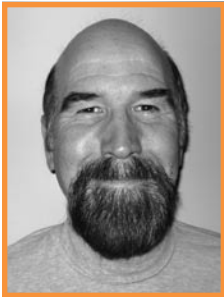
The National Endowment Fund received the following contributions for the month of August 15, 2008 to September 15, 2008.

In memory of Agatha Kohne, deceased member of the Los Angeles Kolping Society
Los Angeles Kolping Society

In memory of Joseph Doeren
Chuck O'Neil,
Detroit Kolping Society

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

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE CONVENTION



Thomas Schultes

As vice-president during the past two years, my time devoted to National Kolping was primarily occupied with acting as architect and webmaster for Kolping.org internet website and serve as national president when the elected president is unable to perform.

During my term of office, I was graciously given the opportunity to act as president for National Kolping. While our elected president was hospitalized for a "wing" that was not functioning quite up to par, the vice-president assumed the role of president and conducted a national officers meeting. At this meeting the national board successfully eliminated all stipends except for that of the Treasurer, which was actually increased. The national board also approved the purchase of financial software for the treasurer to properly maintain a professional accounting of financial records and provide accurate reports to the national office and convention.

Kolping.org website is now ten years old. This website is a portal for Kolping families around the world. The main page provides ready links to vitally important information sites which include Kolping International, and Kolping at the UN.

Kolping International is maintained by Kolping.net while Kolping at the UN is maintained by National Kolping on Kolping.org. The Kolping at the UN has added new content recently at the request of John Reitter, our Kolping International UN representative. This includes links to the United Nations site, International Catholic Organizations Information Center, the Permanent Observation Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, and Archived Kolping-UN reports.

A successful collaboration of Kolping.org is ongoing with our Canadian Kolping Brothers and Sisters. Josef Poepl is currently acting as webmaster for Kolping Canada. He has developed a website for Kolping Canada that is worthy of an internet

website award. He has complete access to update Kolping Canada website any time day or night. Each Kolping Family of Canada is hosted by Kolping.org.

Kolping Mexico webpage continues to be challenging. We have yet to have someone step forward from Kolping Mexico to create an interactive presence for Kolping Mexico. There are links to email addresses for making contact to Kolping Mexico, and a photo webpage for "25th National Celebration and 10th Anniversary at Coffee Makers" and a link to Tuxtla Gutierrez Kolping Guest House, Hotel & Convention Center Chiapas. National Kolping endeavors to collaborate with Kolping Mexico in developing their website on Kolping.org. We need someone that is fluent in Spanish/English that is willing to assist on an ongoing basis.

Fr. Kolping Blog has an active link on our main index page. Here you can post your comments and share your personal thoughts with other Kolping members. The topics vary and you can suggest a new topic for discussion too.

Of our twelve Kolping families there are four that maintain their own website domain. Kolping.org maintains the links to these sites. The remaining seven sites are maintained directly on Kolping.org. Each Kolping Family can be given secure access with a logon id and password to maintain their own website on Kolping.org.

WebPages have been created for the National Office which contains quick links to the Kolping Families as well as indexed links to:

1. Organization
2. Mission Statement
3. National Officers
4. National Bylaws
5. Fr. Krewitt Scholarship
6. Join Kolping Membership
7. Distinguished Service Award
8. National Kolping Award
9. Kolping Library
10. Prayer Requests
11. Renaissance Fund
12. Send Donations to National
13. National Endowment Fund
14. A Praeses Proclaims
15. Buy our sweatshirts
16. 2008 Lenten Project.

Our online Kolping Library contains online books of Blessed Fr. Adolph Kolping, Kolping International News articles from around the world, Kolping Manual, and Multimedia files of "International Kolping Convention in Vienna" and "Hands on Catholicism".

The National Kolping Board has also approved funding website development software. The funds were approved to be taken from the Kolping Renaissance Fund. The software was obtained at considerable discount thanks to our National Board Trustee Lisa Brinkmann. Adobe Suite 3 Master Collection is the software that will allow us to further enhance Kolping.org website. It must also be understood that these are merely tools to create and publish. Just as with the Kolping Banner we continue to solicit content from our Kolping Families for publishing on Kolping.org.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Thomas Schultes, Vice-President*

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following is a recap of Ted Wilke, National Treasurer's report at the convention. This is for the period August 1, 2007 through July 31, 2008. The attendees at the Board meeting on Friday night received a detailed report.

INCOME: \$ 79,129.60

EXPENSES: 88,597.07

OVERALL TOTAL (\$ 9,467.47)

BALANCE IN THE RENAISSANCE FUND – \$154,313.03

BALANCE IN THE ENDOWMENT FUND – \$240,235.30

Patricia Farkas

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DATED MATERIAL

CHANGING FACE *(Continued)*

individualism, many people become lonely. The families are smaller and often divided by divorce, and at the same time there is a higher mobility so that it happens very often that no other family members live in the same city. But if the network of the family becomes weaker you need alternatives, you need friends and neighbours who form a basic network of solidarity. I think that this is again an opportunity for Kolping also in industrialized countries. What we can offer people is a family-like community, a basic network of solidarity, a group of people who share the same values, who are inspired by Christian faith and who are willing to do something very concrete not only for their members but also for the problems of the community. I think that here in the United States you have a long history and great experience in what it means if the civil society takes on some responsibility for the community, what it means that the civil citizens commit themselves to solving social problems.

I think we all realize that we will be confronted with new challenges. We experience an increase of pressures

for energy and for food, we experience that globalization could become a fear for working places in our countries, we experience the results of the climate change by more typhoons, by a global warming, we experience the crisis of the finance markets and I could continue to list more of those challenges.

However, all human beings are concerned by these developments, life becomes more risky for them and they need bigger solidarity. So I ask myself: Are we prepared in our Kolping Families also here in the United States to give an answer on these new needs? Are we sensitive enough for these needs? What can, should and have to be the new target groups for our work here in the United States?

On Friday this week I have had the opportunity to visit the Independence Information Centre here in Philadelphia. There I found some guidelines of Benjamin Franklin which are still true today and very much apply to the thoughts of our founder Adolph Kolping. Franklin said: "The noblest question in the world is: What good my I do in it?" And another say by him: "Well done is better than well said."

If we look back at the history of

Kolping we can see that the leaders and membership always have been open to new challenges and they always have been successful in finding an answer to the social needs of the time. Today we have the responsibility and I am sure that we are also creative enough to give the right answers to the needs of our time.

Also from this convention we should send the message to our members to the society and Church:

Kolping – The journey continues.

*Hubert Tintelott
National Convention Philadelphia/USA
Aug./Sept. 2008*

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

LOS ANGELES
Agatha Kohne