

# Kolping Banner

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## Christmas Greetings 2018



It is good to know that Christmas is coming again!

Still, we must be careful how we want to understand and celebrate it. The Christmas message of peace on earth must not become a glittering facade. Candlelight, the smell of roast meat and mulled wine must not divert our attention away from what is happening in the world.

Sometimes we get the impression that in today's world people need to be made aware of this more than ever before. There is a growing trend to escape the reality of everyday life, the stress of getting ready for Christmas and our busy lifestyle and to forget about everything because Christmas is coming. Many people shut the door behind them to leave for a place far away. Is this the right way to celebrate Christmas properly? Is it merely a beautiful childhood dream that adults are not able to live? What do all that tinsel and kitsch or sentimental television series have to do with our world?

One thing's for sure: Christmas is very realistic!

Mary and Joseph, the parents of Jesus, are on their way. There is no room at the inn. Jesus is born in a stable. Those in power at the time are searching for him because they are afraid of losing their power. That is a why many innocent children must die. And finally, people share the fate many people have been facing until today: they are forced to flee.

The Bible tells the nativity story in a very matter-of-fact way. Life is hard, people are suffering and most of their efforts are in vain. It is about contradictions and disruptions, about suffering and pain. Behind the manger emerges the Cross.

And God came into this world. He comes into this disrupted, shabby and often banal world where only the strongest survive, where there is no air to breathe and little hope for a better life because of all the injustice, malice and selfishness. It is the wonder of Christmas that we are not led

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Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburg



Dr. Markus Demele

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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

#### National Officers:

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

#### Kolping Family Locations:

**Brooklyn Kolping Family**, 6504 Myrtle Ave.,  
Glendale, NY, 11385-6250, 718-456-7727  
**Buffalo, New York Kolping Family**, 1145 Cleveland Drive,  
Buffalo, NY 14225-1257, 716-632-7360  
**Chicago Kolping Family**, 5826 N. Elston Ave.,  
Chicago, IL 60646-5544, 773-792-2190  
**Cincinnati Kolping Family**, 10235 Mill Rd.,  
Cincinnati, OH, 45231-1924, 513-851-7951  
**Detroit Kolping Family**, 1201 Rock Valley Drive,  
Rochester, MI 48307  
**Los Angeles Kolping Family**, 1225 S. Union Ave.,  
Los Angeles, CA, 90015-2021, 213-388-9438  
**New York Kolping Family**, 165 E. 88th St.,  
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Philadelphia, PA, 19114, 215-606-7020  
**Rochester, New York Kolping Family**, 284 Malden Street,  
Rochester, NY 14615-2658,  
**Saint Louis, Missouri Kolping Family**, 4035 Keokuk St.,  
Saint Louis, MO, 63116-3513, 314-776-5312  
**San Francisco Kolping Family**, 440 Taraval Street,  
San Francisco, CA, 94116-2530, 415-831-3989

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 ...



Happy Holidays!

As I write this article,

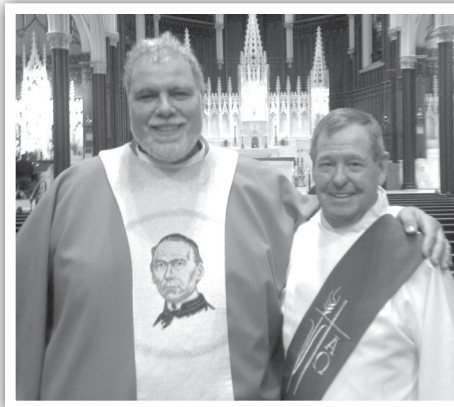
I'm listening to the news on a major wildfire, tearing through a small community in Northern California. The devastation is huge. The losses are enormous. And yet, as they interview survivors, the common response continues to be "all that really matters is our family is safe." With the materialistic onslaught that will engulf us during the Christmas season, let's not forget the most important, simple gift we have - our family. And whether that is our immediate family, an extended family or our Kolping family, let's give thanks and say a prayer that we all stay safe and can enjoy those moments when we are all together. Wishing you a happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year!

