



# Kolping Banner

Official Publication of the Catholic Kolping Society of America | Vol. 96- No. 3 | February 2021

## LENTEN PROJECT 2021

As we approach the 2021 Lenten Season we again will have the Lenten Goat Project for Kolping Kenya. We urge you to be generous with your donations to this project. All the funds are well used and the membership of Kolping Kenya greatly appreciate our generosity and help that we provide via the goat project. Our gift gives a family hope, dignity and a sense of pride for themselves as reputable community members of Kolping. This is a big deal when you consider most of these farms have little to no electricity, have to fetch their water from a well and cook from wood-burning pits.

We have again inserted in the Banner a return envelope for your convenience.



### In the Banner this Month:

From the President's Desk ...	page 2
National Endowment Fund ...	page 2
A Praeses Proclaims .....	page 3
New from New York Kolping ..	page 4
21 in 21.....	page 6
Annual Raffle.....	page 6
National Endowment Fund ...	page 6
Prayer for the Sainthood of Blessed Father Adolph Kolping .....	page 7
In Memoriam .....	page 7
International Kolping .....	page 7

## 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

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Associate Praeses  
President, Lisa Brinkmann  
Vice President, Walter Amrein  
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Treasurer, Ted Wilke  
Trustees Lucille Colletti  
Henry Faulk  
Jonathan Groll  
Robert Mayer  
Marilee Uhlhorn

### Kolping Family Locations:

**Brooklyn Kolping Family**, 6504 Myrtle Ave.,  
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**Buffalo, New York Kolping Family**, 59 Joanne Lane,  
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**Chicago Kolping Family**, 5826 N. Elston Ave.,  
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**Cincinnati Kolping Family**, 10235 Mill Rd.,  
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**New York Kolping Family**, 165 E. 88th St.,  
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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 ...

I hope this new year finds you and your family in good health, protected from Covid and optimistic for the months ahead.

It seems like such a long time since we could sit down and plan a night out or decide where to go on vacation (or dinner for that matter.) Days were planned and “the weekend” meant fun, friends and relaxation. To say we live in a time of uncertainty seems like an understatement.

I looked up the word “uncertainty” on Wikipedia and then in the dictionary. Interestingly enough, Wiki describes it as situations involving imperfect or unknown information. It applies to predictions of future events, to physical measurements that are already made, or to the unknown. The Merriam-Webster dictionary lists among its synonyms as distrust, doubt, misgiving, reservation, suspicion, skepticism. We’ve had enough of that, that’s for sure!

What lifted my spirits, though, was reading the antonyms of uncertainty - assurance, belief, conviction and trust. The words actually made me feel good to see and read, as they just “felt” more powerful and stronger, and made me a bit happier. For I know that even in these uncertain times, we have a strong underlying foundation, built on our belief in God and an assurance of his kindness. We feel a conviction that goodness will prevail and trust that our efforts will somehow help make things better – for our loved ones and others. We may not always understand the circumstances surrounding us nor we may not possess the knowledge on what the future might bring, but we are certain that we can rely on our family – including our Kolping brothers and sisters – to be there for us when we need them.

I read a quote that said, “Decisions are the endless uncertainties in life that we’ll not know if they’re right until the very end, so do the best you can.” And with this in mind, we have made a few decisions for 2021 and will continue doing the best we can.

We will be continuing our support for the goat project in Kenya through our Lenten Project contributions. Look for a donation envelope in the Banner. We are launching a scholarship program to encourage training and education for our high school, trade school and college (family) members. Kathy Biesty (San Francisco Kolping) and I will be revising our website so look for an announcement and application in March at [www.kolping.org](http://www.kolping.org). Finally, by the time you receive this, we will know if our convention will take place in Cincinnati this year or if it will be postponed until things settle down a bit more. We truly appreciate all the time and effort spent around the activities and plans for this event and thank all those involved.

So to all our members, stay well and say a prayer for “more certain” times.

“You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and loved more than you’ll ever know” (Winnie the Pooh; A. A. Milne).

