



Kolping Banner

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2020 LENTEN PROJECT – KOLPING KENYA

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our 2020 National Lenten Project.
We are very grateful to all who have contributed.

As a reminder, and which been approved at the 2018 National Convention, the Endowment Fund will add \$7,500 to all donations which have been collected.

TOTAL DONATIONS COLLECTED - \$16,145
ENDOWMENT FUND ADDITION - \$7,500

FINAL TOTAL - \$23,645

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Chicago Kolping Society - \$250
Cincinnati Kolping Society Seniors - \$160
Cincinnati Kolping Society - \$213

Detroit Kolping Society - \$2,500
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San Francisco Kolping Society - \$255

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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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Los Angeles, CA, 90015-2021, 213-388-9438
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Philadelphia, PA, 19114, 215-606-7020
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San Francisco Kolping Family, 440 Taraval Street,
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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 ...

Charles Dickens' classic, *A Tale of Two Cities*, starts with the quote "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." This quote from my high school English class keeps shouting out to me, as it somehow describes what we have all been living through these past few months.

We welcomed the decade with high expectations. Our Kolping calendars beckoned members to social, spiritual and fun activities and events. We were excited about the Kenyan Lenten project and looked forward to the convention in Cincinnati. And then "poof", everything changed. We're now "sheltering" and finding distance. We are wearing masks and are standing in lines at the grocery stores. Who would have ever thought that life would change so dramatically, so fast.

Like Dickens' quote, Father Kolping's words "The needs of the times will teach you what to do," somehow haunt me as well. What are the lessons we are learning during this difficult time that might help us in the months to come? And how should we use these lessons to improve life around us?

These past months have been loud reminders of how much we take for granted and what we may have never stopped long enough to even realize we should appreciate: simple meetings, where members gathered – sometimes to discuss important issues; other times just to "show up." A bingo/potluck, where, if you were lucky, you'd win the good-neighbor dollar. The silly joke you knew would be delivered by "that one guy." A beer at the end of the Tuesday Workers morning. Most importantly, the ability to share feelings, thoughts and life in general with the person who happened to be sitting next to you - the very basic need to connect with a fellow human being.

These times are somehow helping us to understand our resiliency. They are teaching us how to be creative and try new means to stay connected. Sheltering is giving us the time to explore our values and reinforce our beliefs in what is important to us. It is giving us the opportunity to share our skills, abilities and wisdom, while learning how to apply them differently. Finally, they are showing us how we can help and when we might need it ourselves.

Let's cherish the organization we've worked so hard to build and the friendships we've developed and look forward to when we can gather again, share our stories and use the lessons garnered to create a stronger Kolping.

Stay well,

Lisa Brinkmann



A Praeses Proclaims...

SILENCE, SOLITUDE & DISTANCE

A Reflection in the Midst of COVID-19

By Fr. Michael Scherschel

Praeses of the Kolping Chicago Society

“Be still and know
that I am God.”
(Ps 46:10)

My heart is with you as we forge through these days of silence, solitude and distance in response to the coronavirus that has affected the world.

In March, our lives changed almost instantly. And everything we've taken for granted has been brought to the forefront of our attention. We've learned to adjust and do things differently. We've learned what it means to stay-at-home, wear masks, and to practice social distancing.

But at the same time, it goes against the core of what we value, not just as Catholics and Kolping Families, but as human beings. Human beings are meant to be with each other, engaging one another, praying together, going to Mass, and being an active part of society helping it to one day reflect the Kingdom of God.

There is an active need to be close, but the practical need to stay apart. And so we find ourselves slowly wanting to re-open so that we can begin getting together again one day soon. But as a priestly people who know that great sacrifices aren't empty when done for the good of all—in this case the protection of human life—we know our time of silence, solitude and distance is needed.

One thing is for sure: the activities of being on the go and keeping busy doing things—like attending Kolping events and celebrating family milestones and achievements—came to a stop. But

in the midst of this time of stopping, maybe it's given us time to focus on “being” rather than “doing”. A wise spiritual director once told me “we're not ‘human doings’, we're ‘human beings’. Take time to simply be.”

One of our faithful Kolping members reminded me of the biblical passage from Psalm 46. The Lord simply tells us, “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps 46:10). We're slowly coming through this time of stillness...and if we are open to it, it can also be a time of peace within. When Jesus appeared to the apostles after he was raised up, the first words he said were, “Peace be with you.” He's told us the peace he gives isn't the kind of peace the world gives. His peace is companionship and the realization that God is with us—not against us.

I leave you with a prayer that may find a way to hold onto Jesus' desire to give us a peace that comes through faith, hope and love when everything around us is so unpredictable.

*Good and gracious God,
continue to keep us
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support those
who are anxious or afraid.
Lift up those who have
been brought low.
Help heal those who are sick,
and strengthen those
who care for them.
Hold us inside the faith, hope and love
that comes from knowing
nothing can separate us from you
through Christ Jesus—
the One in whom we long
to have communion.
Amen.*

We take it a day at a time, knowing that the human desire to be together is stronger than anything that will attempt to take it away. Social distancing isn't relationship distancing. We're getting through, not without pain or frustration or even being afraid, but by knowing we're not alone.

