



CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY OF BROOKLYN, INC.
65-04 Myrtle Avenue
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Winter, 2019

Dear Members and Friends,

Belated New Years Greetings to everyone! Best wishes and a sincere hope that 2019 will be a good one for each and every one of us.

It wasn't all that long ago that we used to be able to provide you, our members with a monthly newsletter. Please accept our apologies but this is getting harder and harder to accomplish. We have not had a Corresponding Secretary for a few years now and enough hands to do even a quarterly newsletter. That said, here are some Kolping items of interest to share.

Our Kolping Fall Mass and Communion Supper was held back on Saturday October 20. As sometimes happens when dates are set far in advance, there were conflicts with other local organizations and a few of the Kolping members who usually support our efforts were unable to attend. One of the other events going on that day was an Oktoberfest at Holy Child of Jesus Parish in Richmond Hill, where Father Chris works. He was on a tighter than usual schedule but was great as always. Father Chris has a special talent for being spiritual and down to earth at the same time. He is able to connect with all of us. Unfortunately he could not stick around much after Mass, but he stayed long enough to lead us in a blessing before we enjoyed our dinner. We enjoyed a delicious bratwurst dinner. After dinner we had a talk that covered a few topics. First of all we mentioned that October 27 will be the 27th Anniversary of the Beatification of Father Kolping by Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square, which some of our members attended. Next we acknowledged the Kolping International Day of Prayer with a presentation on the Kolping Society of Honduras, a country which has been in the news a lot lately. Finally, we touched on the origin and significance of All Soul's Day which was coming up on November 2. While we were missing some regulars, we welcomed a few folks we don't get to see very often. We were thrilled to see Frank Heller (*who has been in Kolping more than 80 years at this point*) and some additional members of the Heller Family. In the end we had 44 adults and 4 children in attendance. Thanks go to everyone who attended or helped in any way. Special thanks to Fr. Chris for making time for us, Karl Werkman for leading the singing, Pat Gerage for sitting at the door, Chris Gerage for cooking and managing the kitchen, and Sonia Juran Kuleeza and Gillian Guille who sold the raffle tickets.

The Kolping Family Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 8. This is a lot of work, but a real team effort that helps to bring us together. We welcomed 91 people into the Center, 71 adults and 20 children. It was great to see everyone, but seeing our former longtime and hardworking member, Steve Wenzler was a special real treat. The first thing that struck people upon arrival was the simple and elegant décor-people commented that it looked like a wintertime wedding was taking place (*see the photos at the bottom of this letter*). The photo opportunity corner was a great touch as well, complete with an armchair and mailbox for letters to Santa. We enjoyed a pot roast dinner prepared by Frank's Deli in Maspeth and everyone helped to clear the tables off.

At the very start of our little program, we took a moment to present our dedicated member, Rosemarie Rom, with the Distinguished Service Award, which is the highest honor a Kolping member can receive. We thanked her for always being there in the background, helping along for the last thirty years.

The Christmas program included members of our extended Kolping family, some children and some adults too. Bella started us off with a poem "*The Light of Christmas*". Frankie told us the nativity story according to St. Luke. Next, we celebrated the upcoming 200th anniversary of the writing of *Stille Nacht/Silent Night* and Sara relayed that story to us while special guest Art Nelson provided a guitar accompaniment. We concluded this portion of the program by singing the first verse first in German, than in English. Zoey presented the poem "*Santa's Watching*" followed by the perennial reading of "*A Visit From St. Nicholas*" by adults, Gary and Miguel. We enjoyed more live music from Art, who accompanied us for our customary sing along, which was just great. We were almost finished with our singing when, what to our wandering eyes should appear but...**Santa Claus!** Santa was so glad to be with

all of us and had gifts for children and some of the adults as well. Santa stayed a while but eventually he had to go spend time with other families and took his leave. Just in time for Candy and Mr. Candy to take over and entertain the children with balloons and a magic act. Three raffles were held and we thank everyone for their generosity. We finished the evening off with Gluh Wein, Stollen and home made cookies. Our committee was: *Bill Conte, Chris Gerage, Pat Gerage, Alice Kokasch, Gary Meyer, Jessica Meyer, Monica Meyer, Valerie Meyer and Scott Stahl.* Thank you to Gillian Guille and Sonia Juran Kuleeza for running the 50/50 raffle and Ziggy Schucott for providing the raffle straws. And a huge **THANK YOU** to the MANY guests who helped serve dinner, coffee and dessert.

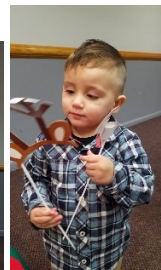
Looking forward...our **Annual Meeting** is coming up on **Sunday March 10 at 1PM**. We hope as many members as possible will attend. As a special incentive, we will be serving a cold buffet luncheon to add a social aspect to the proceedings. Members, your 2019 dues are payable at this meeting and an invoice accompanies this letter. **NOTICE:** *there are two rates for member hall use based on attendance at the annual meeting. **Members who attend this meeting are entitled to use our facilities for a family party at a \$200, members who do not are required to contribute \$350 to the Society.***

Our Charity Project supporting the St. Matthias Parish Food Pantry and Homeless Program continues. We collect staple food items at all our events. Contributions of socks and men's undergarments are also helpful contributions for those in need, particularly during the colder months. Cash contributions are also welcomed. Thank you all for your past support and we hope everyone will continue to help.

Other future 2019 dates...*Saturday April 6: Spring Mass and Communion Supper; Sunday June 30: General Meeting; Saturday, September 28: Fall Mass and Communion Supper; Saturday, October 19: Kolping Halloween Party; Saturday, December 7: Kolping Family Christmas Party.*

Final Note: Please thank our Officers and hard-working Board of Directors Members. It is not an easy task to keep our Center in good repair and clean, work outside parties, and take care of the legal and business affairs that go with owning property in the City of New York. Everything is being done by about a dozen amazing people who give up their time and deserve your gratitude.

Best wishes to all and Treu Kolping, Bill Conte, President



Above: A FEW PHOTOS TAKEN JUST BEFORE OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY BEGAN.