

THE KOLPING CANADA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRAESES

"Be prepared, changes in life will come."

I returned on Friday, April 16 from the weeklong Provincial Chapter of the Redemptorists in Edmonton. At the beginning, the Sister Superior General of the Mercy Sisters gave five talks about the change in modern society and what the consequences are for our religious life in Canada.

The Holy Spirit will lead us to ways where we are hesitant to go. Don't expect that you will fulfill your tasks completely. You are getting old. Keep instead what St. Paul writes in Corinthians 3:6: 'I planted the seed, Apollo watered the plant, but it was God who made the plant grow'.

I hear quite often when I visit the sick: "I had great plans, but then I got this sickness and I couldn't finish what I had started to do." But even in unfinished work the talent is evident. Great composers have left compositions unfinished, but their works are still enjoyed in concert halls and churches. So it should not distress us when we don't get everything done as long as we are able. If the work started is worthwhile, the next generation might fix it.

With this trust in God's providence I wish you all a blessed Pentecost.
Father Karl Hoeppe

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to Spring 2010! The winter was mild this year with very little snow, at least in the area where we live.

The International Kolping movement is again asking for extra money towards the Minorite Church and other renovation projects in Cologne.

Speaking of money, the Kolping Society of Vancouver is currently taking members of Hispanic background. These new members would like to sponsor new projects in their home country. It would be good if we all could help in some capacity. The Kolping Society of Vancouver is keeping us informed and will explain what is needed. The plan is that we use the Internet website, which is <http://kolping.org/Canada/index.shtml>, then select Vancouver on the map.

"The secret of happiness lies not in possessing, but in giving. By making others happy we shall be happy ourselves" - A. Kolping

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer, and hope that you will all continue in the good work you do for Kolping in Canada and abroad.

Treu Kolping - Steve Salb

A Reminder:

The Pilgrimage to Rome, to mark the 20th anniversary of the beatification of Adolph Kolping, will take place October 26 to October 29, 2011. For further information please go to the Kolping International home page. It is NOT too early to begin making plans to attend.

NEWS FROM EDMONTON

Spring Greetings From Edmonton! Given the dark and snowy conditions of the past few months, it is nice to see the effort of our members to attend our meetings. We have enjoyed a full house. In January our elected officers stood for another term:

President - Anita Hochdorfer
Vice President – Anthony Blythe
Treasurer – Guenther Breymann
Secretary – Inge Baumstark
Newsletter – Donna Novak
Trustees - August Schaumberger & Henry Werner

A games night was enjoyed and we hosted the annual hunger meal, supported by the good people at St. Boniface Church. A substantial amount was again raised for our chosen charity. We are now planning our spring and summer activities.

On a very sad note, we share the news of the death of Fred Zimmermann, a loyal and long time Kolping member. Our Kolping family will miss his presence.

Treu Kolping,
Donna Novak

NEWS FROM HAMILTON

In January we held our Annual General Meeting, and all executives agreed to stay on for another year. We also allocated our annual donations for various charities and organizations from funds we had raised during the year.

Our meetings for February, March and April were once again cancelled due to the absence of too many of our members. Nevertheless, our ladies' craft group still met regularly twice per month.

Our next meeting will be held in May. In closing, we wish everyone an enjoyable spring.

Treu Kolping,
Win Klaas

NEWS FROM KELOWNA

We had our combined meeting, Advent celebration and potluck dinner on November 28th at the home of Dieter and Gisela Howald. Several of our members have had quite serious medical problems lately and couldn't attend; therefore it was a small, intimate gathering. Hildegard Sauter's son Eddie brought her, crutches and all, and she enjoyed herself immensely, especially when Eddie also brought her husband, Karl, after his dinner at the Home.

Advent and Christmas cause most people to become nostalgic, I think, and so it was with our little group. There were a few spiritual readings, some Advent songs, accompanied by Dieter on the guitar and Hildegard on the recorder, plus some reflections and reminiscences. Everyone went home happier and mellower from the delicious dinner and good wine, and with feelings of goodwill towards our fellow man.

