

The Kolping Canada Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2009

News from the National Praeses

I think it would be of great advantage to tell you how St. Clement Hoffbauer, the first Redemptorist priest outside of Italy, managed the ups and downs of his life in his mission to Northern Europe.

I gained a lot of information as a participant in this year's pilgrimage of the Redemptorist religious family to some of the places where St. Clement Hoffbauer once did his splendid apostolic work.

Born into a farmer's family in Tasswitz, Moravia, he learned to bake in Stift Hohenfurt for the priests and brothers. When two ladies found out that he felt a vocation to the priesthood, they offered to pay his way through highschool and university. Three times he went to Rome on foot. He lived for a while as a hermit until he joined the Redemptorists.

It didn't take long before he had quite a number of followers of different religious affiliations who became priests and lay brothers. In Warsaw he founded a mission church - St. Benno's - with a complex of schools. But Napoleon, a product of the French Revolution, began spreading his ideologies and confiscated everything; he incarcerated the priests and brothers in the fortress Kuestrin. Freed by opposition forces, St. Clement and his crew were haunted from one place to another in Austria, Bavaria and Switzerland by Liberals and Anti-Catholics. He personally ended up as a confessor to the Ursulines in Vienna. And during the Vienna Congress he assembled more and more well educated friends of different walks of life around himself who, in night sessions, became familiar with Catholicism and later on became very influential figures in public life. On the day of his death, the Redemptorists got the Imperial Charter to work in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. His desire was fulfilled.

He is called the Apostle of Vienna. He could be a model for all of us in the ups and downs of our life today.

With best wishes for a Christian life and Treu Kolping! Father Karl Hoeppe, C.Ss.R.

News from the National President

It seems as if people of very different countries are moving closer and closer together, it seems as if and unseen, powerful hand was forcing them to gradually recognize more fully that they have common roots, that they belong to the same family - and that they have a truly important mission. - A. Kolping

Welcome back to another season of Kolping in Canada. I'm aware that much of our youthful enthusiasm left us a while ago, but nevertheless let's try to give our best for Kolping in Canada, and Kolping International. We can support the Kolping movement and its many charitable projects with a little extra money, for which I thank you.

Father Kolping saw the need to move closer together as countries and as people; he wrote the above words more than one hundred years ago.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Baumstark of Kolping Edmonton who was willing to take over the job of National Treasurer. Let's give her all the help and co-operation she needs. To contact her:

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Treu Kolping - Steve Salb

News from Kolping Edmonton

We in Kolping Edmonton may use 'fun' as our logo. We certainly know how to have a lot of it! The June Rocky Mountain hike was beautiful with its wilderness hike and hot springs to soothe our bodies. If laughter is the best medicine, we should all be healthy for a long time after our Saturday night get together.

We enjoyed our annual BBQ as well as a potluck dinner at our Kolping house on the lake, again blessed by wonderful weather, friends and guests. It is good to meet and see that all are well after a few serious health issues in our group. That's what families are for, caring and support. And how lovely it is, in this day and age to hear our voices sing songs of old, accompanied as always by Gunther Breymann on accordion. Drifting through the trees and across the water, I'm sure it sounded beautiful.

We congratulate Inge Baumstark for accepting the position of National Treasurer. Thank you Inge!

Kolping joined St. Boniface's congregation to bid farewell to Father Seifert. Happy retirement!

Now we resume our meetings in September with a photo contest to raise a little money. It should be fun!

Treu Kolping - Donna Novak,

News from Kolping Hamilton

Our first regular meeting after the General Meeting in January took place on Saturday, April 4, 2009. Coffee, tea and cake were served while we watched a video. A holy Mass concluded the afternoon.

Our next meeting was held in May, followed again by a holy Mass, after which we attended a dinner organized by our parish's choir.

This completed our Spring Program. During the summer we normally do not schedule anything except our annual picnic in the Klaas' backyard and pool. It was held on August 9th, despite the possibility of rain and thunder storms.

I'm looking ahead, our next meeting will be in September to organize a garage sale.

Treu Kolping - Winfried Klaas

News from Kolping Kelowna

There have been no Kolping activities in the Valley in the last reporting period because the summer has been so brutally hot. The little energy we still had left was used to find a shady tree by the lake, crawl under it and try to keep cool; the water helped a little.

