



CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY OF BROOKLYN, INC.
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Winter, 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

You have not heard from us for a few months, so this is our first opportunity to wish all our members a happy 2020! For the past few years we have not scheduled any Kolping events during January and February to avoid the driving and parking inconvenience, and most importantly not to put any of our members or guests in peril due to snow or ice. We need not have worried about it so far this winter-the weather has been mild, and sometimes almost spring like! With that explanation out of the way, here are our very best wishes, and a sincere hope **that 2020 turns out to be a good one for each and every one of us.**

We gathered for **The Kolping Family Christmas Party** back on Saturday, December 7. This party is a team effort and a lot of work, but it is always a very happy occasion that brings us all together. We welcomed 87 people into the Center, 70 adults and 17 children. For those who missed this fun evening at Kolping, we began the our little program celebrating our diversity by wishing those present a very Merry Christmas in various languages, delivered by guests: English, German, Slovakian, Spanish and Italian.

Zoey Josten started us off by reciting a poem entitled *There is More to Christmas*. Next up was **Frank Wiederhold**, one of those Kolping 'kids' who has grown up before us and is now in his first year of college. He reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas by reading the Nativity Story as it appears in **the Gospel of St. Luke**. **Bella Valencia** then presented us with another poem, *Christmas Star*, which was the perfect follow up to the Nativity story. Then **Sara Wiederhold** took the microphone and talked about the *Background and Traditions of St. Nicholas Day*, which is a day many in our extended Kolping family celebrate. At the conclusion of the talk, our well-behaved children each received a St. Nicholas bag with some fruit, nuts, cookies and candy.

Our program continued with a retelling of the story of how the most famous Christmas hymn, *Silent Night*, came to be written and became the most beloved Christmas hymn in Austria, and eventually the world, sung in at least 142 languages around the globe. **Bill Conte** read the story, with guitar accompaniment from our guest, **Art Nelson**. Next, our talented twins **Giovanni and Jaden Stahl** were up with two more poems, *I'm a Little Reindeer* and *Santa*. This led up to a recitation of the classic poem *A Visit From St. Nicholas* by our guest, **Anthony Terminello**, the most recent dad at the party.

Art once again accompanied us on guitar for our annual **Christmas Sing-Along**. Next thing we knew we had a visitor from the North Pole...**Santa Claus!** Santa brought gifts for the children and made sure to spend time with each and every one before saying goodbye so he could go visit with some other special children! Lucky for us our children's entertainer, Candy, was there to take over with balloons and magic for the kids.

Our guests were very generous with both the table raffle and the 50/50. We thank everyone for their graciousness, especially Jim Lauth, the winner of the 50/50, who donated some of his winnings back to us. The evening ended with Gluh Wein, Stollen and homemade cookies. Our hard working committee was: *Bill Conte, Chris Gerage, Pat Gerage, Alice Kokasch, Gary Meyer, Jessica Meyer, Monica Meyer, Valerie Meyer and Scott Stahl*. *Anne Novotny* made the gluh wein, and we owe a huge thank you to the many members and guests alike who lent a hand and kept things moving along. *(Extra special thanks to Mr. Ziggy Schucott for providing the raffle straws at no charge, and to Frank's Deli in Maspeth who always give us the best deal.)*

Note: there are over 200 photos from the Christmas Party on our Facebook page. When in Facebook search for the Catholic Kolping Society of Brooklyn to find our page.



In Memoriam: It is our sad duty to report that our Kolping family lost two long-time members during the holiday season:

-Dr. Albert E. Heurich passed away on Saturday, December 28 after a long illness. Dr. Heurich led a very full life, selflessly serving his fellow man. He started out attending St. Matthias School, went onto Regis High School, Fordham University, and then got his medical degree from Georgetown University. He was in the Pulmonology Departments at Kings County and also at Downstate Medical Center, and a professor at Long Island University. He was a Veteran of the US Army, reaching the rank of Captain and serving as a physician in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star. He also served as a part time organist at St. Matthias parish, and played at the German mass for 40 years. On top of all this he was a giving and generous Uncle, beloved by his nieces and nephews, and he was a kind gentleman who always had a smile on his face. We send our condolences to his family, particularly to our members **Erika and Edward Zinser** (*Dr. Heurich's sister and brother-in-law.*)

-Ernst Knapp passed away, peacefully, at his home in North Port Florida on Friday, January 3. He was a New York Kolping member, then a member of the Brooklyn Kolping family for over 50 years. He served on our Board of Directors, was our Vice-President and finally our Treasurer. Whatever he was doing, he always gave 1000 percent. He was originally a cabinetmaker and then became a draftsman by trade. Evidence of his precise carpentry skills are still evident all over our Kolping center. He designed, built and installed the two oak handrails on the Myrtle Avenue staircase, the oak chair rail around the main room, the windowsills in the front windows and he covered all the tables at the Kolping Center with laminate. He was also very active at our former summer residence, Camp Kolping, always repairing, cleaning or helping out in some way. He helped our Kolping Society right up until the moment when he and Margarete retired to Florida in the early 2000's.

Ernst lived a very full life and he was an unforgettable guy. He would ALWAYS help someone in need. He loved to have discussions that could easily turn into debates-especially about politics. He had his opinions and liked to discuss the pros and cons of a topic, but he was also a good listener with an open mind who could be swayed by logic. And always with a sense of humor, ending with a laugh and in friendship.

We salute our Kolping brother, Ernst, and send our deepest sympathy to Margarete, their surviving children Linda, Ingrid and Peter, and the entire Knapp family.

Just ahead...our Annual Meeting is coming up on **Sunday March 15 at 1PM**. We urge all members to attend. This year we are going to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at this meeting, so we will be serving a corned beef and cabbage dinner...that should add a social aspect to the proceedings! (*Dinner is complimentary for our members, but we ask a \$5 donation from any non-members.*) Members, your 2019 dues invoice accompanies this letter; please note they are payable at this meeting! **NOTICE:** *there are two rates for member hall use based on attendance at the annual meeting. **Members who attend the annual meeting are entitled to use our facilities for a family party for a donation of \$200, members who do not attend are required to donate \$350 to the Society for the use of the hall.***

Charity Project. Father Chris has asked if we can support the **Mother and Child Drive** at Holy Child of Jesus Parish. We will be collecting baby items such as Pampers, baby food, formula, and other items used to care for babies and young children at our next two events-the **Annual Meeting on March 15** and our **Kolping Family Mass on April 18**. Cash contributions are also welcomed.

Kolping National Lenten Project. The National Kolping Society is adopting the **Lenten Goat Project for Kolping Kenya** again in 2020. For more details, please see the February edition of the Kolping Banner. The goal here is to get as many people involved as possible to help our fellow Kolping Members so they can help themselves. To make donating easier, we will accept funds for this project at our General Meeting and forward them on your behalf. We hope the Brooklyn Kolping family will once again help to make this a successful effort.

Upcoming 2020 dates...Annual General Meeting, Sunday, March 15; Spring Kolping Mass, Saturday, April 18; Luncheon & General Meeting, Sunday, June 14; Kolping Fall Mass, Saturday, October 10; Kolping Halloween Party, Saturday October 24; Kolping Family Christmas Party, Saturday, December 5.

Final Note: Keeping the Society and Center in good order is a lot of work for our various board and committee members. All are volunteers who give up their own time for Kolping. That's what keeps a Society like ours afloat. Please take a moment to thank our Officers and Board Members for their efforts next time you are at the Center

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