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# Lenten Project 2018

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our 2018 National Lenten Project. We still have a month or so to go before we end our Lenten Project for this year. We are very grateful to all who have contributed and hope those who have not yet made a donation might consider doing so – we've even included an envelope to make it easy.

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San Francisco – Potluck raffle \$295.00

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## In the Banner this Month:

### **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

#### National Officers:

Praeses, Fr. Richard Bretone Associate Praeses President, Lisa Brinkmann Vice President, Walter Amrein Secretary, Helene Schrand Treasurer, Ted Wilke Trustees Lucille Colletti Frank Fon Jonathan Groll Robert Mayer Marilee Uhlhorn

#### **Kolping Family Locations:**

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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 hope everyone had a happy Easter and the daffodils have signaled that Spring has truly arrived for all of us.

Congratulations to the Los Angeles Kolping on its 90th Anniversary. It's wonderful to celebrate and recognize

the hard work, dedication and devotion our L.A. brothers and sisters have given to keep the ideals and vision of Blessed Father Kolping relevant.

Brian Schafer, President of the Los Angeles Kolping, said it so nicely in his message from the President in their anniversary booklet, "it is an exciting time for us as we continue to grow and adapt, remaining always motivated and responsible to the true Kolping spirit."

Trying to understand how our individual Kolping families are adapting to today's issues, interests and challenges can only help us understand how to support the Kolping vision into the future. For some of our families, an aging membership may nudge us to retool the programs we offer, relook at how we give back to the community and reschedule when and how often we hold our meetings. For other Kolping families, integrating younger members may present opportunities for reevaluating "how things are always done."

At the last Kolping convention we touched on the future of Kolping. We determined that while we it is vital that we honor and support our local families, we also need to acknowledge the strength of our national network. We successfully joined together to promote an internationally-lead project and are continuing our support of Kolping Kenya's small animal initiative during this Lenten season. We identified the revamping of our website and a need for unified branding as a bridge to illustrate our national presence and increase awareness of our Society – and as such created the new website (kolping.org).

I am looking forward to meeting everyone at the national convention in Philadelphia in September. I hope we can start the dialogue and generate ideas to ensure our families thrive and can embrace Blessed Father Kolping's motto of "Religion and Virtue, Industry and Diligence, Harmony and Charity, Cheerfulness and Fun" for many years to come.

If you can, come to the convention – it will be fun. And in the meantime, don't forget to donate to the 2018 Lenten Project – it is appreciated.

With warm regards, Lisa Brinkmann



# A Praeses Proclaims...

## **EYE WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION**

By Fr. Richard J. Bretone National Praeses and Prases of the New York Kolping Society

 Let your light shine.
Be an example to others
of God's goodness. ??

I can't believe how fast I ran that day when the women that would often accompany our group told us that the tomb in which we laid our dear Rabbi was empty. I ran so fast that I outran our leader, our head apostle, Peter. However, out of respect for him. I waited outside the tomb until he arrived. We both went in and looked. We saw the burial cloths neatly placed on the side, but there was no body of our dearly beloved Rabbi. Jesus was missing, and I knew. I believed that God the Father would not let His Son die such an ignoble death. He could not let the hands that healed so many sufferers, the gentle voice that soothed so many frightened people and those eyes that radiated God's mercy to so many sinners; He could not let His beloved die! I saw and I believed.

Then Mary of Magdala came and said she saw Jesus in the garden. Some believed her and some didn't, but I believed because deep love believes in the impossible, it hopes in miracles. However, we all believed the day he came into that upper room even with the door bolted shut, because we were hiding from his executioners—afraid that what they did to our sweet savior they would do to us! We hid and we wrung our hands in worry. Then, in a flash, he stood before us in the upper room radiant, joyful, whole and healed. We could not believe it; we were terrified. We thought it was maybe an illusion, or maybe even a ghost, but then he showed us his hands and side and we heard his gentle voice say: "Peace." We all knew it was he. If this wasn't enough, he came back the following week to show all of us, but especially Thomas, that he was real! Thomas was so tentative and nervous when he placed his hands into our savior's wounds, but placed them he did. In Thomas's touch all skepticism, for all time, was assuaged.

Jesus was alive, risen and in the flesh! The grave could not contain him. His love was too powerful. It overcame death. It binded all wounds. It forgave all wrongs.