Seriously the next reporting period should be better since we have planned a meeting for mid September in the hope that it has cooled down sufficiently by then. We are working on an Advents program already and hope to have it ready for presentation at the meeting.

Treu Kolping!

News from Kolping Toronto

Southern Ontario had a terrible June and July, with temperatures way below normal and with very little sunshine. It sure was a bad month to have your vacation, or to even enjoy the summer at home. So much for Global Warming!

Instead of our regular seniors' meeting in the parish hall on Wednesday, April 29, we cleaned the exterior grounds around our settlement house, under the expert leadership of Karl Wiker. A sizeable group of men and ladies completed the job in time to attend the noon holy mass. After mass we consumed our box lunches in the hall, and not too long after everybody was heading for home.

Mothers' Day was celebrated with a special Communion Breakfast. The food was special, and each mother was presented with a carnation. It was nice to see everyone dressed up in their best and having a good time together.

The last event enjoyed before the summer was our picnic at the Wesing's place on Sunday, June 21st. It was Fathers' Day, the weather was great for a change, and we had a very good turnout. Thanks to Heinz and Mila for their generosity and hard work to make this picnic possible.

The picnic was the last time our president, Otto Halvachs, was in our midst, and that we were able to enjoy the good food and a beer with him. On June 28th he passed away at his home, suddenly and unexpectedly, at the young age of 57 years. He will be very much missed by all of us. Otto's funeral mass was held at St. Patrick's Church, with the men's choir 'Harfentoene', making the mass very special. Otto had been a member of the choir. Our Kolping Praeses, Father Hoeppel, and Father Mick Fleming co-celebrated the mass.

At the last General Membership Meeting on January 11/09, Werner Scheliga, one of our past presidents, proposed to set up a special committee to 'review and find solutions' for the future of Kolping in Toronto, and a review committee composed of six members was quickly formed. Under Werner's leadership - and several meetings later - Werner issued the Final Report and passed it on to our president and the executive. The executive met on July 14th and - besides the usual points of discussion, they read and discussed the report at length. The recommendations, as outlined in the report, will be incorporated into all of our future programs from now on.

Treu Kolping - George Hoedlmoser

News from Kolping Vancouver

We here on the West Coast have had an unforgettable, hot, dry summer. With July temperatures soaring into the mid-thirties, we've sweated through the hottest day on record, with hardly any respite in the form of a few good days of rain to green up those parched lawns and bring relief to the inevitable summer forest fires in the interior. Time to stop calling it the Wet Coast - believe me, we would have gladly taken some of the rains away from our friends in Manitoba and Ontario!

Now that some of our members have returned from their travels, we are ready to face new challenges.

On May 1st we celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. After a brunch prepared and served by Christel Bernemann, Erika Fahrman and Heidi Stolting, three new members were initiated and welcomed into our Kolping Family: Edgar and Elsa Orellana and Elsa's mother, Hilda Marina Solis. Horst reported that another cheque had been received by our donor in Germany. We are very grateful for his generous gifts, without which we would not be able to do all we are towards helping Father Montoya, brother of our member Delmy Romero, lay the groundwork of Kolping in El Salvador.

After Delmy and her husband Gustavo had started collecting and storing donated items in their home, to the point where boxes were piled up in every closet, nook and cranny, Kolping was finally able to come to the rescue by arranging shipment of computers, monitors, a scanner, speaker, etc., as well as basic household equipment and clothing - a total of 56 boxes. A group of Kolping members helped to load a container and Kolping Vancouver paid US\$1,675 for shipment to El Salvador, where Father Montoya is planning to start a technical computer course and has arranged for a young man to teach computer skills to the youth. He is very excited about introducing Kolping into his community.

Our ever popular Annual Picnic took place on June 28 in the pastoral setting of Aldergrove, where our gracious hosts for many years, Dagmar and Frank Paar, make their home. The biggest attraction of course is the delicious buffet of dishes to accompany the Bratwurst. As our head chef Horst and his wife Erika were in Germany, his sous chef Guenther Vetter did the honours at the BBQ, while Inge Haenel, Resi Knoll, Erika Fahrman and all the eager helpers toiled in the kitchen. We were happy to welcome Manfred Ysermann, a Kolping member newly immigrated from Germany. Guenther Wilde, who has been in a nursing home for time, was able to attend the picnic with the help of his son Marcus and seemed to be very happy to be among old friends. Our faithful duo, Karl and Matthias, looked after the musical accompaniment to the singsong to wind up a wonderful summer day. For our host Frank, who had just celebrated his 80th birthday on June 19th, this also turned out to be a big birthday party.