Unfortunately, our small group has lost yet another member just before Easter: Bertha Wehnert, wife of Henry, was a loyal member of Kolping for many years. Henry had taken over the leadership of Kolping here in Kelowna a few years ago, and Bertha, bless her heart, faithfully took minutes at every meeting, even though she couldn't speak German (there are still several people who feel more comfortable speaking German in our group). However, between her and Henry, they managed to produce the minutes every time. Bertha had a quiet, sweet personality, and was an accomplished artist. We miss her already.

Gisela and Dieter are happy to report that, due to the generosity of some Kolping members, several Rotary clubs and other interested parties; they have collected enough money to feed the children at the Home of the Good Shepherd Orphanage for one year! Brother Prem, plus the little ones, are anxiously awaiting their arrival in Kampala, Uganda in October.

The Kampala Kolping Society is planning to build a computer-training centre for young people and have made up a "wish list" to help them get started. As well, the President of the

Kolping Society of Kampala District, Joseph Endegeya, has made a request for some computers and science lab equipment, plus miscellaneous school supplies for a Catholic Girls' school in Entebbe. There is such great need, but even a small contribution can make a big difference in the life of a child. For them, we are trying to get some of the requested items into a Rotary container that is leaving for Uganda in June.

A comment to a popular misconception:

Kolping is dying in the developed world and is no longer needed:

Wrong!!! We are needed! The underdeveloped world is very much looking to us for support on all fronts and we, as senior Kolping members, should encourage, educate and bring awareness of this fact to our parishes and their members. As members of Kolping we have the trust and support of our people here in Canada. We also have the expertise and know-how to help our underprivileged brothers and sisters in the world, just as Adolph Kolping did in his time. All we need to do is look around, identify a NEED and develop it. Try it, it can become habit-forming and you just may like it. Good luck in your search and your noble work.

Treu Kolping!

Respectfully submitted – Gisela

NEWS FROM TORONTO

Yes, it has come to pass here in Toronto that, like in many other German parishes in Canada, the Redemptorist Fathers have suggested that the German-speaking parishioners join the English-speaking parishioners of St. Patrick's. For the present, we are promised a German mass every Sunday. We still have two priests who speak German, in a limited capacity, and Fr. Hoeppe, who will celebrate his 80th Birthday on April 26th, still takes his turn every 2 to 3 weeks. The lack of priests is the main reason for this decision; another one is that the German Parish is shrinking badly because our young people have settled into their various suburban parishes.

This merger could be a boost for Kolping Toronto; we're just not quite sure how it will play out. The final decision will be made in 2011. Many of our members have moved away after retirement and it takes some over an hour to travel to downtown Toronto to attend our functions.

The combined celebration of St. Nicholas and Christmas in early December was well attended, thanks in part to the appearance of St. Nick who brought a small gift to the younger grandkids.

The General Meeting in January brought in a new executive. We are grateful to Werner Scheliga who was willing to take over the leadership of our Kolping Family as its President. The executive slate is as follows:

President – Werner Scheliga

Vice President - Karl Wiker

Secretary - Ann Salb

Treasurer - Reinhard Drobing

Reporter to the National Newsletter - Steve Salb

Additional members on the executive are Margaret Stecker, Victoria Korte, Alfons Loeffler, Joe Schmid; all of them have other responsibilities as well.

It has become a tradition that our Kolping ladies prepare a Lenten Meal of pea soup in March to which the whole parish is invited. Profit from the meal brought in \$1700 for Share Life. Thanks to the ladies and the male choir who supported us in this effort.

Our annual men's retreat in Marylake is taking place in April. Marylake is a beautiful property 20 km north of Toronto, managed by the Augustinian Fathers.

We would like to thank our Captain Werner Scheliga for his efforts in Kolping for more than 50 years!

We are looking forward to our spring outing and to the summer picnic.