Those encounters with the risen Christ were something! Now as an old man looking back I think of what he said to me, John, and the other apostles. He told us to go into the world and make disciples of all people.

I have worked long and hard. I just want to reassure you in the retelling of what I witnessed, that it was all true—every word. Being the youngest, I lived the longest, but now I give my job to you! Do as the good Rabbi, the gentle Shepherd, asks. Go. Let your light shine. Be an example to others of God's goodness. Repeat my story, and know that the savior is with you everyday, indeed, every moment of everyday working through your faith to draw people to Him. Carry on with courage, Remember he is with you to the end of time!

Now I bless you as he blessed us: In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

## National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund received the following contributions for the months of January 15, 2018 to March 15, 2018.

In memory of Millie Sciuto, deceased member of the Los Angeles Kolping Society

Los Angeles Kolping Society

In memory of Margaret Davila, deceased member of the San Francisco Kolping Society

### Kolping Society National Endowment Fund

c/o Lisa Brinkmann 311 Greene Street | Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

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

> CINCINNATI Albert Grohs Rudy Pohlablen

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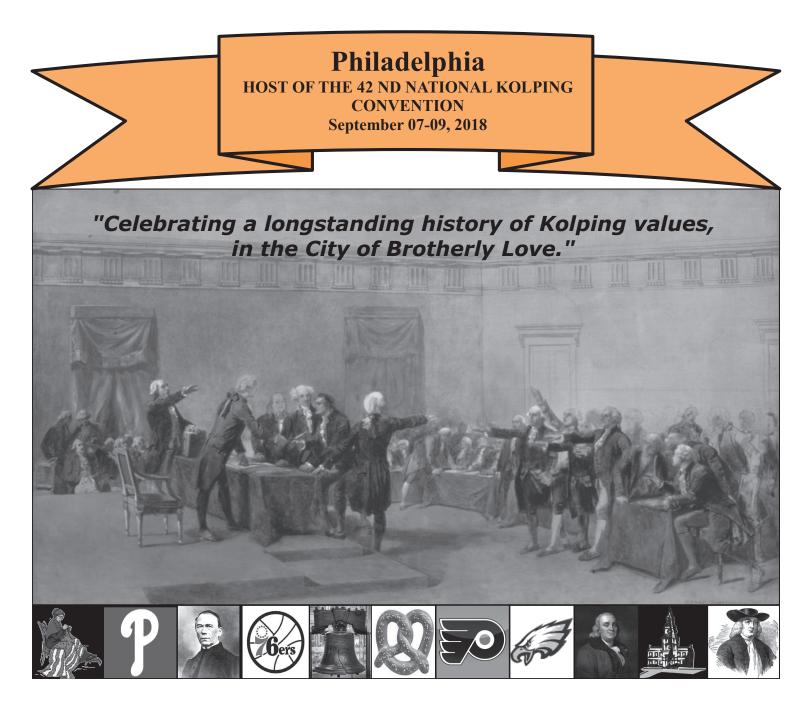
SAN FRANCISCO Margaret Davila

# Catholic Kolping Society Of Philadelphia

President Frank Staub, Members of the Board and all Philadelphia Kolping Members look forward to welcoming everyone to the 42nd National Kolping Convention in the City of Brotherly Love.

Our members have been hard at work planning an unforgettable convention that will take you from a march through historic City Hall proudly brandishing our Kolping Colors, to a Mass at historic Saint John The Evangelist Church in Center City. Established in 1830, the church served as the Roman Catholic Cathedral for Pennsylvania, Delaware and part of New Jersey from 1838 to 1864. In 1834 it was the venue for the American premier of Mozart's Requiem Mass. You're sure to marvel at its beauty.

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



## Meet the new Cincinnati Kolping Praeses



Fr. Dan Kroger is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. Ordained in 1973 he taught at Roger Bacon High School in Cincinnati until 1979 when he received his first assignment as a missionary to the Philippines. There he served as a rural pastor in the province of Biliran. Assigned again to teaching in 1987, he earned a doctorate at the University of Notre Dame and then returned to the Philippines. He taught at De La Salle University, where he worked with college students and graduate students from all around Asia. While he lived in Manila he lived in an international community of Franciscans from the Philippines, Vietnam, China, Korea, Japan. In June he became the Publisher/CEO of St. Anthony Messenger Press Cincinnati.