Treu Kolping - Rose Vetter

News from Kolping Winnipeg

Our summer has not been the best so far. We've seldom had two nice days in a row, and the temperatures have been well below normal, especially at night. These extremes of weather are terribly frustrating: either there is drought, or the rain doesn't want to stop. The lake levels are unusually high (for which we all blame Manitoba Hydro, which controls Lake Winnipeg at their northern dams: they make millions more with every inch of higher lake water), and the erosion all around the lake is terrible, due in part to the ill-advised dike of three years ago.

Our April meeting had to be cancelled, as did our last get-together of the season - our annual pizza wind-up with bowling

trophy presentations - which was to have taken place in early May, because our president was in the hospital, our VP was unavailable, as were both of our secretaries; plus, our scheduled guest speaker from 'Health Links' bowed out at the last minute because they were "swamped with the H1N1 flu epidemic". So, in actual fact, funerals are becoming more regular get-togethers these days than our meetings; in one week in August there were three, including Hans Zeyen, one of our former local presidents. Hans had been in ill health for some time. Our condolences to Ilse and her two daughters and their families. The funeral high mass was celebrated by Father Kevin, and afterwards everyone was invited to a luncheon in the hall, 'catered' by our local Kolping Society; this has become our custom and is automatic for our members and/or their families.

We held our Annual Summer Picnic on the August long weekend, with an excellent turnout and a brief (a very brief) break in the weather, at our usual spot in Hnausa. Unfortunately our outdoor Mass, which was scheduled to begin at 11, was delayed for some time...for a long time, in fact...because Father Kevin, our Praeses, got lost. We won't go into how, or why, and it was perfectly OK with everyone because they all love him, but next year he's getting a ride-along navigator.

During the mass, Father Kevin renewed the marriage vows of two couples; the first was Hubert and Helen Fahnenschmidt who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, and the second was a guest couple who were marking their 40th. We were all pleased that Hubert and Helen were able to come to this picnic for the first time in many years. Hubert (a passionate Skat player), has been very ill for some time and has spent months at a time in hospitals. We hope that he continues to do as well as he seems to be doing right now, and we again congratulate them. (And thank you for the wine!) The mass ended with 'Grosser Gott wir loben Dich', the perennial favourite.

Our local Kolping ladies supplied the flowers and table cloths for the altar. Our convenor for this picnic was Bill Burchuk again, who ordered and brought the sausages out (Weisswurst from a local German butcher), the rolls and the prizes. Margret Littau, our long-time Social Chair, looked after everything else and brought out the coffee pot, and condiments, napkins etc. etc., and kept everything moving and on time. All the ladies brought baking, and George Broder and Hans Kessler brought their accordions, so the music and singing was very enjoyable. The picnic area, in Hnausa, is of course not officially a "Kolping" beach, but most of the cottage owners are members. (However, one of the non-members, Wendy Ruf, always makes one of four roasters full of Sauerkraut, Wendy's husband Reiner is the chief BBQer, and Tom Gerstner is one of the people helping with the races and games.) Everyone brought their kids, grandkids and friends, and it was a very busy place for one day. There were close to 150 children and adults attendance, and there were games for all ages.

All in all, it was a beautiful day and everyone seemed to be having a great time once again. the weather began to deteriorate around 6 PM, oh joy, and by 8 it was raining again. To see pictures of our picnic go to Kolping.org.Canada/index.shtml and find the [Winnipeg](#) site and then 'Gallery'.

With summer drawing to a close we've begun to think of the events coming up. On the 2nd of September our meetings will start up; bowling will begin the next day, as will practice for the German Choir of Wpg. (who begin to prepare for their Winzerfest), our Communion Breakfast on Oct. 3rd, and our Schlachtfest at the end of October. In the meantime, we hope that everyone will enjoy what's left of the summer, and the Indian Summer everyone looks forward to.

Treu Kolping - Hans Kessler/RK