



# Kolping Banner

Official Publication of the Catholic Kolping Society of America

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September 2008

## Honoring the Worker

"If it were fun, they wouldn't call it work!"

Early on in my career, a close relative once relayed these words of wisdom. During those times when I was disenchanted with my job, they eerily returned, to haunt me. And each time I wondered 'but does it have to be so?'

As the years pass by, I've become more aware of people who seem to really be having fun – at work. What's their secret? What are they doing differently? Is it the job? Is it the title? Are they making more money? Do they have more vacation?

After many years and much contemplation, I think I've discovered the mystery – respect, or better yet, appreciation – for your efforts, your actions and those around you.

People who see that their efforts are respected by others, and are free to show how much they appreciate other's efforts, typically seem to enjoy their jobs, and actually have fun.

I recently watched an interaction at my sister's café/bakery that just reinforced this belief. Customers were walking in and out, being greeted by name and placing their orders. The postman walk by and quietly slinked into the shop to drop off the mail. My sister stopped what she was doing, thanked him and slipped him a lemon bar on his way out. With a smile on his face from ear to ear, I heard him call out 'see you tomorrow, Mary!' and with a lift to his step continue on his route. When I commented on how nice that was, her reply was 'I love seeing Mr. Postman everyday. We have fun'.

Having "fun" is as easy as showing appreciation, being nice to others and

building relationships with the people we see everyday. It's not the money, vacation or title, it's what we do, how we treat others and are treated by others.

*Lisa Brinkmann*

**"THE WAY OF WORK IS TO BE  
THE TRUE PATH TO HEAVEN  
FOR YOU"**

*(Adolph Kolping)*

**ABOUT THE DIGNITY OF  
HUMAN WORK**

"Through work the physical strength is to be exercised and built up, not worn down" (Adolph Kolping). With this statement, Fr. Kolping responded to the inhumane working conditions in the industrial enterprises that came into being at that time. Today, people in many parts of the world are still confronted with working conditions that wear people down, physically as well as mentally. In view of this situation, the Church has always considered it her responsibility to stand up for the preservation of home dignity in the world of work.

Pope John Paul II writes in his encyclical 'Laborem Exercens,' "But the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide the above-mentioned changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."

The Kolping Society is also committed to this task, and it therefore decided during its 2007 International Convention in Alsopahok, Hungary to make 'work' the primary focus for the next five years. In 2008, the Christian

concept of work is to be addressed, and it has to be made clear that work in the Christian sense is more than gainful employment and cannot be seen as merely one production factor among others. In the compendium of the Catholic Social Teachings, it says, "Because of its subjective and personal character, work ranks above all other production factors." However, this principal of the Catholic Social Teachings is often disregarded today, and the shareholder-value, i.e. Capital, is becoming the dominating and all-determining factor.

But not only the Kolping Society and the Church support the dignity of the working people. This is also done in a special way by the International Labor Office in Geneva, one of the oldest UN organizations which, through its core labor standards, works against child labor, against slave labor, and for the freedom of working people to unite. It also came up with the concept of 'decent work', work that upholds human dignity. This concept, however, must first of all be implemented, and here, completely in line with the Kolping Society's mandate to promote the dignity of the working people, the Kolping Society and its members can participate on all levels.

"Work is the key to solving the social question," writes Pope John Paul II and from its very beginning, the Kolping Society has been committed to participate in solving the social question.

*Hubert Tintelott, General Secretary of  
the International Kolping Society.*

*Taken from the DIALOGUE*

**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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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...*

**THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS**

On behalf of all attendees to the 37th National Catholic Kolping Society Convention, I want to thank and congratulate the Philadelphia Kolping Family on a job well done. If you did not enjoy yourself, it was not the Philadelphia crews' fault. They could not have been more accommodating, certainly lived up to the city's motto, "City of Brotherly Love."

Thank you to all the officers and trustees who have served their term at the National level. Congratulations to those who have been elected or re-elected to offices at the National level. These members give of their valuable time and talents to carry out Blessed Adolph Kolping's mission in the United States and I thank them for this commitment.

