



Kolping Banner

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KOLPING USA 2019 LENTEN PROJECT



At our convention in Philadelphia, the delegates voted to continue with our support of the live-stock farming in Kenya as our Lenten Project.

The Kolping Organization of Kenya is a Catholic family-like community of life, education and action founded by the Blessed Adolph Kolping. It consists of local Families, Parish, Diocese and shares in the work of the International Kolping Society. Kolping Kenya participates in a program that aims to teach the skills needed to raise goats, produce milk and utilize dung by-products for sale, use

and sustainability. In a highly agriculture-dependent country, raising goats can mean the difference between living in poverty and enjoying a simple life.

Our Lenten Projects in 2017 and 2018 were quite successful in contributing towards the Kenya project. We can make a difference for these Kolping members and show them our support! We again are asking all Kolping members to consider donating at least \$10 towards the Lenten Project. Also enclosed in this Banner is a self-addressed envelope for your convenience in making your donation.

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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.

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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 ...

Here we go...2019 has begun!! There is definitely a rhythm to our convention exuberance. At our departure, we are very "ready to go". Then we get home and - bam- we're back to work, helping on local activities and before we know it, enjoying the holidays! So with the new year, it's time to start working on the projects we agreed upon in

Philadelphia.

One of our key commitments from the convention is to develop a program to award scholarships and/or grants for efforts to promote the growth and expansion of our Kolping families and ideals. We had quite a few ideas on how this might be accomplished and acknowledged that the direction or outcome of these efforts might look different, depending upon the demographics of the Kolping family supporting the ideas. In a perfect world, the results of our investments can be replicated in other Kolping families. Maybe we will have pursued an idea that may have mixed results. In all cases, we agreed that we can't move forward without trying something new.

Our goals are to recruit new members, increase the number of younger members and/or support ideas that promote our Kolping families locally and throughout the U.S.

If you have an idea on how we might structure this program, feel free to drop me an email at lbrinkmann@mac.com - using the subject line Kolping. If you'd like to actively participate, let us know. We will be convening a committee shortly to begin drafting guidelines for these scholarships and grant and input from our members is important.

Addition to the newsletter: One thing that struck me at the convention was how much some of our members knew about the Kolping Society. To help get everyone "up to speed" on the accomplishments of Father Kolping and the Kolping Society in general, I thought it would be fun to include some "Facts about Kolping" in our newsletters. If you have some to share, please send them to Pat Farkas or Lisa Brinkmann.

Facts about Kolping: Kolping grew up as the son of a shepherd. At the age of 18 he went to Cologne as a shoemaker's assistant. He was shocked by the living conditions of most people living there, which influenced his decision to become a priest. At age 23 he attended the Dreikönigsgymnasium and afterwards studied theology in Munich, Bonn and Cologne. On April 10, 1845 he was ordained a priest in Cologne's Minoritenkirche. In 1847 he became the second president of the Catholic Association of Journeymen. He returned to Cologne as vicar of the cathedral and helped establish Cologne's Association of Journeymen. He united the existing journeymen associations as the Rheinischer Gesellenbund in 1850. This fusion was the origin of today's international Kolpingwerk and until his death he labored to spread the federation of journeymen associations. By the year of his death, 1865, there were more than four hundred journeymen associations worldwide. (source: catholic.org)

May you all enjoy a healthy, happy 2019!

Lisa Brinkmann

A Praeses Proclaims...

LENTEN PROJECTS

By: Fr. Daniel Kroger, OFM
Praeses of the Cincinnati Kolping Society



“Almsgiving,
Prayer and Fasting...
are helpful because they
anchor us to not just
what’s important, but
who’s important.”

March 6, Ash Wednesday, is the beginning of Lent. So, let’s think ahead. It always helps to do a little advanced planning for the season of Lent. It’s our time of preparation for the high holy days of our Catholic faith—Holy Week and Easter. Late January or early February is the time to think about Lenten projects and activities that will be part of our local Kolping chapters’ Lenten activities.

I presume I am the most recently appointed praeses—at least I know I have not been with Kolping for even one complete year. Due to my life experiences and my current work in Franciscan publishing, I am in the habit of thinking ahead—some would call it dreaming. Right now, even before the start of the new year, I want to dream Kolping dreams.

Things that come into my mind are spiritual formation and religious activities appropriate for the members of our Cincinnati Kolping family. I dream of some sort of recollection day, or days, that could take place at our Kolping Center. Normally, our Cincinnati chapter celebrates the Eucharist for the feast of St. Joseph on or around March 19. Saint Joseph was Fr. Kolping’s favorite. Joseph is the patron of workers and fathers. That is already on my agenda.