Now to business:

Many of our Kolping family members were treated to a special opportunity - the chance to attend our National Convention. Kolping Philadelphia did a wonderful job in making all participants feel at home and creating a program of interest and fun. Once again, thank you Kolping Philadelphia!!



I would like to thank Marilee Uhlhorn for the wonderful presentation she created to illustrate the work we have done through our Lenten Project efforts. Her storybook beautifully documented the efforts and results of our donations. I recommend all Kolping families "reserving" the storyboard to share with their members.



I don't know if it was because we were in Philadelphia or if we just had the perfect mix of participants, but "brotherly love" was felt during the meetings as we discussed important issues and ideas pertinent to the National Kolping's success and future. Delegates were well prepared, thoughtful and willing to add expertise to the many topics. Below are our "action items" for the next two years:

- The Board will review and determine the baseline balance required by the



Endowment Fund, so we can better understand monies available.

- The National Kolping will establish a grant program, open to all Kolping families, to promote local projects and activities with the intent of increasing membership and advancing the ideals of Father Kolping – hardwork, family and



Christian values.

- We will extend the Lenten Project with Kolping Kenya for two more years, with the next review coinciding with our next convention.
- The National Kolping will match contributions made to the Lenten Project, dollar for dollar, up to \$7,500.
- A subcommittee will work to “modernize” our annual raffle and supplement our paper raffle tickets with web-based, online options.

We will begin meeting at the beginning of the year to work on these items. If you're interested in participating on one of the committee's, please let your local representative know.



Check out our website to see some of the pictures from the Convention!

In addition to the proposals presented at the convention, there were questions on how long we should commit Lenten Project funds to the small animal initiative in Kenya and at what point should these families be self-sufficient. Below are some insights from Kolping International and Kenya as well as some facts about the families we are supporting:

Per Marcus Demele, “From what I have heard via our desk officer, Volker Greulich, is that the new officer in the Nairobi office in charge of agricultural programs is very active and designs great programs for the membership.”



Patrick Kioko, Executive Director of Kolping Kenya writes: “I would like to start by expressing our sincere thanks for your support and willingness to extend the period on our partnership in terms of supporting small animal



initiative (goat project). We are really grateful and during our Trustee meeting, the same was conveyed and all said I pass their greetings to you all and their thanks towards such warmly gesture from your side. We are really grateful and will keep you in our prayers.”

Patrick then provided the following information: There are three counties in Kenya where the small animal initiative makes sense. In these counties, there are 27 Kolping families registered to participate in the project. These are Nairobi (6), Nyeri (14) and Kisumu (7). There are 544 members who either are actively raising goats, thanks to this project, or are waiting to be awarded a goat. To date, we have supplied 103 goats to members within 12 families. This project has a goal of self-sufficiency and we will continue to provide updates as our contributions are allocated to our Kenyan brothers and sisters.



# A Praeses Proclaims...

## THE GREAT LONGING

Fr. Michael Scherschel  
Praeses of the Chicago Kolping Society



In reflecting on the Sunday readings for December, I find myself noticing an underlying message of encouragement: hold onto the strength that comes with faith.

It's in the word of God the Church has chosen for the Advent season as we ready our hearts for Christmas:

- "Jerusalem shall **dwelt secure**." (Jeremiah 33:16);
- "Increase and abound in love for one another and for all...so as to **strengthen your hearts**." (1 Thes 3:12-13);
- "Be vigilant at all times and **pray that you have the strength**." (Luke 21:36);
- "Up Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights...rejoicing that **[you] are remembered by God**." (Baruch 5:5);
- "**I am confident of this**, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it." (Phil 1:6);
- "Fear not, O Zion, **be not discouraged!**" (Zephaniah 3:16);
- "**The peace of God that surpasses all understanding** will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:7);
- "**He will baptize you** with the Holy Spirit and with fire." (Luke 3:16);
- "He shall **stand firm** and shepherd his flock **by the strength of the Lord**." (Micah 5:3);
- "**Blessed are you who believed** that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:45).

During these often intense times we've been experiencing in our country, in our Church, and in a society that is growing more violent and less at peace, we stand on the faith that

comes with knowing that Jesus is in our midst—which is the joy of Christmas and the longing of Advent.