It was nice to meet with old acquaintances and make some new ones as well.

*See you in Cincinnati in 2010.*

Treu Kolping,  
Walter Amrein

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

**CHICAGO**  
Thomas Malek  
**CINCINNATI**  
Helen Gripkey

**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	
<b>2008 RAFFLE</b>	
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	



*A Praeses Proclaims . . .*

## SEPTEMBER IS A WONDERFUL MONTH

*By Fr. Daniel J. Fox,  
Praeses of the Detroit Kolping Family*

September is a wonderful month; not only is the weather wonderful, but also there is a certain return to normalcy when the children are back in school. There is a pleasant peacefulness in a predictable routine. The calendar of the Church offers to Catholics throughout the world a sense of the same, safe routine in the celebration of the liturgical seasons and the cycle of saints. September offers a rich diversity of saints to celebrate: St. Peter Claver, the apostle to the slaves in the 17th Century, St. Vincent de Paul, the missionary to the poor and forgotten, as well as some recently canonized such as Andrew Kim and the Korean martyrs and Padre Pio, the Capuchin stigmatic and mystic. The great roster of saints is a beautiful part of the memory of the believing community. It is so important to remember.

We all have memories we love and cherish. One of my favorite memories of my mother is a sweet glimpse into her beautiful spirit. On one occasion, my mother called me at the parish I was serving in and she said, "Son, cover over and take me out to lunch. I've got cabin fever . . . your father is driving me crazy, ever since he retired." So, I picked her up and we went to Bill Woos, a Chinese restaurant near our family home. I knew that she wanted to talk to me and she waited until the end of the meal to tell me what she really wanted to say. "You know, I bring Old Joe, the neighbor next door a plate of food now and again." "Yes," I said, "that's very nice of you." She waved me silent with her hand. "Well, I went over there the

other day, and there was Old Joe, sitting on the couch crying all by himself. I knocked and he seemed not to hear me, so I let myself in and put the plate of food down and said, 'I've brought you something to meet.' He sobbed even more loudly. 'What's the matter, Joe! Can I do something for you?' 'Yes, he said, but won't want to.' 'What Joe?' 'My May is dead over a year now and no one has touched me since she died, would you hold me?' "Needless to say, I was a little wary, but he seemed so pathetic, so I went over and put my arms around him . . . and he sobbed like a baby. I rocked him, like he was a child and I cried too. I held him for a while and left, he was so grateful, Son. That's when I realized that the Lord sent me there . . . to hold Old Joe. Sometimes all we need is for someone to hold us" I could hardly speak, holding back my tears, when my mother broke the silence and said, "For Heaven's sake, don't tell your father; he'd kill Old Joe." I did tell my father, after my mother died, and he smiled and tears welled up in his eyes. I put my arms around him and told him that I loved him.

Being a Christian is about being sent, whether we are the saints of the past or the ones of the present. We have a mission. The very word Mass comes from the Latin word, to be sent. There is no time for hesitancy and fearing to act, feeling that we are not enough for the task. Clearly Blessed Adolph Kolping knew this well, he saw the need in his time and called forth the necessary energies to respond in love and action. The Christian man and woman are

never called to be passive spectators, but rather catalysts for change and conversion. The mission is not only in the preaching, but in the doing.

St. Francis of Assisi reminds us so beautifully when he says, "Preach the Gospel . . . if necessary, use words." The task of continuing the work of Jesus has been entrusted to the Church – You and Me. The person who loves Jesus is the person who relates to others in the spirit of compassionate understanding and concerned loving service. That's what the saints teach us. That's what my saintly mother taught me.

The truth becomes more obvious if we remember that our word "believe" meant originally to live by. To live by the reality of God even when we can't feel or grasp it; to live by the reality of God's love when we don't feel it, even when our intellects doubt it; to live by the resurrection of Jesus, even when our minds wonder if it can be true . . . it's all a matter of choice, of commitment, of will.

