



Kolping Banner

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Catholic Kolping Society of Philadelphia

Dear Kolping Family,

September is quickly approaching and the 42nd National Convention will be underway!

From our first gathering Friday evening (Meet and Greet) to our closing festivity on Sunday afternoon (A Taste of Philadelphia), we're sure that you will have an excellent opportunity to experience Kolping Hospitality - Philadelphia style at it's finest. Our members have been hard at work planning an unforgettable convention for you and ensuring that your stay with us is not only fun, but also safe and hassle free!

Our Philadelphia President Frank Staub will be available by phone if you should have any concerns or questions. (267) 408-2494

We promise you a convention you'll never forget. We proudly welcome you to our city and hope that you enjoy Philadelphia sights, food and hospitality. We look forward to opening our home to you!



42 NATIONAL KOLPING CONVENTION September 07 -09 , 2018 - Philadelphia, PA

"Celebrating a Long Standing History of Kolping Values in the City of Brotherly Love"

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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.

Episcopal Moderator:

Bishop John M. Quinn

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Secretary, Helene Schrand
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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 ...

I was looking for some inspiration to write this article and googled "quotes by Father Kolping". I figured if I couldn't be creative, someone on the internet might provide insight – or Father Kolping would.

I thought about the upcoming convention and how our proposals and agenda might direct the activities of the next few years. There are those ongoing questions surrounding how the Endowment funds should be utilized, as well as the role of our National organization. Many of our families are wondering how we might attract new and/or younger members. In 2016, we focused on the theme *Kolping Vision 2017* and while we don't have an official theme for the convention in Philadelphia in September, maybe it should be "where do we go from here?"

Father Kolping's teaching always emphasized the sanctity of family life and the dignity of labor. He once said, "The first thing that a person finds in life and the last to which he holds out his hand, and the most precious that he possesses, even if he does not realize it, is family life."

Perhaps those are the ideals that deserve the focus of our greater self – our National family. Attracting new and/or younger members should include an element of our ideals – encouraging work, purpose and meaning. We should encourage allowing everyone in the "family" to have a role and to recognize the contribution of each "family" member. How we do this might differ from family to family, so our challenge will be to do something that has meaning for each one of us.

There's always lots of work to do. Selecting the projects, activities and programs that have impact and can add to our collective success will require thoughtfulness and practicality. We built some infrastructure in 2016, now it's time to decide how to build upon it!

Oh yes, and the quote discovered through my Google search attributed to Father Kolping that resonated and inspired (and is actually on the home page of Philadelphia Kolping's website) is:

"The needs of the times will teach you what to do."

Let's see what we can learn.

Lisa Brinkmann

A Praeses Proclaims...



THE KOLPING FAMILY

By Fr. Dan Kroger, O.F.M.
Publisher of St. Anthony Messenger Press
and Franciscan Communications

New in my role at Kolping Cincinnati, I am impressed by the real family feeling that I have whenever we meet or do things together. That family atmosphere impressed me when we celebrated the wedding anniversaries of our members on Fathers' Day.

I guess we were about 250 participants in the Mass. There were three generations of some families on hand. The singing was lively. The prayerfulness of the Kolping community was tangible. The ministers at the Eucharist were

prepared, from the servers and lectors to the cantors and musicians. The outdoor pavilion was beautiful, clean and decorated. We really celebrated the Lord's presence in our community, in our families and in the whole Church.

“God bless all our family members, living and deceased.”

Afterward there was a sumptuous breakfast brunch in the spacious Kolping hall. There were beautiful

displays of wedding photos from sixty and fifty, to forty and twenty-five years anniversaries. I enjoyed seeing the photos—everybody looked so young—and hearing stories of some of the couples was delightful.

The Kolping spirit of family was tangible. As a new praeses, the whole event made me feel the kind of family spirit that we had when I was a child growing up on the other side of Cincinnati. God bless all our family members, living and deceased.

