

# THE KOLPING CANADA NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014

## Message from the National Praeses, Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR

Dear Kolping Members;

As I write this, summer seems to have finally arrived in Toronto—and it is September 3<sup>rd</sup>! we are entering into autumn and I hope that you all had a restful and joy-filled summer. A quick look at the Kolping website reminds me that all our groups are gearing up for fall and winter activities. I pray that they will continue the spirit of Fr. Kolping, reaching out to those in need and drawing together in service the family, indeed, the Body of Christ.

I pray a blessing upon all of you and your families. May God continue to shine in our lives and into the lives of many others through our service to those who need a helping hand or some loving support and our care for one another. Christ's peace be with you all.

Treu Kolping!

## Message from the National President, Steve Salb

Re-thinking the self-image of the Kolping Society: "Kolping 2017" is to help our global community to make our principles transparent for one another and for non-members. We want to find out what similarities as well as what differences there are in the over 60 Kolping Societies in the world. We are now starting discussions about our self-image, and we invite you to become active. I am sure, despite our advancing age, that we still have enough members who are interested in the future of our International Kolping Family. Yes, we are a seniors' group, but we are not dead yet. Canada counts and so does our situation. The International Society is asking: 'How do you see the Kolping movement in five or ten years?'

Congratulations to the new Archbishop of Cologne: Born in Cologne, Cardinal Woelki, referred to as a 'bridge-builder', was Archbishop of Berlin for three years, but is now returning to his roots. This is what he said to the People of Cologne: 'Even though I leave with a heavy heart, I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you.'

We are happy that Germany is again the world soccer champion, but during the World Cup the media repeatedly pointed to Brazil's troubles. Kolping, also is concerned about them on the local level there.

Welcome back to everyone. After a good summer, let's try our best in Kolping Canada. Treu Kolping

### News from the Kolping Society of Edmonton

We have had our first meeting after the summer break. Although there was a great BBQ at the Kolping cottage in June. Much appreciation to Gunther Breymann as he is chief cook and entertainer. He always plays the accordion as we sing old songs together. Then we had a well attended pot luck in August. The weather was beautiful for both events. Not so beautiful now. Edmonton had snow today! Yes, snow in September.

Our complete group is with us after the break. Not all are well, but as a "family" we will pray for their health. Such is life as the years pass.

We are looking forward to increasing our knowledge of world events as well as local happenings during the year. Our Phrases Father Georg Neumann usually provides us with stimulating topics and presentations.

In a couple of weeks we will have a mini hike/ nature walk. Here's hoping the summer weather returns.

Treu Kolping, Donna Novak

### News from the Kolping Society of Hamilton

Due to the absence of too many members no regular meetings were held in the Spring and Summer this year with the exception of our annual picnic at the Klaas' backyard and pool .... and for a change, we had good weather! Our ladies are still meeting .. of and on..for their craft group. After a relative cool and wet Summer, we are looking forward to a warmer Fall and in closing wishing everyone a "Happy Thanksgiving", Treu Kolpin, Win Klaas

### News from the Kolping Society of Vancouver

Since our last report, it's been the "same procedure as every year"! We look back on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, which we observed on May 11<sup>th</sup> with Mass at St. Monica Church. After a catered luncheon, Horst and Erika Zimmermann, who had been on an extensive trip across China, treated us to a fascinating slide presentation of their trip. They had taken nine inland flights, criss-crossing that vast country in all directions, and shared with us their impressions of a very complex and mysterious culture.

On June 29<sup>th</sup> we once again had our annual picnic. We are grateful to Frank and Dagmar, who have been putting their charming property on the hill at our disposal for many years. As always, it was a relaxed, convivial get-together of friends, enriched with good food, good cheer and the singing of old favourites.

In recent years, as our membership numbers decline, funerals have become frequent occasions for us to gather, drawing us closer together. We have lost two more long-time members from our midst. Both were men of deep faith who have left an indelible impression on our group.

Franz Kaiser was born on June 5, 1930. He was born in Babensham, Bavaria and came to Canada in 1953. He settled in Vancouver, where he joined Kolping in 1958. He had been in poor health during the past year and passed away on his birthday at the age of 84 years, having been surrounded by family and close friends. He is survived by his wife, Ursula, and children John, Regina, Angela, Michael, David and their families.

After courageously facing health issues over recent years, Karl-Heinz Lange passed away on July 18. Karl, a leap-year baby, was born in Dessau, Germany on February 29, 1936. After arriving in Winnipeg, he became a Kolping member in 1957. He attended the seminary at North Battleford, Saskatchewan. He then moved to Vancouver, where he served in several executive positions. He is survived by his wife, Eliesabeth, and his four children, Maria, Bruno, Richard, Theresa and their families.

With the shortening, fading days of summer, we think of our friends across Canada who had to face the ravages of flooding and storms, in the hope that you can look forward to a pleasant Indian summer.