### National Endowment Fund

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

#### *Donation*

Lisa Brinkmann –  
San Francisco Kolping  
Society

#### *In memory of*

*Gisel Dobroszczyk,*  
*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 YORK REPORTING

Well fellow members, here we are once again. The summer of 2008 is over. We've closed the pool. The younger, as well as the older kids are back in school. Those who rented rooms for the summer will be clearing out their valuables. All of our summer items will go back into mothballs. The stores are advertising items for "The Fall." Our thinking and our activities have changed. Everything for the next several months will be "The Holidays"

There are still several activities in Montrose during the next few months that our members look forward to before the snow, the ice and the sleet of winter arrives. The Philadelphia convention will be the topic of conversation in September and the next few months. We sent six delegates to represent New York. They will be reporting the Labor Day Agenda. They'll give us the business news, as well as the activities of all the happenings.

All of our members in New York went to their mailboxes last week and noticed that we had a letter from the committee of Kolping-On-Hudson. It was decided that we should have a commemorative celebration at our annual celebration of the Schlachtfest, Sunday, September 28. In going through the property records of KOH, it was noted that we purchased the property during 1953 and this being the 55th year of said purchase, a celebration was in order. September 28th will be the official celebration with two dinner settings planned and with Mass at 4 p.m. followed by a formal ceremony to honor several of our members. These members will be honored in recognition of their support and commitment to Kolping-On-Hudson over these many years. As part of the remembrance, a celebration journal will be compiled as a keepsake for members to enjoy for years to come. We cordially invite all of you, our members and readers, to attend.

As for our Kolping House on 88th Street, things are in excellent shape. The house is 100% occupied. Things are organized to a certain extent by computer. Our elevator was recently overhauled. A new boiler is in the process. All the rooms have been painted. Our restaurant is operating quite well. Dinner is included with residence. We are around the corner from several bus lines. We are an express stop on the New York City subway and convenient to various churches, theaters and New York's Downtown. Computer facilities are available for those in need of same.

As far as our home in the Bronx, on the Ground Concourse, we are on the internet. Our facilities are quite modern. Daily evening dinner is included in residence. Daily Mass is celebrated in our chapel. For those seeking meditation moments our garden provides the privacy, the quiet and the shrine for those prayerful moments.

All in all, September 2008 will be a busy month for us here in New York. For those members spending all or part of the Labor Day weekend at the summer home, a barbecue has been arranged for September 1. September 9 will bring the first post-summer meeting for

the Board of Directors. On Saturday, September 13, we shall celebrate German-American Day and join the Steuben Day parade marching up 5th Avenue.

And, as has been our custom, we shall continue our celebration with a banquet in the ballroom following the end of the parade. We hope our band from Baden-Baden will fly over and join us in both the parade and the banquet.

As for Sunday, September 28, as we wrote at the beginning of this report, we will be celebrating our Fall Schlachtfest, also celebrating 55 years of the purchase of our 50 acres on the Hudson River, and the history of our years here with memories and payers for those not with us, but with our Heavenly Father and together with Blessed Adolph Kolping in their eternal reward looking down at the fulfillment of their years of effort and dreams. In conclusion, we offer our thanks and our gratitude to our Praeses at the time during 1953, who introduced the property to the Board of Directors and the membership, when he read that the property was for sale. Thank you Fr. Hartmann. May peace be with you and our prayers, and once again our thanks.

*Jack McGee*



## KOLPING ON THE INTERNET

Dear Friends in Kolping,

While perusing the internet I found an interesting link on the International Kolping Website. It is in regards to the 2008 Kolping Theme. Up until this point I did not know that we had an annual theme. I was so impressed that I took the time to create some webpage's for our Kolping.org website and to link to the International Kolping website documents for further reading. I have reproduced a copy of the 2008 Theme for your enjoyment in this month's Kolping Banner. Please enjoy.

*Treu Kolping,*  
*Dr. Tom Schultes,*  
*Vice-President & Webmaster*

### 2008 Kolping Theme: The Christian Concept of Work

Work is the unfolding of our God-given mental and physical powers through their utilization towards a serious and sincere goal. Through their work, human beings participate in God's plan for creation. Accordingly, work is much more than just gainful employment. In allegiance with the teachings of the Catholic Social Doctrine, the Kolping Society bases its endeavors on a three-dimensional concept of work.