Jesus tells us that a house built on rock withstands even the greatest storms. That rock, of course, is our faith and our trust in God who gave us his Son to dwell with us, not just now but forever.

So with St. Paul, we can say, "I can do all things through Christ **who strengthens me**." (Phil 4:13). Jesus strengthens us through uncertainty and leads us to a Christmas peace.

As we gather as Kolping families in celebration of Christmas, we find the strength we have in being together, united in a faith that allows us to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and touch the lives of those who look to us to find strength.

We carry on the values of Fr. Kolping, joining hands, linking arms, singing boldly, and proclaiming our faith in what we say and do. There's great joy in being together, united in faith.

A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to all!

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

CINCINNATI

*Bill Janszen*

*Gottfried Schlembach*

*Lena Spath*

*Continued from page 1.*

to believe in a noble paradise but that God sent us his only, beloved son at this time. The promises of God's peace on earth are meant for us. It is a hope that faces the truth of misery and does not evade its questions. That is why we are all called upon not to forget about those at Christmas who do not live on the sunny side of this earth: the poor, the sick, the street children, the homeless, all those people who fail in their efforts to fight injustice and misery in this global world – in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. It is good to have those fundraising campaigns of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL at this time of the year.

Christmas is a festive season of encouragement, which is firmly grounded. We must not be afraid of facing up to our own sorrows and anxieties and to those of our neighbours. All those ordinary people who we meet in the nativity story, including that innocent child call upon us to search for traces of hope in ourselves. And if we make a real effort, we will find them easily.

We wish you a very merry and blessed Christmas. May God bless you always in 2019.

*Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburger*  
Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburger  
General Praeses

*Dr. Markus Demele*  
Dr. Markus Demele  
General Secretary

*Karin Wollgarten*  
Karin Wollgarten  
Managing Director

## PRAYER FOR HEALING

God of endless love,  
Ever caring, ever strong  
Your only Son was delivered into the hands of the wicked,  
Yet healed us by the blood of his cross.

May Christ join his own suffering,  
The pains of those abused by priests and bishops  
Who have betrayed your love,  
And by servants of your Church  
Whose sin has brought us shame and pain.

Grant all Shepherds of His Church  
The courage compassion to protect the vulnerable,  
The strength to guide the Church in truth,  
And the wisdom to model their lives  
On Christ, the Good Shepherd.

We ask this through your Son,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God for ever and ever. Amen.

*Submitted by Laura Mahrenholz*

## National Endowment Fund

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

*In Memory of Claire Heiser,  
deceased member of the Brooklyn  
Kolping Society  
Brooklyn Kolping Society*

### **Kolping Society National Endowment Fund**

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

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# The National Administrator Writes

2018 is now at an end and we look forward to 2019. December is a time of celebration. We celebrate the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. With the season of Advent we should use the remaining time to spiritually await Jesus' coming.

Our annual raffle was concluded on December 2. The winners will be listed in our February Banner. The next raffle will be mostly likely held in the Fall of 2019. I thank everyone who participated in the 2018 raffle. Your support is greatly appreciated for the running of the National Office.

The 42nd National Convention was held in Philadelphia the weekend of September 7th to 10th, 2018. I would like to personally thank Philadelphia Kolping for hosting this convention. They did a bang-up job. Friday night we were entertained by Betsy Ross and Benjamin Franklin. On Saturday night we had an excellent dinner at the Cannstatters, and were entertained by a German dance group, and on Sunday we went to Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church. What a beautiful sight to see the Kolping flags processed up the middle aisle. This was followed by a luncheon again at the Cannstatters.

At the convention it was again agreed upon that we should continue with Kolping Kenya for our Lenten Project for the next two years. Marilee Uhlhorn had two poster boards which she organized to see the progress we

had made in Kenya with this project and how the goats were distributed to the families. There will be more information in the February Banner.



Our next convention in 2020 will be hosted by the Cincinnati Kolping Family.

Finally I would like to thank the following branch reports and members for sending articles for the Banner during the year. I encourage all branches to appoint a member who can periodically send me articles on the events of your society.