Treu Kolping

Steve Salb

NEWS FROM VANCOUVER

At the time of writing this report, spring on the West Coast seems more like a continuation of the warmest winter on record, except that our mountaintops are now adorned with the beautiful powdery snow we were so desperately lacking in the unforgettable month of February 2010. The Vancouver Olympic Games and the Torch Relay are now a golden memory. For seventeen magical days, not only the people of Greater Vancouver and Whistler, but the whole country, were united in a warm, exuberant spirit of patriotism and goodwill, welcoming athletes and guests from around the world with open arms.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on February 6th. After a brunch hosted by Erika Fahrman and Hanna and Fred Bierhaus, the executive members submitted their reports. President Horst Zimmermann read a letter from Msgr. Axel Werner, in which he wrote that the integration of new immigrants into the life of formerly German-speaking Kolping families in North America is of vital importance. He would very much welcome it if other North American Kolping Families would take similar steps. Horst then gave a progress report on the El Salvador Project. Father Herman Montoya is very enthusiastic about introducing Kolping in his community. His sister, Delmi Romero and her husband Gustavo, members of Kolping Vancouver, while on a visit to their hometown Jucuaran last November, showed the new Kolping DVD to a group of young people and spoke to them about the Kolping movement. After months of frustrating delays in clearing El Salvador customs, the computers shipped from Vancouver finally arrived at their destination in Jucuaran. A building has been rented and renovations are underway, including a roof and three rooms, which will house the computer classroom and Internet cafe. Even the Archbishop has been involved - he has already come to bless the facilities!

The next item on the agenda was the election. As the three executive members whose terms had expired (Hanna Bierhaus, Guenther Vetter and Rose Vetter) were willing to stay on and there were no other nominations, the executive basically stayed the same. A decision was also made to form a committee, which will meet to focus specifically on the El Salvador Project. Our executive slate::

President: Horst Zimmermann

Vice President: Guenther Vetter

2nd Vice President: Gustavo Romero

Secretary: Erika Zimmermann

Treasurer: Hanna Bierhaus

Social Convenor: Erika Fahrman

Editor and Reporter to the National Newsletter: Rose Vetter

1st Trustee (appointed): Jack Bank

2nd Trustee (appointed): Dieter Fahrman

For years Kolping Vancouver has sponsored the Lenten Meal, mostly in aid of a local charity. A humble bowl of soup is offered in return for a donation valued at what one would spend for a restaurant meal. Members of Holy Family Parish have always generously supported this event, and on March 21 over 100 people filled the hall after Mass to share a bowl of Horst's special lentil soup. The beneficiaries of the collection this year were the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa, who serve the poor, sick and imprisoned. The convenors were the Zimmermanns and Vettters.

On behalf of all of us, a hearty Treu Kolping to all our sisters and brothers!
Rose Vetter

NEWS FROM WINNIPEG

Here we are at the end of April, and here in Winnipeg it feels like summer is just around the corner. We have been setting records again - this has been an incredible winter for us. Everything is many weeks ahead of its time.

Our Annual General Meeting took place after a Communion Breakfast. Since all executive members have another year to serve their term, no elections were held.

After the reports were read, we had to get down to the business of getting people to take on convenorships, which proved to be difficult this year for the first time. Fortunately, all worked out in the end. Our slate of executives remains as follows:

Praeses: Rev. Father Kevin Smith

President: Joe Knoll

Vice President: Wolfgang Kubisch

Secretaries: Rose Abendschoen, Regina Knoll

Treasurer: Tony Gerstner

Social chair: Margret Littau

After this part of the AGM, our Kolping brother Josef Poeppel received his certificate for his 50 years in Kolping. A collection for one of our charities was taken up; the Society will double the amount. After some discussion, it was decided that our February and March meetings would be cancelled because many members were about to leave for their winter holidays somewhere in the South.

Our Bowling Tournament took place in March with a good turnout. Afterwards we met in St. Joseph's Golden Ageds clubrooms for sandwiches and donuts. Our convenor was Bill Burchuk. Thanks, Bill!

Our April Communion Breakfast was well attended and included our president and all the other snowbirds. A meeting followed during which another collection for a charity was taken up.

A number of our members have been quite ill during the past few months; there seems to have been some sort of outbreak of colon and other cancers. Some members also had hip- or knee replacements, broken bones etc. All seem to be recovering at this time.

However, we lost one of our members in April: Ed Schoffner passed away at the Health Sciences Centre. We extend our condolences to Kathy and her family.

Here's hoping that you will all enjoy the next few months.

Treu Kolping - Hans Kessler/RK.