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

CINCINNATI

Jim Brown

Ferd Hoerstmann

Ludwig Lager

Diane Leeds

NEW YORK

Rosemarie Lambot

National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund received the following contributions for the months of May 15, 2018 to July 15, 2018

In memory of Gunther Uhlhorn, deceased member of the Cincinnati Kolping Society

Helene Schrand, Cincinnati Kolping Society

John & Andrea Dammann

Diane Enwright

Anonymous donation \$2,000.00

Kolping Society National Endowment Fund

c/o Lisa Brinkmann

311 Greene Street | Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

Greetings from Brooklyn Kolping!

Happy summer to everyone from the Brooklyn Kolping Family! Here are some springtime highlights from our Kolping Center.

Our Annual Meeting used to happen right after the new year, but has settled into early March to reduce the threat of winter weather. We opened our Kolping Center on Sunday, March 4 for our 94th Annual Meeting. We welcomed 28 adults and a few children too. We had two special guests as well, Deacon John Sands from nearby St. Matthias parish and our good friend Father Christopher Heanue who made time to spend some with us.

We began our gathering with a prayer of Thanksgiving, then enjoyed a cold buffet provided by the Society. Deacon John Sands led things off with a short talk about the good works the parish is doing in their Social Outreach Program. He thanked us for partnering with St. Matthias and assured our members that everything we donate is being put to good use either for the food pantry or for meals served to local homeless people. After Deacon John's talk the formal meeting got started.

The minutes from last year's meeting were read and accepted, then President Bill Conte presented the State of our Society. We discussed both our accomplishments and the many challenges we face.

Next were the various reports. The Treasurer's report told us we ended 2017 in the black; The Financial Secretary's report brought up the dire need for new members if we are to survive. A discussion took place trying to understand why the same people who support our functions

and want our Society to remain in the community are reluctant to commit to membership—a problem many religious and fraternal organizations face today.

We have said many times that after the members the Kolping Center is our greatest asset, what holds us together. It is a lot of work to keep things in good shape and we have not had the benefit of a house manager for a few years. Bill thanked the officers, board members and a few others who pitch in to keep the Center functioning and in good shape.

We reviewed our gatherings last year: the Annual meeting in March, a Spring Mass and Dinner in April, a General Membership Meeting (*with a Picnic Theme*) in June, A Fall Mass in October (*incorporating the Kolping International Day of Prayer and an All Soul's Day Observance*). We finished the year off with our Christmas Party in mid-December.

The Good & Welfare report noted the members who were ill, hospitalized or homebound in 2017. Other topics discussed included the upcoming National Convention to be held the weekend after Labor Day, the National Lenten Project, and our ongoing charity partnership with the St. Matthias Social Outreach Program.

The slate of Officers was presented and Recording secretary Valerie Meyer cast one vote to make it official. Our officers for 2018 are: President, *Bill Conte*; Vice President, *Jessica Meyer*; Treasurer, *Anne Novotny*; Financial Secretary, *Patricia Gerage*; Recording Secretary, *Valerie Meyer*; Outside Parties, *Alice Kokasch and Scott Stahl*; Center Maintenance, *the Entire Board of Directors*; and Member, National

Board of Directors, *Christopher Gerage*. Our board consists of all the officers plus: *Inge Jellen, John Jellen, Ernie Lauth, Monica Meyer, Albert Tscherne* and *Theresa Wiederhold*. Bill thanked everyone for their work in 2017 and for taking a job in 2018.

Business concluded, the meeting was officially closed with a few prayers. Everyone was encouraged to stick around for dessert, so our members lingered and socialized over coffee.

It has been a tradition that goes way back for our Brooklyn Kolping family to attend Mass together in early spring to commemorate Father Kolping's ordination in Cologne on April 13, 1845. We used to go to church together, then return to Kolping for a home cooked breakfast and a spiritual talk. The tradition is still upheld, but now everything is held at the Center. This is easier for our senior citizens, and saves us all from searching for scarce parking twice in one day!

