

## THE KOLPING CANADA NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

### MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRAESES

Easter Hallelulias! On Good Friday there is a point in the liturgy where "God" sings to us: "My people, my people, what more could I have done for you?" We human beings spend a good deal of our time telling God how to run the world or, at least, what He should be doing for my sake. And today there are many people who dismiss faith in Christ because, I think, they really do not listen to the Word or take the time to let go of their own God-images (which turn out to be false idols) and focus on the living God. Walking with Jesus through the days of his Passion, his agony, his torture, his humiliations, and his horrible crucifixion is a reminder to us that God walks with us through all suffering, pain, and death itself. In Jesus we discover that God is with us even, or especially, in the times and realms where we least 'feel' God's presence.

We live in faith, the faith that Jesus asked of us. "Trust me, trust My Father." There is great beauty in this life, but we all know suffering and sorrow. And so the Father gives us a promise: Trust me, trust My Son, and I will show you what awaits you" and what he shows us in the Resurrection of Jesus is the promise that we will be united with him forever. We may have trouble imagining what that will be like; but the better we know Jesus and His Father, which we learn in and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the more confident we will be that LOVE, perfect love, will be our home.

All God's promises are true! Easter is our time to catch a glimpse of the Glory promised us and our loved ones. That is why we are a Halleluia people! - Fr. Frank Miller, Ntl. Praeses.

### MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

General Praeses Msgr. Dillenburg has written us a letter:

Dear friends of Kolping in Canada;

We are happy that the commitment of the International Solidarity is growing in Canada. As you know, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL has the duty to spread the ideas of the blessed Father Adolph Kolping into the world. Here in Cologne we coordinate our common efforts of the International Solidarity and assist younger Kolping associations in Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America and Asia in developing their own Kolping association in bringing development to the people through the work of Kolping families.

For this work we are seeking donations and are engaged in different Fundraising activities. The General Praeses and the General Secretary of the International Kolping Society hereby invite the Kolping Brothers and

Kolping Sisters in Canada to engage more actively in these fundraising activities". (General Praeses, Msgr. Dillenburg.)

Dear brothers and sisters: it is never a pleasant task to ask for more money. We in Canada do send money every year. We send the extra money after we pay the Intl. dues, and a small amount for operating cost. We could increase our dues a bit. Let me know what you think. I have to give an answer to the Intl. Board.

We just made a membership count, and it is much lower than expected, So our Intl. dues will be a bit lower.

The Solidarity did not grow in Canada, which is still hurting me and I don't understand it.

Thank you for answering the letter from January, almost all replied. I was in contact with Sibylle Ganguin and she is willing to carry on with the Log book, so please let's keep things in order. New members need a registration form. Thank you. Her Email address is: sganguin.kolping@shaw.ca

Think of something special for Dec. 8th, 2015 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of blessed Fr. Kolpings death.

For Easter I wish every one a blessed Day, happiness and good health.  
Treu Kolping - Steve Salb, Ntl. President.

## NEWS FROM KOLPING EDMONTON

Since our last correspondence, we held our annual Advent meeting and celebration full of song and prayer and an abundance of good food.

Due to weather concerns, our first meeting of 2015 was held in March where

our executive was re-elected. Like all of you, we must deal with an aging membership, health and mobility issues. So we are happy our executive will continue with their duties. We do boast about 30 members at 8 yearly meetings though. So forge ahead we will, led by Fr Georg Neumann as our spiritual guide, Anita Hochdorfer as president, Thea Tucker as vice-president, Guenther Breymann as treasurer and yours truly as secretary.

Our plans for the year include having guest speakers to help broaden our understanding of community needs so that we can donate funds wisely. And we will work to keep our Kolping family strong by holding our social gatherings at the lake cottage and in the mountains.

As Easter approaches, we wish you all the joy that the celebration brings.

Treu Kolping, Donna Novak

## NEWS FROM KOLPING HAMILTON

Just a brief update from our last report. As previously mentioned, we held our yearly Kolping Christmas party on Saturday, Nov. 29, and assisted at our parish's Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Our ladies continue with their Craft Group meeting, usually twice a month. No other activities have been planned for this Spring.

In closing we wish everyone a Happy Easter and Treu Kolping - Win Klaas.

#### NEWS FROM KOLPING TORONTO

Spring has sprung! Today is the first day of spring and after the coldest winter on record, including the entire month of February with temperatures consistently below freezing, it could not come soon enough.

Last October and November we held our usual monthly communion breakfasts but in December we combined it with our Christmas Party. We enjoyed Karl Wiker's interesting program of seasonal readings and songs and then a tasty brunch followed by coffee, cakes and cookies supplied mostly by our ladies. However, our newer Kolping brother, Wilmar, baked a very delicious stollen to share with all.

Our World Day of Prayer on October 29th started with noon mass in St. Pat's followed by lunch in the hall and then readings from the prepared program produced by the Diocesan Kolping Organizations of Freiburg and Chile. Since Werner and Erika had travelled to Chile, they shared their albums and experiences and we had a very informative discussion.

Wednesday, Nov. 12th was the annual Bazaar at St. Patrick's for the Redemptorist Missions. Kolping members volunteered as needed for setting up, manning sales tables, selling raffle tickets, cleaning up, etc. Great co-operation from all!