Yet, I hope that we can organize something for our seniors’ group and something for our Kolping volunteer workers. The volunteer workers devote their time and talent to the physical needs of our facilities. The seniors monthly meeting draws more folks than our monthly general assembly since the lunch is wonderful and the business part of the meeting is brief.

Everyone I have talked to seems very positive about doing something along the lines of a prayer or recollection day that will help prepare us for Holy Week and Easter. But, the devil is in the details. Today I am thinking that maybe we could organize a pilgrimage to some nearby shrine or retreat center. But, I prefer that suggestions “bubble up” from the members rather than impose something from the top. That approach came from chairing a theology faculty with several prima donnas.

What might your local Kolping members do? Are there some activities that seem appropriate to your local chapter? Is there something new that can attract more members into Kolping or into the Church?

I invite all our Kolping chapters and chaplains here in the U.S. to think. What can we do to prepare our Kolping associates to celebrate the central mystery of our faith during this Lent? I would love to hear from other Kolping members. I am always eager to learn new things and meet new people. There is no Kolping member who is not my sister or brother in Christ.

You are welcome to contact me at dkroger@FranciscanMedia.org or call me at 513-374-0623.

National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund received the following contributions for the months of
November 15, 2018
January 15, 2019

Donations

Brooklyn Kolping Society - \$1,500

Cincinnati Schutzen Club - \$265

Detroit Kolping Society - \$1,500

Bill Conte, Brooklyn Kolping Society

Kolping Society National Endowment Fund

c/o Lisa Brinkmann

311 Greene Street | Mill Valley, CA
94941-4132

The 2018 Annual Kolping Raffle

The annual raffle drawing was held on
Sunday, December 2, 2018 at the
New York Kolping Christmas Party.

This year’s winners were:

FIRST PRIZE \$1,500

Helene Schrand
Cincinnati Kolping Society

SECOND PRIZE \$1,000

Joseph W. Wolden
San Francisco Kolping Society

THIRD PRIZE \$500

Laura Mahrenholz
Chicago Kolping Society

The following is a brief accounting of the raffle:

Total amount received.....\$11,710.00

Less expenses:

Prizes.....\$ 3,000.00

Printing & mailing\$ 1,090.32

Total Amount to Operating
Account.....\$ 7,619.68

San Francisco Kolping Celebrates Christmas!

While we may be one of the smaller Kolping Society's in the U.S., we surely know how to "divide and conquer" when it comes to having a good time. The San Francisco Kolping Society enjoyed its annual Christmas Mass and Brunch, calling upon all members to make it a success. Our Christmas "elves" were on hand to decorate the hall, set up the tables and make sure the ambiance was joyous – thanks to Steve Murphy, Brigitta Kruger, Ursula Younger, Rosemarie Azinheira, Petra Kromat, Andy Egger, Arlene Bushner, Cathy Vennemeyer, Karen Taylor, George Schnapps and Lisa B.



Mass was special with Father Clemo and Deacon Bill McLoughlin presiding and organizing the wonderful readers – Cathy Mibach, Jackie Zuger and Monika Weiss. Our "Kolping Family Singers" lead everyone in the room in song, which was especially nice to hear a verse of *Silent Night* sung in German. After a joyous round of *Joy to the World*, Mary Brinkmann opened the bar and began serving her special eggnog cocktail. As the noise level increased, we got the signal that breakfast was ready and the ladies "manned" their positions, making sure everyone had a hearty breakfast plate of eggs, hash browns, sausage, rolls and coffee.



It was so very nice to see everyone enjoying themselves. Quieting the conversations was a challenge as we sang a verse of *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer* followed by *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* – which, by the way, was how Santa found his way to the Kolping Hall! The kids and adults were excited to see Santa and take a picture or two on his knee. Santa must have had a great year, because he looked a few years younger and acted almost as if it was his first time wearing the red suit!



A special thanks to Renee Kouchakji our Secret Santa; to Tom Biesty for being a jolly good sport and dawning the special outfit; to Hubert Brinkmann for making the delicious cookies and stollen; to Bill Luque for his back-scene organization, to Gunther Ehrich and Steve Lambly for their cooking skills and to all of the Kolping members who made this such a fun event.

Cincinnati Reports

For the last 17 years Kolping Cincinnati has hosted a fund raising event for the organization Care2Share, a ministry organized by the local Vietnamese community. Its purpose is to provide assistance to the poor and needy in Viet Nam. Care2 Share groups also exist in the Carolinas and in Houston.