God's love for you never ceases to exist. So, let's keep praying for each other and with each other. Yes, it's something to do, but more importantly, a way to be.

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

BROOKLYN

*Evelyn Blatz
Arlene Heller*

BUFFALO

Norbert Block

CINCINNATI

Karl Walter

LOS ANGELES

Brian Schafer

NEW YORK

Willy Bittermann

SAN FRANCISCO

*Hubert Brinkmann
Marie Doherty
Elsie Kehl
Hildegard Rolfes*

2020 National Kolping Convention Postponed Until September 2021

We regret to inform everyone that the decision has been made to postpone the National Kolping Convention until September 10-12, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through consultation with members of the National Kolping Board and all of the 2020 Kolping Convention Planning Committee members, we reluctantly recommended to the Cincinnati Kolping Board to postpone the convention; the Board in turn approved the recommendation. It appears that it will be quite a while until large gatherings will be allowed in Ohio and Kentucky, and with the majority of participants from out of town being in the high risk group of over 60, we thought it would be safest for all concerned to postpone for another year. Perhaps life will be more normal then and a vaccine for the Coronavirus may be available.

We look forward to hosting the convention next year and welcoming all of you to Cincinnati!

Treu Kolping,

Nancy Pelzel,
2020 National Kolping
Convention Committee Chair

Lost members of a Leadership Team

"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." Father Adolph Kolping

We would like to send our heartfelt condolences to the Brooklyn, Los Angeles and San Francisco Kolping families which have lost members of their leadership teams these past months. These individuals helped ensure the Kolping families in their cities endured through times that were critical to the families' longevity.

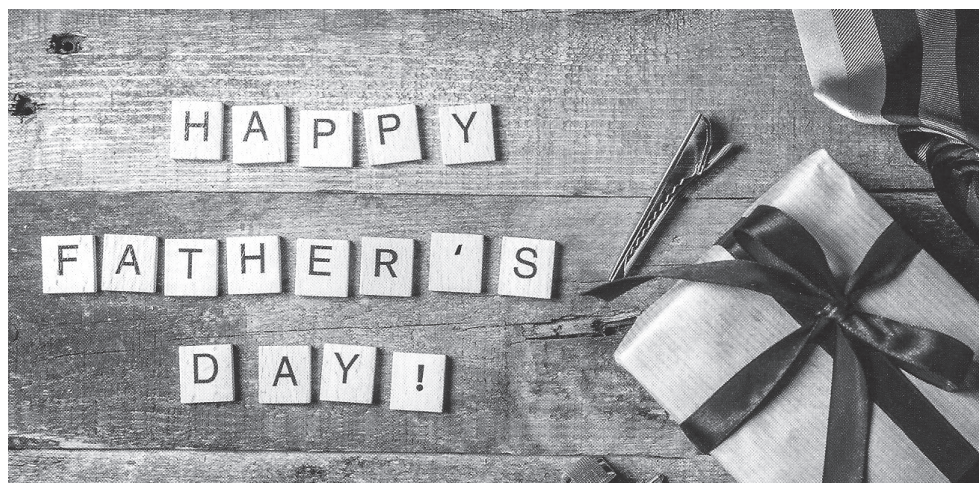
Brian Schafer- President of the Los Angeles Kolping, ran the Kolping House in downtown L.A. for many years and successfully established a coalition with homeless services to house the indigent in an effort to reintegrate them into the workforce.

Evelyn Blatz - the longest member of the Brooklyn Kolping Society with over 70 years as a member. Her love for the Kolping was apparent when not at her own home, she was at the Kolping House or Camp Kolping. Evelyn served as the president of the Brooklyn Kolping for over 20 years and was active in rebuilding the center after the fire in the 1980's.

Hubert Brinkmann - a member since 1953 - can be credited for keeping the San Francisco Kolping viable in his role as President and Board member. He welcomed members of other organizations and made sure that there was freshly baked beehive and bread at events, while keeping the hall functioning.

We thank the families of these individuals for supporting them as they demonstrated their determination to keep the values of Father Kolping alive.

Lisa Brinkmann



**Fathers are timeless, living on through their children,
Doing all that they can to light the world
Through faith, hope and love.**



Catholic Kolping Society of America

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1223 Van Houten Avenue
Clifton, New Jersey 07013
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May 10, 2020

TO: Kolping Members

RE: 2020 Kolping Convention

We hope you all are well and making the best of the restrictions your local jurisdiction has in place as the result of the Covid 19 virus. We realize that this is an extraordinary time in our life and now more than ever, the well-being of our members is our highest priority

The National Kolping Board approved to postpone this year's National Convention to 2021, based on recommendations by the Cincinnati Kolping. Mark your calendars now for September 10, 11, 12, 2021 as we won't want to miss it.

We'd like to extend a huge thanks to the Cincinnati Kolping for all the work they've done to date and also agreeing to be the host in 2021.

