

Kolping Banner

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Christmas Greetings 2020



Dear Kolping sisters and Kolping brothers in the U.S.A.,

Christmas in 2020 will be an extraordinary celebration for many people on earth, characterized by one keyword: **coronavirus**.

What we have experienced in recent months as a result of the pandemic was unique for times of peace: The Covid-19 pandemic is causing a worldwide disruption of living habits, concern for health, material livelihood and the future in a way that nobody would have thought possible in periods of peace. There are many things that need to be taken into account: in addition to the medical struggle against the coronavirus, we need to learn the lessons that the virus teaches us individually, nationally and globally. The positive lessons include, for example, the increased expansion of digital communication and the experience of the II deceleration II of everyday life that people have been able to make in recent months. The hard lessons include the experience of what an endangered good social solidarity represents and how difficult and necessary international cooperation and reliability are in the face of a virus that knows no national borders.

In the midst of all this we celebrate Christmas and as Christians we are convinced: **God comes into the world, and the world becomes new.**

But not in the sense that from one day to the next everything will be different, but that from now on the world will be implanted with the power to change and renew. Renewal becomes possible in the middle of the existing conditions of time! God does not press the reset button to renew the world, to bring it forward. He does not send a new Flood, but in the midst of the old lies the power for a new beginning. Nothing must remain forever as it is. Change does not need catastrophe. God himself gives himself to man as the power for change.

Continued on page 5.



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:

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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
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Buffalo, NY 14227-1345
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
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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.,
New York, NY 10128-2241, 212-369-6647
Philadelphia Kolping Family, 9130 Academy Road,
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!

Given everything going on this year, who knows what might happen between the time I write this article and you actually read it. As of today, a vaccine has been announced with a 90% effective rate; we have a new President-elect; and we are facing a few more months dealing with the realities of COVID.

If we've learned anything during these past difficult months, it's that we should take each day as it comes; stay optimistic, patient and flexible; and do our best to keep ourselves and family healthy – physically, emotionally and spiritually. With some diligence and luck, maybe we'll hear good news that will allow us all to gather for Christmas.

I can only imagine what it must have been like for Father Kolping and many of our Kolping members, who found themselves in foreign environments, unable to share the holidays with loved ones. With work, responsibilities and/or just plain time and distance interceding, they must have felt lonely, isolated and longing for the warmth of home. Still, they found comfort in their Christian beliefs and values, attended new churches and congregations, and made a "new normal" in the place they lived. They adapted to their new circumstances and made the best of an otherwise unsettling time.

These past months have tested many of our Kolping families. Activities were cancelled. Our venues were closed. And friends couldn't meet in person. Yet, many of our Families used this time to work on improving their Kolping halls/buildings and venues. Some started meeting online, while others found ways to stay in touch. It is important that we do not get discouraged and/or lose sight of the positive impact our activities, events and communities have on our members. We know that 2021 will bring new challenges and with those, opportunities to demonstrate our determination and creativity in making the message and mission of Father Kolping relevant!

I wish each and every one of you a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and most importantly a healthy, happy New Year.

With warm regards,
Lisa

National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund received the following contributions for the months of September 15, 2020 to November 15, 2020

In memory of Stephen E. Wenzler, 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



A Praeses Proclaims...

WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR TO COME

*By Father Richard Bretone
National Praeses and Praeses of the New York Kolping Society*

The beautiful thing about time is that it passes.

Sometimes we lament its passing too quickly, as when we look back on a fully-lived life and wonder where the time has gone; or sometimes it can feel like time moves too slowly as when we are alone or going through a healing process in life. In these moments we wish that time move more quickly.

This year, for most people, we are grateful for the passage of time, and for most, it wasn't quick enough.

The COVID-19 Pandemic defined a whole year. Many people stayed indoors. Our routines of work, school, worship and fellowship were challenged and often changed. Some succumbed to the virus, and our hearts and prayers go out to them and their grieving families.

However, through all this, we have grown more resilient as a nation. We donned our masks, kept our distance and sanitized all the time. We negotiated a new unfamiliar chapter in our lives, and now, with God's help, we are so looking forward, as a nation,

to a new year. We desire to place all of this behind us!

All of those things that we so missed will be so much more precious to us now. Personally, I can't wait to celebrate the holy sacrifice of the Mass where I can look into the full, uncovered, faces of the congregation as we joyfully sing songs to our God who has helped us get through these challenges.