Accordingly, work is simultaneously:

- an opportunity and purpose for the development of the human person;
- a service to the community and for the common good;
- a responsible interaction with the Creation.

Taking this into account, human work becomes not only a human right, but also an obligation. Here, with explicit reference to the ideas of Adolph Kolping, the starting point for the Kolping Society is the fundamental parity of all human work. At the same time, the Kolping Society proceeds on the premise that it is absolutely essential that a person's gainful employment provide the security of an appropriate living standard for himself/herself and his/her family.

*Source: International Kolping Society: [Guidelines for the world of work], [www.kolping.net](http://www.kolping.net)*

*Resolution of the 31st Convention of the  
 International Kolping Society*

### In the Spirit of Kolping – Sowing Seeds of Hope in the World of Work Work and Employment – From a Christian Perspective

We the 31st Convention of the International Kolping Society that has met in Alsopahok, Hungary in 2007, agree to a Five-Year-Plan that incorporates the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church within the Kolping context of the world of work. As a starting point, we will use the Christian concept of work. This serves as the central theme to inform everyone on the major focus areas derived from the Kolplings Society's fundamental documents on the world of work as well as on the reality with which we are faced every day. These themes form the focus for the work in our Kolping Societies during the coming five years.

In 2008, we want to focus on the Christian concept of work. This theme will be the basis for the major themes of the following four years and should be incorporated into the five-year plan.

- In 2009, the focus will be on **unemployment**
- In 2010, the focus will be on **informal economy**
- In 2011, the focus will be on **on-going occupational training**
- In 2012, the focus is to be on **labor rights**

For each of the five themes, the National Kolping Societies should focus specifically on the areas that are most relevant to their situation.

- 1) To commit ourselves again to the Basic Document of the Kolping Society based on the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church and the world of work and occupation.
- 2) To raise awareness of the working conditions in different countries and communities.
- 3) To provide a framework for the development of a practical plan of action for our National Kolping Society over the next five years.
- 4) To work towards creating a world of work that is more humane and becomes a place for interpersonal relationships and solidarity.
- 5) To fight corruption in all its forms.

*Source: International Kolping Society: [Guidelines for the world of work], [www.kolping.net](http://www.kolping.net)*

## DETROIT KOLPING REPORTS FROM THE NAUTICAL MILE

Summer is passing quickly and we have several events to report on. Our Zapfenstreich and Schuetzenfest were blessed with wonderful weather this year. As 2007 King Edwin and Queen Patricia bid farewell, we welcome our 2008 royalty. King Michael Irlbacher and his Queen Linda are triple crown winners. Mike was King in 1981, 1991 and 2008. All the members of his Court



2008 King Michael and Queen Linda Irlbacher, Schuetzenfest

have been King in the past years. Tom Schultes is Crown Prince, Jeff Ewald shot down the scepter, Joe Gassel has the right wing and Joe Rheker the left wing. Fr. Dan Fox led the Royalty Parade on July 4th. A special award was given to Schuetzen President, Bruno Walter, and The Henry Heuman Award was given to Joe Helmlinger. Watch for the King's Ball date in the Spring of 2009.

On Saturday evening, June 14th, the Stanley Cup paid a visit to Blessed Adolph Kolping at our Kolping Park. All of you must know that our Detroit Red Wing National Hockey Club won the Stanley Cup. Anne Marie Krappmann, daughter of long time Kolping members, George and Gertrude Krappmann, is the Red Wing's Community Relation's Manager. In her position she has the Cup a certain time on a certain day. She invited her family and friends to enjoy this event with her. I am sure this was the first time Blessed Adolph Kolping and the Stanley Cup met.

As this is being written a group of Kolping members are enjoying the annual Kolping Kampers Karavan at Muskegon State Park in

western Michigan. Our 10th annual Golf Outing to benefit the Rainbow Connection took place on August 8th. We hope many of you will be in Philadelphia. Our Oktoberfest is on September 13th, followed by the Car and Craft Show on September 20th and the Fashion Show on September 23. We have a busy Fall season coming up.