A bit over forty of us were on hand Saturday, April 28 when Father Chris came to our Center to celebrate 5PM Mass. We really enjoy Father Chris' involvement and his youthful energy! Also, on hand was our reliable leader of song, Karl Werkmann. Bill Conte acted as lector. One of Father Chris' talents is to deliver a powerful homily in few words. It is safe to say that we were all enlightened and encouraged by his talk. We recited the **Prayer for The Kolping Family** as meditation, and we sang the **Kolping Song** at the end of the Mass for the first time in a long while.

We owe a big debt of thanks to Gary Meyer for organizing the serving without his usual partner Chris Gerage, who had to work that day.

Gary saw the need, stepped up and kept things moving. We enjoyed our bratwurst dinner which our helpful members served in short order.

It was so nice to see we had a mixture of long-time and fairly new members with all age groups represented. We also took a minute to call numbers for our door prizes-four flower arrangements which graced our tables...this is always a big hit with the ladies who love taking home those flowers!

Bill invited our long-time member Rosemarie Rom to join him at the podium. He happily announced to those assembled that Rose had been nominated and would be the next recipient of the Kolping Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a Kolping member. Rose is one of those supportive members who has almost always been there, ready to give a hand for over thirty years, and she also served on our Board of Directors for many years. A letter of congratulations from the National Office was read and presented. Rose is well loved, and she received a big hand and congratulations from those assembled.

We lingered after the raffle was called, enjoying our coffee, dessert and each other's company. Thank you to all who supported our Spring Mass, giving us a nice turnout. Extra special thanks go to those who helped along and contributed to the success of the evening!

Treu Kolping, Bill Conte

The following photos were all taken at the Kolping Mass on April 28 by Valerie Meyer.



Bill Conte presenting DSA recipient Rose Rom with the official letter informing her of the honor.



Ayden getting better acquainted with Inge Jellen and Margaret Tscherne



We mix the generations in our Kolping Center! Ayden Meyer having some fun with Anne Novotny.



Our Faithful Member Alice Kokasch.



It would not be Kolping without a raffle! Jessica Meyer and her brother Chris selling those raffle tickets.

International Kolping

International

New names for the legal bodies within KOLPING INTERNATIONAL

The International Convention, held in September 2017 in Lima, already adopted a new version of the International Constitution. This gave Kolping Families around the world the opportunity to freely choose their governing structures and to look into the ways in which they want to follow the tradition of Adolph Kolping. This however also involves the re-organization of the committees and boards in KOLPING INTERNATIONAL. Changes were also made to the legal entities under German law. Thus the name of the organization, which acts under German law for the international Kolping Association and its property, is no longer "Kolpingwerk e.V.", but now "KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Association e.V.". The name for KOLPING INTERNATIONAL's specific organization for the coordination of development cooperation is no longer "Social and Development Aid of the Kolping Society e.V.", but is now "KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Cooperation

e.V.". This new standardization is to express that the international Kolping Association and its project work should become known around the world under the name KOLPING INTERNATIONAL.

International

First meetings of the new International Executive Board

Another fruit of the International Convention's deliberations is that along with the International Executive Committee, which consists of the General Praeses, Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburger, the General Secretary Dr. Markus Demele, and the Managing Director Karin Wollgarten, an International Executive Board will

now represent all continents with Kolping Families at regular meetings at the General Secretariat in Cologne. Dancille Mujawamariya from Rwanda, Rufino Rodriguez from Honduras, Paul Nguyen Huu Nghia from Vietnam, Thomas Dbrflinger from Germany, and Erich Reischmann from Switzerland have now attended the first sessions in Cologne. In addition to getting to know the various staff members and their tasks at the General Secretariat, the long-term development of the Association and ways of accompanying the National Kolping associations were discussed. The International Executive Board will focus particularly on the support of the local associations in their efforts to attract new members. Sustainable development projects are an important tool for establishing new Kolping Families and to enable them as competent volunteer groups for the use in Church and society. A leading team from all Kolping continents that has gone to work with zest for action and the desire to develop.