Allehia irist the isen

May our Risen Savior be with you and bless you on Saster and always with peace and happiness

From the Editor and Staff of the Kolping Banner

# Happy 2018 From The Brooklyn Kolping Family!

Ihope everyone is successfully dealing with the rigors and inconveniences of winter. Just keep in mind that winter ALWAYS turns to spring!

It has been some time since we reported on recent events at our Kolping Center, so let's try to bring you up to date. We welcomed 55 adults, six children (and one Kolping infant!) to our General Meeting way back on Sunday June 25th, 2017. We enjoyed a luncheon prepared for us by member Chris Gerage with a picnic theme. Deacon John Sands from our local St. Matthias Church came and gave us an update on the parish's Social Outreach Program. This is our ongoing charity project and the program benefits both parishioners in need through a food bank, and a weekday program for the homeless. We learned about senior citizens in the parish who do cannot buy enough food on what they have left after paying their rent and utility expenses. We also learned about the homeless problem in Kolping's own neighborhood and the services provided to those in need-like a hot lunch, a warm place to spend a few hours with other people, and an opportunity to shower and wash their clothing. We were very proud to present Deacon John with the food, socks and underwear our

members donated. Some members donated cash and the Society added to it, for a total cash donation of \$655. Deacon John expressed his thanks and asked us to keep up the good work for a good cause.

We also took some time to pay tribute to three Brooklyn members who reached 50 years of membership in 2017: **Arlene Heller, Margarete Knapp** and **Arnold Ruf**. Despite the fact that none were with us that day they are well remembered and we enjoyed anecdotes and reminisced about each of them. We finished the meeting up with little Crazy Hat contest just for fun and modest prizes were awarded.

Father Chris Heanue was able to join us for our **Kolping Mass** and **All Souls Day Observance**, on October 21. We were at a disadvantage as it turned out a number of our 'regulars' were involved at an event at a nearby parish that very evening. In the end we wound up with 35 dinner guests. Special mention goes to our own Inge Jellen-she alone brought fourteen people which was a stupendous effort! Father Chris was inspirational as always. He enjoyed dinner with us and opened our program before he had to leave. Our talk focused on the Kolping Society of Berundi and the history and significance of All Souls Day. Our guests were generous and remembered to bring food items for our deserving charity project. It is always nice to see our Kolping Center turned into a chapel and used for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and our members' participation.

The Kolping Family Christmas Party was held Saturday, December 9. The day before the event we had 70 reservations. Then the snow started to fall and we wound up with 53 adults and 16 children. Who knew when we planned it that our North Pole Theme would be so appropriate? Included in the décor was an area set up as a special photo corner, providing our guests with a spot for a family photo with a festive backdrop! A delicious turkey dinner with the trimmings was served-a nice way to get things started. The high point of the evening was our Christmas program, which primarily featured the children of Kolpina. Bella opened the program with a poem, we had a reading of the nativity story by Frankie, two more poems first from Sara, then Zoey. We got to talk with the kids a little and some of them told us what they hoped Santa would bring to them. I am not sure if the little girl who wished for



Father Chris Heanue says a few words after our Mass on October 21.



The ever-present collection box for the St. Matthias Parish Social Outreach Program with some of the items we collected at our Mass.

a live unicorn actually found one under her Christmas tree! A Visit From St. Nicholas was beautifully recited by Chris Gerage. This brought us to the sing along. This year we had a guest with a strong voice who expertly led a lot of the singing...but when we got to the kiddie tunes he backed off and let the children belt them out! Alice Kokasch led the children in the final song, Must Be Santa. Santa must have heard because he arrived right on cue! As busy as he is in December, he was nice enough to stay awhile and spend a few minutes with each child and give them each a gift. There were also gifts for some of the grown ups, many of whom got to sit on Santa's When Santa finally departed lap! our entertainers Candy and Mr. Candy entertained the children with balloon artistry and some magic too. Our guests were generous and supported both a 50/50 and a table raffle. Finally...we enjoyed more treats—gluh stollen, home made cookies, wein, coffee, tea and chocolate milk for the children. Our committee worked very hard and it showed.

We are looking ahead to our 2018 events. We are planning a Spring Mass on Saturday, April 28, a General Membership meeting on Sunday, June 24; Our Kolping World Day of Prayer Mass on October 20, and our Christmas Party on December 8.

Best wishes to all for a happy Easter.