*Thekla Abels*



*The Stanley Cup visits Fr. Kolping at Detroit Kolping Park*

## LOS ANGELES MEMBERSHIP

We are so happy to have 16 new members for the year 2008 for the Los Angeles Branch, California. We have 73 national registered "individual" members which includes 49 couples and singles, and the eight new members. Some of the new members not previously mentioned are Benjamin V. Ammeian, Gil DeLeon, Jack DeZell, Carlos

Figardo, Tomasz Kamecki, Allen Poe and Gene Snyder. There are a total of 16 new members and 67 old members for a 24% increase in our membership. We did lose four members this year, but we are still at an increase of 23%. We did not have an official membership drive. The Holy Spirit and the men of the Kolping House Rosary Group started the

whole movement. During our 80th Anniversary, we initiated eight new members, but one could not attend due to military maneuvers. People were touched by Fr. Al Grosskopf, the Mass, the initiation ceremony and the people gathered, that immediately six more joined our Society that Day. God is good!

*Rick Rodriguez*

**COLOGNE/BOLIVIA****International Board of Directors meeting throws a glance at the Christian Concept of Work**

The subject of the "Christian Concept of Work" took center stage during the International Board of Directors meeting which was held from May 3 to 8, 2008 in Sucre/Bolivia. By choosing this subject the International Board of Directors picked up its main theme for the year 2008 and acted on what was resolved during the International Convention of 2007 in a five-year-program. After the Archbishop Sergio Obeso Rivera from Mexico gave a presentation stating some of the basic principles of the Christian Concept of Work, the discussions started with short statements and by working in study groups. The three Dimensions of the Christian Concept of Work was dealt with and it seen as an opportunity and as a purpose for the development of the human person, as a service to the community and to the common welfare. These issues were explained and discussed in great detail, as well as Responsible Interaction with Creation. What was also an issue was how such a Concept of Work can be implemented into the actual work of the Kolping Society. By implementing the main theme for the next five years, "Sowing the Seeds of Hope in the World of Work" KOLPING INTERNATIONAL intends to cooperate more closely with the ILO. The starting point of this close cooperation was marked by a presentation given by the ILO's representative responsible for the program "Decent work" in Bolivia, Mrs. Lia Pineyrua.

Apart from this emphasis as regards to content, the International Board of Directors dealt with the Final Document of the Latin American Bishop's Conference in Aparecida. The delegates all agreed that this document contained suggestions for the concrete work of Kolping also beyond Europe, because also for Kolping worldwide the quote can be applied: "You shall be my witness".

**ALBANIA****Kolping Society focuses on environmental protection**

Under the motto: "A clean environment for a healthy society", four Kolping Families have launched a cam-



campaign in Albania in order to clean up their actual living environment and their town from garbage that laid about. This is a characteristic which not only determines the image of many a town and village in Albania, but also oftentimes the cause for illnesses. The Kolping Families intend to contribute by means of a more intensified sensitization but also by means of employment of labor of its members to the shaping of a new awareness for a clean environment and to contribute by their workplace to make visible changes in the appearance of their individual locations.

**KOSOVO****Kolping participates in the Interreligious Dialogue**

After that now many states have recognized the independence of Kosovo, presently the new state is anxious for establishing intensified initiatives for a peaceful co-existence of the different ethnic groups and religions. Within the Kolping Society's program "Kolping and Society" the organization will commit itself more strongly for the Interreligious Dialogue and at the end of May a first round-table-discussion took place on the issue in Pristina. In March 2008 another Kolping Family was founded in Kosovo, in the largest Catholic parish of the country in Zllakuyuan. As a result, the Kolping Society nowadays counts 16 Kolping Families in Kosovo.

**SOUTH TYROL****Possible tax money for the Kolping Society**

Within the Italian legislation it is possible to allocate 5 tenth of a percent of Income tax for a Non-Governmental-Organization. The Italian state intends to strengthen the work of non-profit organizations in the country and thus recognizes the importance of Civil Society which is making important contributions for the common good. The Kolping Society South Tyrol has

now called upon all its members and all of those residents of South Tyrol to make use of this opportunity to support the Kolping Society financially when depositing their income tax returns. The Kolping Society South Tyrol will support its youth and social work, as well as some projects in development cooperation.