Germany & International

Sensational result of the 2017 shoe collection campaign

The result of the 2017 shoe collection campaign has again exceeded all expectations: 212,140 pairs of shoes were donated. None of the leaders of Kolping Germany had expected that. Even the National President Thomas Dorflinger is almost speechless: "After the fabulous result of last year, I thought that hardly anyone would have shoes to donate this year. And yet there was a similar number again this year! I am truly proud of you and it is a great pleasure for me to say thank you to all of you!". In terms of money this means 65,840.21 Euro! Kolping Germany

can now transfer this amount as well as additional contributions from Kolping Families, who were unable to participate actively in the shoe collection campaign, as a donation to the International Adolph Kolping Foundation.

When handing over the cheque, General Praeses Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburger expresses his pleasure with the admirable commitment of the Kolping Families to the shoe collection campaign: "We feel uplifted by so many enthusiastic members!".

South Tyrol (Italy)

National Convention characterized by changes and new beginnings

The annual National Convention of Kolping South Tyrol dealt, along with all kinds of statute-related issues, also with quite a few new things. After decades of service, National Praeses Johannes Noisternigg did not run for office again. There will be an official retirement event for him in June. However, many speakers and guests took the opportunity to express their gratitude for and appreciation of Johannes Noisternigg's life of achievement. With great applause and an unanimous vote, the Praeses of the Kolping Family of Meran, Josef Stampfl, was elected to be the new National Praeses. Changes were also mentioned in the speech by General Secretary Dr. Markus Demele. He called to mind: "The courage to change is part of the DNA of Kolping. But changing in which direction? Not as an end in itself, but with the objective to not only preserve our community, but to make our beneficial activity draw wider circles. To do this, Kolping has to demonstrate in South Tyrol time and time again that it is relevant for the people. And this relevance is always measured against Adolph Kolping's words: "The needs of the time will teach you what has to be done."

And what the needs of the present times are is what the participants of the National Convention discussed in South Tyrol. It was not long before the attending Kolping Sisters and Brothers had gathered a large number of areas where Kolping can and should be active in order to help people in their small and large needs. From the care of and contact with lonely seniors to a donating campaign for the deadly poverty in Africa - there are so many areas where Kolping can make a difference.

Bolivia

Health instead of profits

Passionate commitment of the Kolping members in Bolivia and strong partnerships with Kolping Switzerland and KOLPING INTERNATIONAL made it possible: Today Kolping Bolivia is a recognized Catholic Association in the country and is held in high regard for its health services. During his visit, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL's General Secretary was able to see the commitment with which the local leaders do their jobs.

"This goes far beyond sustainable project work", says Demele. "Here everyone is doing their very best to help the poor and to deliver top-notch work - paid staff as well as volunteers!". Especially the Health Centres were impressive. "The people who come to our centres do not have a steady job, but are day labourers and earn from day to day what they need to survive. Most often they have many children. They are people who are really poor. We have designed our charges to be affordable to them", explains Elizabeth Reyes. She runs the health centre operated by Kolping Boliva. It is located on the outskirts of El Alto, the suburb of the Bolivian metropolis of La Paz. The people here are poor and the state is weak. While there is public health care, the system is over-whelmed. "In a state centre, one has to sign up, about three or four in the morning, to

be able to be seen that day. These people cannot go to a private clinic, because the consultation would cost the equivalent of 15 to 20 Euros. At Kolping we charge the equivalent of 2 Euros. That is the minimum of what we have to charge", says Reyes. Dedicated Kolping Families and facilities that help people resolutely - that is Kolping in Boliva.

Romania

Kolping as innovation power of occupational training

In 2007 Kolping Romania started the first courses for cooks and waiters in the training hotel Kronstadt/Brasov. These activities have continued since then. More than 600 trained men and women were joined over the years by several hundred students, as well as course attendees from other training companies, who completed their apprenticeships here, or simply spent a period of occupation orientations with Kolping.