I also long for the Kolping camaraderie to commence once again. The joy of sharing a dance, or a drink, or an embrace at our wonderful gatherings is so much anticipated. It is what gives life to our organization, and it puts the fun in our family orientated society!

What a great year 2021 will be, and how we deserve to be free to resume our lives, our careers, our education, our worship and our friendships in the Kolping Society.

May the Lord continue to bless you
and your families
with health, happiness and peace
in the coming New Year!

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

CHICAGO

William Burkard

CINCINNATI

Ben Albers

George R. Freudiger

Maria VonDenBenken

NEW YORK

Rita Berge

Julio H. Montero

George Wolf

PHILADELPHIA

Michael Seigafuse

Joseph Meyer

Wanted: Members for Scholarship Committee

The Kolping Society of America has re-established its scholarship program to promote continuing education and training among its members and members' families.

We will be extending scholarship opportunities to high school (juniors/seniors), college and trade school students. The objective of the scholarship is to help defer the cost associated with school activities (ex. books, computers, tuition/fees, tools, etc.)

We are hoping to welcome a few more members to our committee. If you are interested, please contact Lisa at lbrinkmann@mac.com by December 31st.

Congratulations Alfons Eilers!

**Celebrating 71 Years as an
Active Member of The Kolping
in Detroit & Los Angeles.**

**We congratulate him on his many years
of hard work and service!**

**The Los Angeles Kolping has presented Alfons
with a Kolping logo embroidered jacket and a
crystal glass award with an etched Kolping
Logo and congratulatory message!**

**Alfons was also bestowed the Silver Service Award
of the International Kolping Society.**

A few words from Alfons:

"If we would ask a lot of different members the same question, I believe we would get many different answers. The meaning and reason of being a Kolping member is somewhat different to everyone.

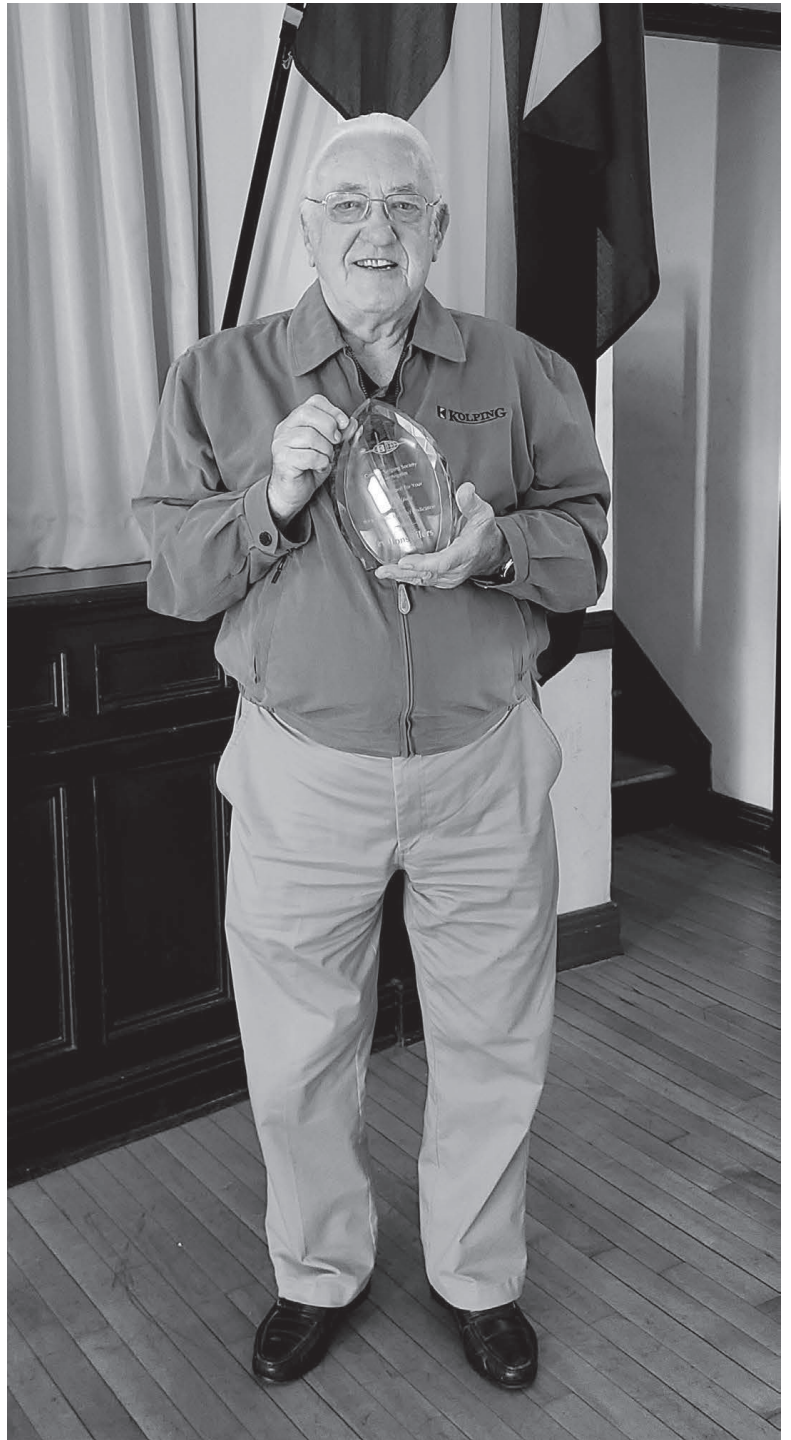
My initial reason to join the Kolping Society after I finished my apprenticeship in the electro trade in 1949 in Germany, was so that I would have the opportunity to stay in the Kolping facilities when traveling through Germany. Well, as it turned out, I never did stay in a Kolping House out there, nor did I do any extensive traveling. However, when I immigrated to the United States, I was welcomed in the Kolping House in Detroit, Michigan and became an active member.