With regards to decisions typically voted on at the convention: First, we will acknowledge and present Distinguished Service Awards for 2020 at the 2021 convention. Next, we have voted to extend the terms for officers and national board members to 2021. Finally, we will continue to support the Kenyan goat project as our Lenten Project for another year.

Please keep safe and stay well. We have all of you in our prayers.

Lisa Brinkmann
President

Patricia Farkas
National Administrator

National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund received the following contributions for the months of March 15, 2020 to May 15, 2020

Donations

San Francisco Kolping Society - \$1,500

In memory of Thekla Abels, deceased member of the Detroit Kolping Society

Detroit Kolping Society

In memory of Hubert Brinkmann, deceased member of the San Francisco Kolping Society

San Francisco Kolping Society

Catherine Vennemeyer, San Francisco Kolping Society

Edna Leonard, San Francisco Kolping Society

In memory of Hubert Brinkmann, deceased member of the San Francisco Kolping Society; Eric Smith, Helene Schrand's grandson, and all Cincinnati Kolping members who passed away this year.

Marilee Uhlhorn, Cincinnati Kolping Society

In memory of Fr. Bruno Kremp, OFM, deceased past praeses of the Cincinnati Kolping Society

Detroit Kolping Society

In memory of Arlene Heller, deceased member of the Brooklyn Kolping Society

Brooklyn Kolping Society

William Conte

In memory of Evelyn Blatz, deceased member of the Brooklyn Kolping Society

Brooklyn Kolping Society

In memory of Brian Edward Schafer, deceased President and Chairman of the Los Angeles Kolping Society

Los Angeles Kolping Society

Kolping Society National Endowment Fund

c/o Lisa Brinkmann

311 Greene Street | Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

Kolping Kenya



International Kolping



Corona Fund: Expressing solidarity with Kolping Families worldwide

This message has become part of our everyday life now: The coronavirus is spreading rapidly. And we are anxious to know more about the final size of this pandemic. Apart from Europe, large parts of the United States are now severely affected. And there are more and more reports of an increasing number of infections on all the other continents.

This is what we hear also from our Kolping countries in the Global South – where the pandemic is hitting the most vulnerable. In many countries people do not only suffer from the lockdown but also from hunger and great anxiety. For, many Kolping members can no longer make a living as day laborers, and regional markets where they can sell their products are collapsing.

“The situation is getting worse every day for our members”, reports Rufino Rodriguez, executive director of KOLPING Honduras. Staple foods are running out and become more expensive. We used to buy a bag of beans at a price of 1,000 lempiras, now it costs between 3,000 and 3,500 lempiras”, says Rufino. “A family of five persons can expect to receive 500 lempiras from the government for a period of 15 days. This is not enough to even buy a bag of beans.”

To support our Kolping brothers and sisters worldwide, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL has launched the Kolping Corona Fund to provide emergency aid where help is needed most. We are in close contact with our partners to enquire about what is urgently needed in their countries.

We kindly ask you to support our Kolping Families worldwide who are severely affected by the consequences of the virus. Their lives and their livelihood are at stake.

Please make your donation to:

KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Cooperation e.V.

DKM Darlehnskasse Münster

IBAN DE74 4006 0265 0001 3135 00

BIC: GENODEM1DKM

Please refer to: Kolping Corona Fund

(continued from page 1)

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Brian Edward Schafer 1955-2020

Brian Schafer, born on October 17, 1954 in San Pedro, CA, passed away after a long illness on Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020 in Los Angeles. He was sleeping, at home, and amongst his immediate family.

It is important to know that his family can not recall a negative memory of him when they were in his presence. He was generous, supportive, and loving to his wife Vicky of 25 years, and his children Alma (Ziki Roark), Joe (deceased), Edgar, and Fernando. He was also truly blessed by his grandchildren Zeth, Zia and Zor.

It is also important to know that Brian's first passion was in the restaurant industry where his desire to serve was on full display. He

held all positions from dishwasher to manager but later transitioned to his family's traditional career as a third generation Pile Driver and worked on pivotal building projects in Southern California such as the LA Metro Subway in Los Angeles, the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant, the Oil Platforms off the coast of Santa Barbara and the Cabrillo Marina in San Pedro. Brian ended his career as a Pile Driver Supervisor for the LA Harbor Department where he was fiercely supportive of his crew and their hard work.

Brian was also the President of the Los Angeles chapter of the Catholic Kolping Society for many years and successfully established a coalition with homeless services

to house the indigent in an effort to reintegrate them into the workforce. The Kolping House, a boarding house in the Pico-Union area for several decades, served as a traditional place for immigrants to find a safe harbor, a clean room, and a hot meal.

In addition to his immediate family, Brian is survived by his sister Susan and brothers Bob and John (Melanie) along with several nieces, nephews, cousins and his mother's sister, Agnes Rodrigues (nee Voss). He is now joyfully reunited with his son Joe, sister Theresa Pruitt (Mike), and his parents Bob and Gertie. At this time there are no services scheduled.

Submitted by Veronika Kessling