William Conte  
Laura Mahrenholz  
Nancy Pelzel  
Heinrich Prommer  
Lynne Rheker

Brian Schafer  
James Schnieder  
Frank Staub  
Ted Wilke

On behalf of my family and myself I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Patricia Farkas

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*Holiday Greetings*  
*from the Kolping Family*  
*in*  
*Rochester N.Y.*





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*Merry Christmas & Best Wishes  
for the Coming Year!*



*From  
The Los Angeles Kolping Society*

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*Merry Christmas*



**FROM THE  
KOLPING KICKS  
SOCCER CLUB  
OF  
ST. LOUIS MO**



*from the*  
**St. Louis**  
**Kolping**  
**Family**

*May you have the gift of Faith,  
the blessing of Hope,  
and the peace of His Love  
at Christmas and always*

*Best wishes for a  
Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year*



**CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY OF NEW YORK**

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# Catholic Kolping Society of Chicago



Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas  
and Happy New Year.



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*May your Days Be  
Merry & Bright*



*The San Francisco Kolping Society*

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# To All Our Kolping Brothers and Sisters



May you have the spirit of Christmas

which is **peace**

The gladness of Christmas

which is **hope**

The heart of Christmas

which is **love**

*The Brooklyn Kolping Family Sends Best Wishes for a Blessed and  
Happy Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in 2019*

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*May the peace of  
Christ Jesus  
fill your hearts this  
Christmas  
and bring happiness  
to you in 2019*

*from the  
Cincinnati Kolping Family*



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# BEST WISHES FOR A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Catholic Kolping Society of Philadelphia*  
9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114

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To All Our  
**KOLPING BROTHER AND SISTERS**  
**A MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
and a  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
from the  
**DETROIT KOLPING FAMILY**







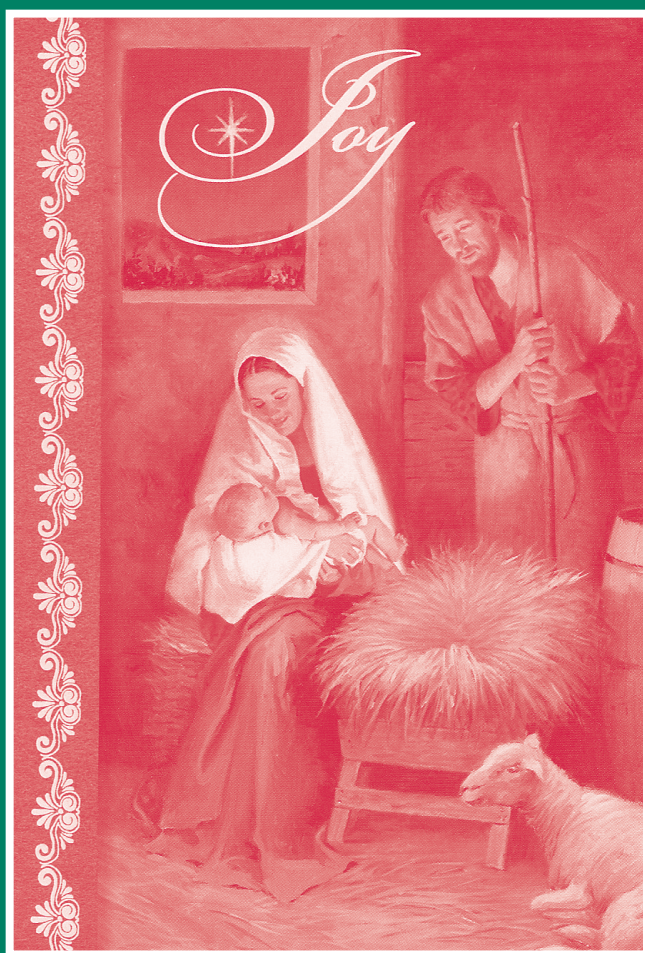
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*May the Joy they felt that  
first Christmas morning  
Be with you this  
Christmas and Always*

*The Editor and Staff  
of the Kolping Banner*