Now, ten years after the start of the first training courses, Kolping is co-founder of Romania's first dual occupational school for tourism and the restaurant industry. The partner school, the Technical Lyceum "Maria Baiulescu" established three training classes, one for cooks, one for table service, and one for hotel staff. On the part of Kolping Romania, Eduard Dobre and Nicoleta Paladuta have been the driving force of this project, the latter taking over the co-ordination of the working group, established locally for this purpose. Kolping Romania also got a seat on the school's council.

At the Kolping Hotel itself, a total of 16 apprentices were accepted, who are completing their internship here during their three-year training. The future cooks and waiters/waitresses receive a monthly financial support during their apprenticeship from both the state and from the training company.

At the end of last year, Eduard Dobre and Nicoleta Paladuta, representatives of Kolping Romania, presented the concept of dual training in tourism during the German Cultural and Business Days in Temeswar/Timisoara in the Western part of the country. Also present were representatives of the journeymen's association Hermannstad/Sibiu, with whom they worked together on the "Timisoara Kolping Journeymen House", Romania's new project in the area of education and training.

South Africa

Bavaria visits Kolping South Africa

From February 12 to 15, 2018, a delegation from the Bavarian Parliament visited the Kolping Guest House Durbanville/Cape Town in South Africa. The delegates Kathi Petersen (SPD), Christine Kamm (Alliance 90/Green Party) and Klaus Steiner (CSU) were accompanied by Dr. Eva-Maria Unger (Bavarian Chancellery), Dr. Alexander Fonari (Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern [One-World Network Bavaria] e.V.), Annegret Lueg (Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern [One-World Network Bavaria] e.V.) and Ulrike Ecker (State Office). In the Bavarian partner region Western Cape, the delegation also visited Kolping South Africa's project SPARK. Kolping helps young - sometimes under-aged - mothers to develop their personality, strengthens the mother-child relationship, and gives mothers skills on how to better care for their future and that of their children.

The Bavarian Government, together with the diocesan Kolping organization of Augsburg, made the SPARK project possible by providing the start-up funding. SPARK is truly a spark of hope towards independence for the participants, as the women reported to the delegates from Bavaria. The young mother Unity Pharo said that for her the Kolping association is an important help for her parenting skills.



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International Kolping *(continued)*

Gouwa Johnson, another young mother, described her experience with SPARK in a self-written poem titled "Every day is an opportunity". The Bavarian delegation became acquainted with the curriculum of the 4-month course, the focal points of which are the development of social skills, parenting issues, and practical areas such as, for instance, baking and knitting.

Kim Christen said that on some days it was hard for her to attend the meetings. In the end, however, she decided to go because "SPARK is like a home away from home". Annegret Lueg from the Bavarian delegation came to the conclusion that "women are the key to any society". According to her, SPARK gives the women the strength to lead their family similar to a small family business.

The SPD Member of Parliament Kathi Petersen, member of the Kolping Family Schweinfurt, is impressed by SPARK and its impact. To the National Co-ordinator of Kolping South Africa, Judith Turner, she said in an interview: "When Adolph Kolping founded the Kolping Society 165 years ago, he wanted to provide disadvantaged youths with the tools and skills necessary for success. Although this was almost two centuries ago, the Society still remains faithful to this objective. In South Africa I see the promotion of the common good and the faith is alive and healthy. Programs such as WOP or SPARK do exactly what Adolph Kolping did all these many years ago and offer opportunities and hope for the South African youths. Young people always need support, wherever they are and when they live."

Honduras

Support in setting up a business

At Kolping one can learn something - that is clear to everyone in Honduras. In the current CECAMEX newsletter, the management of Kolping Honduras points out that business start-ups by Kolping members are also supported by the National Office. There is training for the proper calculation of demand, location, and product quality. Only when all the framework conditions have been investigated can a small loan be claimed. But even then, the borrowers are not alone. In the Kolping Family one helps one another and supports each other, even if the start of one's enterprise sometimes does not go as planned.