Being a Kolping member at this point became much more meaningful. Here was a society that took me into a "home away from home" environment, at which time I was able to establish my own way and begin my own roots in this new country.

Another way that I see my involvement in the Kolping Society, is that I can exercise my belief to return something to society. I believe very strongly that it is necessary to donate part of one's free time in doing good and helping others. I see the Kolping Society and Kolping House to be the instrument that can assist me in fulfilling this mission, by turning this belief of mine into reality. In return for this work, I know I too have benefited and learned a great deal in numerous ways. Not only was I introduced to my dear wife through a Kolping member, I also met most of my closest friends through our Kolping Society.

In closing, the above mentioned information is a brief description of what I believe it means to be a Kolping member."

submitted by Veronika Kessling



Continued from page 1.

We live in a world in need of renewal, of the power of positive change, so that we do not block each other and fall apart, so that good life becomes possible for all people, today and tomorrow. The Christmas message shows us the way. The many customs, the songs and stories that surround Christmas, if we handle them correctly, do not lull us in, but want to win our hearts. And the look at the crib, if understood correctly, is not a nostalgic look back, but a look forward, into the future which God promises us and which we should work on: This future is the peace not only between God and man, between man and man, but also between man and creation.

In this spirit we wish all Kolping sisters and Kolping brothers in the U.S.A. a Merry Christmas 2020 and God's blessing for 2021.

Kind Regards,

Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburg
General Praeses

Dr. Markus Demele
General Secretary

Karen Wollgarten
Managing Director

International Kolping



Kolping Corona-Fund

Almost every day we keep receiving cries for help from various countries but also pictures and videos about the help people have received and benefited from. In Chile Kolping members hold Thank You signs into the camera – they are so happy about the support and the many donations that have been passed on to affected Kolping organizations worldwide. KOLPING Indonesia has grown seedlings and distributed plant bags that its members can grow and harvest their own food in very little time.

50 years – 50 voices on the anniversary

The association "Social and Development Aid of the Kolping Society" was founded and laid the foundation for the professional cooperation of the international association. 50 years later this association is called KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Cooperation carries the project work of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL.

It is also supported by many personalities who shape the association. They are part of the success story. On the occasion of our anniversary we ask them to tell us what they personally associate with KOLPING INTERNATIONAL or what they appreciate about the work they have done so far and the challenges they see for KOLPING INTERNATIONAL in the coming years.

Turner
Schrage
aria Soosal
Harasimowicz
r Mahe
Messing
es Ntshomukile
nd Thomas Hübner



50 Jahre,
50 Stimmen

Judith Turner
Geschäftsführerin KOLPING Südafrika



50 years - 50 voices

This month our Jubilee Year will come to an end. On the occasion of our 50th anniversary of international project work we asked our friends and companions all around the world to tell us what KOLPING INTERNATIONAL means to them and how they experienced this international exchange. Many people responded, from Minister Presidents to bishops, from Kolping national secretaries to volunteers such as the representatives for international partnership work.