The General Membership Meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2015 was also a communion breakfast so we started with mass, a wurst and potato salad lunch and then the meeting. Since the entire executive was serving its second year, no election was necessary, thus eliminating the time-consuming part. We were pleased to welcome our newest member, Juliana Hoffbauer, who was initiated at this meeting.

February began with our communion breakfast on the 8th and ended on Friday the 27th where our members led the parishioners in praying the Stations of the Cross.

Our Annual Lenten Meal of pea soup prepared by our ladies was on Sunday, March 8th with great support from the parish and from the Harfentoene Choir. The proceeds of \$1545 go to Share Life, the annual appeal of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Happy Easter and Treu Kolping - Ann Salb

#### NEWS FROM KOLPING VANCOUVER

Spring...that favourite time of the year so full of freshness and promise! Here on the Westcoast, our annual winter visitors, the snow geese, are preparing to make their long flight back to their nesting grounds in the Arctic Circle. This is also the time when that other species of snow geese, the wingless ones, are making their way home from warmer climes south of the border. No doubt many of you in the central and eastern parts of our country will be relieved to bid farewell to a cruel winter.

It was encouraging to see so many members turn out at our Kolping Memorial Day on December 7th; this requires considerable effort for many of our members, as most of us are either almost or already octogenarians. After celebrating Mass at St. Monica Church, we were happy to welcome our former Praeses, Father Benno Burghardt and his friend Bill, as well some special guests, among them Heli Pauw's sister from Holland, Barbara Hawelka's sister from Dawson Creek, and Frank and Monika Tolksdorf's two daughters. Following the luncheon, we honoured Magdalena Marquardt for 40 years of loyal membership. After our president's update on our El Salvador project, we celebrated the 2nd Sunday of Advent with some readings, as well as some spontaneous personal recollections of Christmases long ago by several members. These were wonderful, emotion-filled stories; we should definitely hear more like these in the future, as there are undoubtedly many like them stored away in the attics of our memories.

Our Annual General Meeting was preceded by Mass, celebrated by our Praeses, Father Boniface. After the luncheon and the customary reports by executive members, the next item on the agenda was the election. The terms for president, secretary, 2nd vice-president and social convenor were up for election. Horst, Erika and Gustavo were willing to continue for another two years. The only change was in the position of social convenor. After serving for many years, Erika Fahrman stepped back and was replaced by Sigi Araszewski. In his detailed update on our El Salvador Project, Gustavo Romero reported that it has expanded to the Tecapan region, where a lady has started a small pizzeria. The purchase of the necessary equipment has enabled the group to start operating and begin with sales, focusing on experience, training and entrepreneurship. Plans are underway to set up a project with similar goals in Santiago de Maria. In Jucuaran, they are continuing with the Coffee House, Internet Café and pizza sales on weekends. As the bakery had not generated the hoped-for success, it was decided to switch to making and selling pizza, which has produced great results. Father Montoya and his group in El Salvador are grateful for all the financial help and support from Kolping Vancouver; this has inspired them to strive to become entrepreneurs.

Contrary to our stressful annual general meetings years ago, we are enjoying a harmonious atmosphere nowadays, and there is absolutely no contest in our election process; our members are quite content to see basically the same old group look after the affairs of our society. As our president expressed it with such eloquent passion, at this stage, the most important thing for us is to stay in touch and support each other in friendship and love.

Our executive slate:

President: Horst Zimmermann

Vice President: Guenther Vetter

2nd Vice President: Gustavo Romero

Secretary: Erika Zimmermann

Treasurer: Wolfgang Araszewski

Social Convenor: Sieglinde Araszewski

Editor/Publisher: Rose Vetter (also Reporter to the KCNL)

1st Trustee (appointed): Jack Bank

2nd Trustee (appointed): Dieter Fahrman

On behalf of Kolping Vancouver, I extend heartfelt wishes to all of you and your loved ones for the blessings of our risen Lord.

Treu Kolping = Rose Vetter

## NEWS FROM KOLPING WINNIPEG

Our regular reporter is away on holidays, so our report will be brief because I was also gone for two months.

Sadly, we lost two of our oldest members in late January: Joe Bommersbach, 91, passed away after a short illness, and In March, Friedl Funk, 87, who had been in an assisted living home, passed away also. Kolping attended the prayers and funerals. Sincere condolences to their families.

Our General Meeting went off fairly well, following a Communion Breakfast. Our Vice President, Wolfgang Kubisch, was in charge because our President had not yet recovered from his health issues which had begun some months before. (These health issues had also influenced our Christmas party in that the president had tried to carry on but was not well enough. It was decided to make some overdue changes to our Christmas party and are looking forward to the next

Christmas.) Acting on Wolfgang's suggestion, everyone agreed to ask the executive to stay on in their positions for another term. All members stayed on for the time being. Some good suggestions were made, it was a lively meeting.

In mid-March our members came together for a Communion Breakfast, with Wolfgang and Magda in charge. Two new members were initiated: Igor and Maureen Pesun joined our group. They have become familiar to us in the last while. Their parents are Simon and Berta Pesun. Their teenage daughters and son often serve as altar boy/girls at our German mass.

In mid June, Kolping Winnipeg will mark its 60th anniversary in the form of a Communion Breakfast. We really are getting old, folks!

We wish everyone a happy Easter, and Treu Kolping! RK