Treu Kolping, Bill Conte

# **International Kolping**

## Germany

# A high speed train called "Adolph Kolping"

In mid-September, the German Railways issued a name search for the new ICEgeneration – the ICE 4. As name-donors, Ger-man historical celebrities from the fields of culture, politics, science, business, and sports were searched for. Among more than 2,500 name suggestions, Adolph Kolping made it into the top 25. Thus a train will be given his name already in 2018/2019.

In addition, the jury chose another 75 names, which will be given to more express trains by 2023. Commenting on the deci-sion announced on October 27, 2017, National Secretary Ulrich Vollmer said: "We are extremely pleased that so many peo-ple voted for the name of Adolph Kolping. This expresses the great esteem that our founder, the priest and social reformer Adolph Kolping still experiences today in the Church and in society."

### **Germany** Training for volunteer leaders

The annual course 2017, the central advanced training for volunteer leaders in the Diocesan and State Kolping Societies, has been successfully completed. Ten participants dealt in four modules with Kolping Germany and its focal points, the Catholic Social Teachings, the financial and legal framework conditions, as well as with issues of public relations and communication. They received the certificates of participation in Frankfurt in mid-September. Along with the main topics, the exchange on projects and experiences, as well as networking was given a lot of attention.

## **Germany** Living partnership

In the St. Georg district of Hamburg, the Kolping Youth Living Quarters were officially opened together with the new integra-tion and family centre. The building complex also includes the "Schorsch" (House of the St. Georg Youth) and the Aids Pasto-ral. Josef Holtkotte, National Praeses of Kolping Germany, blessed the new premises and apartments of the 46 residents of the Kolping Youth Living Quarters. For the Hamburg Archdiocese, Archbishop Dr. Stefan Heße gave a greeting address.

## Austria

### Commitment to mothers and students - demonstrably successful

Two excellent reports can be passed

on from Kolping Austria. Firstly, for over 30 years, Kolping "Mother & Child Facilities" (MUKIs) have provided women in difficult social situations shelter and care for themselves and their children, as well as sup-port on their way to a settled life. They often had to flee from violent relationships, and some are actually threatened by pov-erty and homelessness. Over the past few months, the "Competence Centre for Non-Profit Organizations and Social Entrepre-neurship" of the Vienna University for Economics and Business has investigated the impact and social "added value" of Kolping Austria's two MUKIs as part of a "Social Return on Investment" (SROI) study. The result of this analysis was pre-sented at the end of October, whereby the authors of the study (leader Dr. Christian Schober, project assistants: Flavia-Elvira Bogorin BA, Mag.a Olivia Rauscher and Verena Burger) confirmed the success and efficiency of the Kolping work in the exam-ined area: every Euro invested in the MUKIs generates more than five times the social benefit, and the groups that benefit the most are those for whom the project was devised and implemented - the mothers and their children.

Success also continues in another

(continued on page 8)



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# International Kolping (continued from page 7)

area: for students in Meidling. In the presence of many Kolping people from all over Aus-tria, the Kolping House was officially reopened for students in Vienna-Meidling after a complete renovation. As when it was founded nearly one hundred years ago, it will once again offer young people aged 18 and over a "temporary home" during their education/training. With over 3.200 square meters with bright, friendly living spaces, spacious communal areas, balco-nies and roof terraces offering attractive views, as well as larger areas for events and festivities, there is something for every-one in the new Kolping House Meidling. In addition to the roughly 70 youth residences, accommodation was also created for families seeking

asylum in Austria. "Today we return to our core competence: to accompany young people on their way into the future," said Christine Leopold, President of Kolping Austria, in her dedication speech and referred to the multi-functional character of the new Kolping House: "The commitment of our Association to education, affordable housing, and integration are coming together here."

### India Holiday camp for children from poor families

Everywhere in the world, parents are faced with the question of what to do with their children during school holidays, if they, themselves, have to work. This year, Kolping India has been able for the first time to offer holiday camps for children from poorer families. Normally, only children from wealthy families meet at the popular holiday camps. But Kolping India offered holiday activities specifically for families in remote and mountainous regions such as Kennathady and the Udhagamandalam region, where many people have to work hard every day to feed their families. Many of the children have had a picnic for the first time in their lives. In addition, the 10-day holiday camps offered English courses, as well as computer training, and sew-ing workshops. An unforgettable time for the little ones in the Kolping Families.