World Day of Prayer

Every year on October 27, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL celebrates its World Day of Prayer to commemorate the beatification of Adolph Kolping on October 27, 1991. This year KOLPING Kenya has prepared documents for all Kolping Families worldwide to celebrate religious services. They are meant to help us experience the unity of Kolping as an international community by sharing our faith when we will turn our eyes to Kenya in joint prayers. If you like, you can be there live in Kenya in a zoom conference!

The National Administrator Writes

2020 has been an exceptionally difficult year. With the Corona Virus running rampant and causing a pandemic, our lives have been turned upside down. Let us continue to remember all our relatives, friends and associates who have perished during this time, and ask God's help during this period and the coming new year. We look forward to a better year in 2021.

December is a time of celebration, a celebration of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. May he give us hope for the coming new year.

Our annual raffle was concluded on December 6, and the winners will be listed in our February Banner. The next raffle will be most likely in the Fall of 2021. I thank everyone who participated in the 2020 raffle. Your support is greatly appreciated for the running of the National Office.

As you are aware the 43rd National Convention, being hosted by the Cincinnati Kolping Family, had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Please mark your calendars for September 10, 11, 12, 2021 for the convention. Your attendance and support for Cincinnati is extremely important.

In February we will again be starting our Lenten Project and continuing with the Kolping Kenya project. The National Board had approved continuing with Kolping Kenya for the next year until the convention, where it will again be on the agenda.

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,

Lisa Brinkmann
Veronika Kessler
Bernie Preisser

William Conte
Nancy Pelzel
Ted Wilke

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

Patricia Farkas



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



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



*From
The Los Angeles Kolping Society*

Merry Christmas

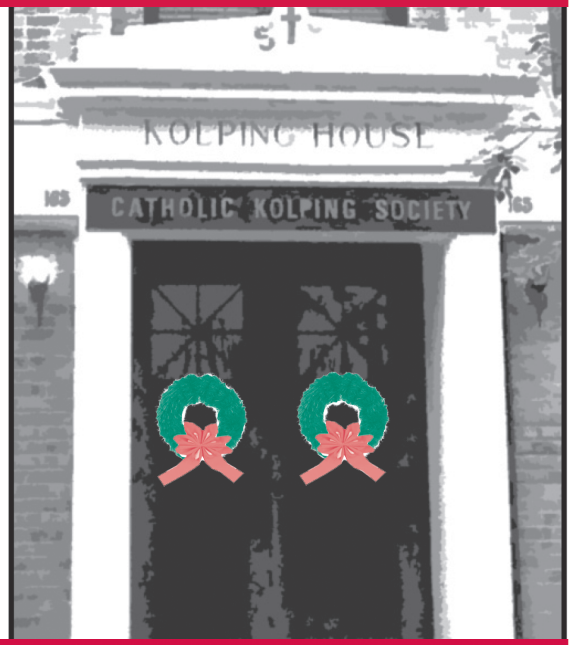


**FROM THE
KOLPING KICKS
SOCCER CLUB
OF
ST. LOUIS MO**



from the
St. Louis
Kolping
Family

During this holiday season and the coming year, may you find peace in God's love, and comfort knowing your Kolping family is always with you.



CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

PRAESES: **REV. RICHARD J. BREONE** | PRESIDENT: **GERHARD SCHMITT** | VICE PRESIDENT: **KATRINA DENGLER**
KOLPING HOUSE—88TH STREET • KOLPING-ON-HUDSON • KOLPING-ON-CONCOURSE



*May Baby Jesus bless
Our Kolping Brothers and Sisters
on His Birthday
and all through the New Year*

*The Chicago
Kolping Family*



Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Healthy, Happy New Year



The San Francisco Kolping Society



*The gift of love.
The gift of peace.
The gift of happiness.
May all these be yours
at Christmas.*

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH
PEACE AND GOODWILL TOWARDS MEN.

-LUKE 2:14

**Best wishes from the Brooklyn Kolping Family for a
blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.**

*May the peace of
Christ Jesus
fill your hearts this
Christmas
and bring happiness
to you in 2021*

*from the
Cincinnati Kolping Family*



BEST WISHES FOR A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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



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





**CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY
OF AMERICA**
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*May the peace and hope of Christmas
Be with you throughout the New Year.
The Editor and Staff of the Kolping Banner*