Annually, dozens of Americans of Vietnamese descent give of their time and talent to go to Vietnam at their own expense to build homes, childcare centers, sewer systems as well as staff medical clinics and provide scholarships to many of the native people. Their activities

are often co-ordinated with a native Franciscan priest.

Many of these volunteers are former “boat people” who fled their homeland in the 1970’s at the end of the Vietnam War. They came to America and became citizens while gaining an education and becoming productive members of their local community.

However, they have not forgotten their homeland especially the indigenous people who live a rural agrarian life in the mountains. These people have been neglected and receive little or no assistance from

the central communist government. They are in need of many of the basic necessities of modern life. In recent years, Care2Share has distributed food, bicycles, back to school supplies and has built a water filtration system. Learn more at “www.care2share.org”.

Care2Share provides hope and spiritual assistance to the needy families in Vietnam. Cincinnati Kolping is gratified to participate in a small way to support this worthy ministry.

Thomas Musbach

Blessed Adolph Kolping

Saint of the Day for December 10

(December 8, 1813 – December 4, 1865)

Blessed Adolph Kolping’s Story

The rise of the factory system in 19th-century Germany brought many single men into cities where they faced new challenges to their faith. Father Adolph Kolping began a ministry to them, hoping that they would not be lost to the Catholic faith, as was happening to workers elsewhere in industrialized Europe.

Born in the village of Kerpen, Adolph became a shoemaker at an early age because of his family’s economic situation. Ordained in 1845, he ministered to young workers in Cologne, establishing a choir, which by 1849 had grown into the Young Workmen’s Society. A branch of this began in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1856. Nine years later there were over 400 Gesellenvereine—workman’s societies—around the world. Today this group has over 450,000 members in 54 countries across the globe.

More commonly called the Kolping Society, it emphasizes the sanctification of family life and the dignity of labor. Father Kolping worked to improve conditions for workers and greatly assisted those in need. He and St. John Bosco in Turin had similar interests in working with young men in big cities. He told his followers, “The needs of the times will teach you what to do.” Father Kolping 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.”

Blessed Adolph Kolping and Blessed John Duns Scotus are buried in Cologne’s Minoritenkirche, originally served by the Conventual Franciscans. The Kolping Society’s international headquarters are located across from this church.

Kolping members journeyed to Rome from Europe, America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania, for Father Kolping’s beatification in 1991, the 100th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII’s revolutionary encyclical “Rerum Novarum”—“On the Social Order.” Father Kolping’s personal witness and apostolate helped prepare for that encyclical.

*Submitted by Alfonse and Bernie Preisser.
Saint of the Day is used with permission from Franciscan Media (www.FranciscanMedia.org).*

International Kolping

Save-the-date: Important dates in the calendar of the international Association in the year 2019

Dear Kolping Sisters and Kolping Brothers around the world,

Already today I would like to draw your attention to two important dates in the calendar of the international Association in the year 2019.

Firstly, the International Board of Directors' Meeting will be held in Bensberg near Cologne from October 10 to 13, 2019. Invitations will be sent out on time to all Kolping Associations with more than 1,000 members, which have regularly paid their membership dues to the General Secretariat in the last years.

During the meeting of the International Board of Directors we will also celebrate the festivities on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of professional development cooperation at KOLPING INTERNATIONAL. The Association SEK e.V. was founded in 1969 and since then it has been supporting and coordinating solidary partnership cooperation among Kolping associations on all continents – with continuously increasing success. Since last year it has been operating under the name KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Cooperation e.V.

We will also celebrate this event in Bensberg with a Festive Ceremony on Friday, October 11. We are pleased that for the German Government Dr. Gerd Müller, the Minister for Economic cooperation and development, has confirmed his participation in the Ceremony. In cooperation with Thomas-Morus Academy, this opening festivity will be planned as an open workshop. Anyone interested in questions concerning development cooperation is invited.

We are already looking forward to meeting you during the celebrations in the autumn next year. Kindly save the dates in your calendars.

I send you cordial greetings in the name of the International Executive Committee.

TREU KOLPING!

Markus Demele

Dr. Markus Demele

Generalsekretär

General Secretary

Secretario General

International Kolping

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.

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.

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

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

CINCINNATI

*Christine (Christa) Drees
Helga Hermeling
Bill Janszen
Gottfried Schlembach
Lena Spath*

CHICAGO

*Erwin Kutschke
Erwin Stark*

NEW YORK

*Carol Sartorius
Franz Schroeder*

SAN FRANCISCO

*Mildred Biesty
Bill Luque
Joseph Wolden*



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International Kolping *(continued)*

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. 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."