**AUSTRIA****Christians on the ball**

In Austria, on the occasion of the Soccer European Championships in June, an initiative was formed in the Archdiocese of Vienna called "Christians on the ball". This initiative – which also the Kolping Society of Austria is part of – will not only sell sausages during the Soccer European Championships, but also pass on information on social projects of the Archdiocese of Vienna and the Kolping Society of Austria. On top of that, the initiative will also offer food and beverages during the closing event on 28 June in St. Stephen's Square in Vienna. The drinks and products are donated by various companies, so that a large profit can be expected. The Kolping Society of Austria intends to support social projects in Austria as well as development projects in Kenya and Brazil.

**BOLIVIA****Ways to a more solitary economy sought**

The search for more solidarity in the economy was at the center of a meeting which was conducted by the Kolping Society and the Fokolare Movement at the end of April 2008 in the Kolping House in Sucre. Delegates from 16 different countries of Latin American and the Caribbean dealt with the continuing poverty and the growing inequality in Latin America. They described this situation as a scandal considering the wealth in natural resources of the continent. In view of the present situation what would be necessary is alternative ways in the field of the economy which need to focus more on the concept of solidarity. Various contributors pointed to some of the projects which are based on the concept of the so-called "Economia Solidaria" (Solidary Economy) that are already running successfully – from the fields of production, trade but also from the

*(Continued on next page)*

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## DATED MATERIAL

### KOLPING NEWS *(Continued)*

field of the savings and credit systems. In their final document the delegates committed themselves to look out for further starting points for the so-called "Economia Solidaria" in their respective countries and to actively support these initiatives which are already in existence. Furthermore, the assignment was made out to promote the concept of the "Economia Solidaria" also by means of their educational work.

#### BOLIVIA/LATIN AMERICA

##### **Resolution on the reorganization of the work of the Kolping Society in Latin America**

At the meeting of the continental council of the Kolping Society Latin America on May 1, 2008 in Sucre/Bolivia, delegates passed a new statute which redirects the cooperation between the different National Societies in Latin America. In view of the distances between the individual National Societies and the number of newly founded Societies, the Latin American Continental Society will subdivide into three regions. One region comprises Mexico with Central

America, a second region comprises Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile and the third region comprises the Andine states of Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. The individual Regional Organizations will meet with their delegates once a year. On top of that, the Continental Council will remain in place, but it will consist only of one representative of the Continental organization at regional level as well as the General Praeses and the General Secretary. This Continental Council (Convention) will meet once in every three years.

By means of this new regional structure the cooperation between the individual National Societies shall be intensified, since the vicinity in terms of area also a closer cooperation in the individual items on the agenda will be possible and joint training courses can be organized.

#### BOLIVIA

##### **VIDA Project saves lives**

With regard to the high numbers of abortions in Bolivia, the Fundación Centro Multifuncional Adolfo Kolping (Foundation Multifuncional Center Adolph Kolping) in Santa Cruz started

a special project to explain to young women the consequences of abortion and to prevent them if possible. Regardless of the fact that abortions are prohibited by law in Bolivia, 115 illegal abortions are carried out every day. This means that a total of approx. 40,000 illegal abortions are carried out each year. The Medical Center of the Kolping Society in Santa Cruz, but also the Medical Center in El Alto/La Paz are championing the mental and physical inviolability of these pregnant women, but are also committed to protecting the unborn lives. In the waiting areas of the Medical Centers posters are informing on the problem of abortion and when after a check-up a pregnancy is being diagnosed and the mother is considering an abortion due to her desperate economic and social situation, then nurses and doctors give advice to the young mothers and offer medical care free of charge until they give birth. By offering this advice within the VIDA project approx. 40 children can be saved each year. In view of the high number of abortions, this is only a small number, but each and every life that is saved is valuable.