Rose Vetter

#### News from the Kolping Society of Toronto

With the arrival of September, comes the time again for Kolping to emerge from its long summer hiatus. We did just that on Sunday, September 14th by supporting the Oktoberfest BBQ hosted by St. Pat's Social Justice Committee. The proceeds go to their Asha Deep project in India. Before beginning our summer break last June, we had to bid farewell to Father Hoepe, our long-time local and National Praeses, who died on June 11th. Prior to his retirement, he was always willing to accommodate any of our requests for saying mass, giving talks or even just being present at our functions. Many came to pay their respects and give him a warm and fitting send off. May you rest in everlasting peace and happiness, Father. On Sunday, June 22nd, we headed to the Wensing homestead to enjoy our annual picnic. It followed the usual agenda of - sit, talk, eat, drink, stroll, sit again, eat again, etc., etc., and that's exactly what we came for! Thank you, Heinz and Milla. Earlier in the spring we honoured our mothers at our May Communion Breakfast with a delicious brunch and lovely flowers. In April the Kolping men had their annual week-end retreat organized by long-time captain, Werner Scheliga, who works extremely hard to arrange everything and always manages a very good turn-out. This year there were about 45 men comprised of Kolping Toronto and Hamilton, as well as some Knights of Columbus from Orillia. Treu Kolping, Ann Salb

#### News from the Kolping Society of Winnipeg

The fall is suddenly here again, with its beauty and cooler winds. Our parks and walking trails are especially busy at this time of the year, people are out in droves to enjoy the last of the good weather.

Our picnic at Hnausa on the August long week-end was blessed by sunshine and a cool breeze

off the lake. There were lots of people, members and non-members and kids everywhere. And dogs. A highlight of the afternoon was the dog race. I'm not sure which one won, but we understand that some dirty tricks were used; as usual.

The activities center mostly around the Kubisch's cottage - the Mass is held there between flower beds under big old trees (and Wolfgang's garage is cleaner than many people's kitchens). Four or five of us make Sauerkraut to go with the Bratwurst and rolls, and everyone brings baking. Tables are set up by the lake under Tom Gerstner's huge old poplar and spruce trees (\*1) if the weather is hot, or at the other end by Broder's cottage, if it's cool and windy.

**(\*1): Tom lost an enormous poplar during a twister that touched down in our compound in Hnausa. The place is called the 'Kolping Compound' by some people because, when we first started out in the late 1960s, all eight properties belonged to Kolping members). On the last Friday in August we were all awakened around 2 AM by the incredible roaring of the wind, the thunder and lightning and the terrific downpour. We lost many old trees, we had flooding again (nothing new anymore), and all the flowers and shrubs got a good beating. Miraculously no cottages were damaged, and except for a 12-hour power outage and some scratches on Gerstners' car when a tree came down right next to it, there was no actual serious harm done. Outside of our compound, across the street, Manitoba Hydro had to repair the electrical wires which were lying in the ditches, and cut down many trees that were broken in half in places. It was the worst storm anyone of us had ever experienced. What a night! And what a mess! (But Wolfgang and Reiner will have firewood all winter.)**

After the afternoon Mass we had lunch, then the races, then coffee and cake, and soon George Broder and Hans Kessling brought out their accordions and eventually people began to make their way home. We thank Bill Burchuk for all his hard work in arranging this afternoon, and Tom for taking control of the races. Also Reiner and Wendy Ruf for their work on the BBQs, in spite of the fact that Reiner's Dad, Mike Ruf, was very sick in the hospital. (Mike is home again and doing better, and has in fact gained 8 lbs! Keep it up, Mike!) Also our former pastor, Father Dado, for coming out to celebrate Holy Mass with us. He was happy to do it, and in German, yet! What a guy!

Two of our members passed away this past summer - Michael Latzkitsch and Fritz Cost. We hardly saw Mike, he was mostly out at his cottage in the Whiteshell, summer and winter, but Fritz was a big part of our lives. Always ready to help, always cheerful and ready with a joke, down to earth. A great husband, father and Opa. There will never be another Fritz. Sincerest sympathies to Hilde, Doreen and the two grandchildren, and Mike's kids, Norma and Werner and their families. Mike was a 'Donauschwabe', and Fritz came from Baden.

With the arrival of cooler weather, the choir, Skat and bowling will begin again. This summer sped by so quickly, it just doesn't feel right. After last winter, which was especially bad here in Manitoba, one would have thought that summer would make up for it, but it was not to be (although we are having a spectacular week right now). However, if the terrible rainstorms become blizzards, we will be in trouble. 12 hours without power in the summer is just an annoyance, but in winter it could be disastrous.

Many Winnipeggers were privileged to be invited to the official opening of the Human Rights Museum, on Sept. 20th, after years of promotions and many, many millions of dollars (\$100 million from Ottawa alone). Naturally there have already been demonstrations - the Natives, Ukrainians, etc. It would seem that the planners covered everything and everybody - women, GLBTs (gay-lesbian-bisexual and transgendered people), all European countries, Africa and the East and the Middle East (specif. the Holocaust), etc. etc. etc. But obviously they got something wrong.

As we get ready for the last part of the year, let us remember to be thankful for our own lives

and families, and for our very good luck since childhood, inspite of some 'unpleasantness' along the way. Let us also remember the victims of the two world wars - it is the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 this month. Millions of young men lost their lives or were maimed in both wars, and many, many more civilians were affected by them. WW1 was supposed to be the 'war to end all wars'. Who was it who said that those who do not learn from history are bound to repeat it?

Finally, with the coming of winter, here are the titles of a few books that you might enjoy if you were a reader: 'I Dreamed of Africa', 'An Honorable Defeat', 'The Bean Trees'. Anything by Paul Theroux or Farley Mowat or the new Manitoba writers from the Steinbach area. That should hold you for a while. We wish everyone a pleasant, long Fall, and happy times with families and friends.

Treu Kolping - Hans Kessling/RKnull