Lisa Brinkmann

# A Praeses Proclaims...

## GOD BE WITH YOU!!

By: Deacon William McLoughlin  
*Praeses of the San Francisco Kolping Society*



There is a story from the 1400's in Japan, when one of the shoguns broke his favorite tea ceremony cup. Wanting to get it repaired, he gave the cracked, broken tea bowl to a local craftsman. When the tea bowl was returned, the cup had been put back together and along with the cracks, the broken pieces were now fixed with lacquer and gold. The resulting process made the restored cup one of magnificent beauty and meaning.

We are God's people who have our own cracks and breaks. When we turn to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit for healing, we are made stronger with God's magnificent beauty, and our individual sufferings are meaningful and important.

The Liturgical Year we are now in is focused on Mark's Gospel. We get to know Jesus personally, by witnessing His healing of the sick, His teaching of the crowds, His leading us to His Kingdom. We experience Jesus' love for each of us through Mark. Mark wrote this Gospel so we would get to know Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Ash Wednesday is February 17th. In normal years, churches are filled all day with people coming to get a cross of ashes on their foreheads. "Repent and believe in the Gospel." "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is the day we are called to reform our lives; to understand we have faults, and cracks, and sins. We need the healing hands of Jesus placed on our heads. Jesus takes us in His loving arms and blesses us. Jesus tells us to give alms quietly, to pray in secret, and to fast simply. We turn to God for His help and forgiveness, not just this day, but every day of our lives.

This is the start of Lent and Mark has us join Jesus as He enters the desert for 40 days. Jesus leads us past temptations, and when we overcome our sufferings, it is because we are holding Jesus' hand. Jesus is always with us, as He is within every person God has created. Our accompanying Jesus helps us to recognize Jesus in every person we meet today. We, who are full of cracks and breaks, beg Jesus to come into our hearts and souls through those faults, to cure us and heal us. Then we carry Christ's goodness for everyone we see. We will shine with Christ's light this Lent. Christ shows us this magnificent light as He is Transfigured before us. We are witnesses along with Peter, James, and John as Jesus takes each of us up that high mountain with him. This promise of the Resurrection strengthens our Lenten Journey to Easter and beyond. This promise is not to make life easy for us, but rather to make us great.

So this Lent is our time of challenge, to follow Jesus and to turn our faces always to the Father.

Together our Kolping families have a great heritage and example to follow that helps us. Blessed Father Kolping has blessed us with his life and provided every Kolping member a beautiful way to walk with Jesus. Blessed Adolph suffered through many setbacks and difficulties on his way to the priesthood, and his perseverance encourages us. He so wanted to be a priest so he could share Jesus' Way with everyone around him. The Kolping Society and all its wonderful members and accomplishments are proof that Blessed Adolph has hold of Jesus' hand today just as Jesus held him in Germany in the 1800's.

We have a wonderful opportunity again this Lent to support the project to raise goats in Kenya. We cannot get to Kenya ourselves, but the alms we provide let the Kolping families there do work we can't. They take the same hand of Jesus that we here in America hold on to. The same hands that connect us all to Blessed Adolph, and Jesus, and each other.

We are all battling so many difficulties, setbacks, illnesses, family crises, and we are so blessed to turn to God. God is with us to give us strength and perseverance in this trying time. I found this story from St. Teresa of Calcutta, and it reminded me of Blessed Father Kolping and his life.

These are Mother Teresa's own words:

In 1973 I accompanied my sisters to Ethiopia. The emperor asked me, "What are the sisters going to do here? What can they accomplish?"

I answered, "They will offer your people the love and kindness of Jesus."

He replied, "This is something new, a new coming of Christ."

The sisters are now there, and they do only this: they feed Christ who is hungry, they clothe Christ who is naked, they offer shelter to Christ who is dispossessed. (Heart of Joy, p.102)

Jesus is always with us to help us find His love, to help us know God.

May God Bless our Kolping Family.

God Be With You !!!



# News from Kolping New York

## KOLPING HOUSE 88TH STREET

Our flagship Kolping House at East 88th Street has been operating for over 100 years! We have seen both hard times and good times and have managed to not only survive but to thrive because good people have worked hard to make Father Kolping's principles and vision a reality in modern times. Prior to the onset of the Corona virus we had over 80 men in residence, primarily foreign students and young professionals from abroad who were working internships in the NYC area. Currently, there are very few people traveling to the US and occupancy has dropped considerably. Our Board of Directors has worked tirelessly to develop new sources of income, cut costs and make use of the US Government programs set up to help support small businesses this year.

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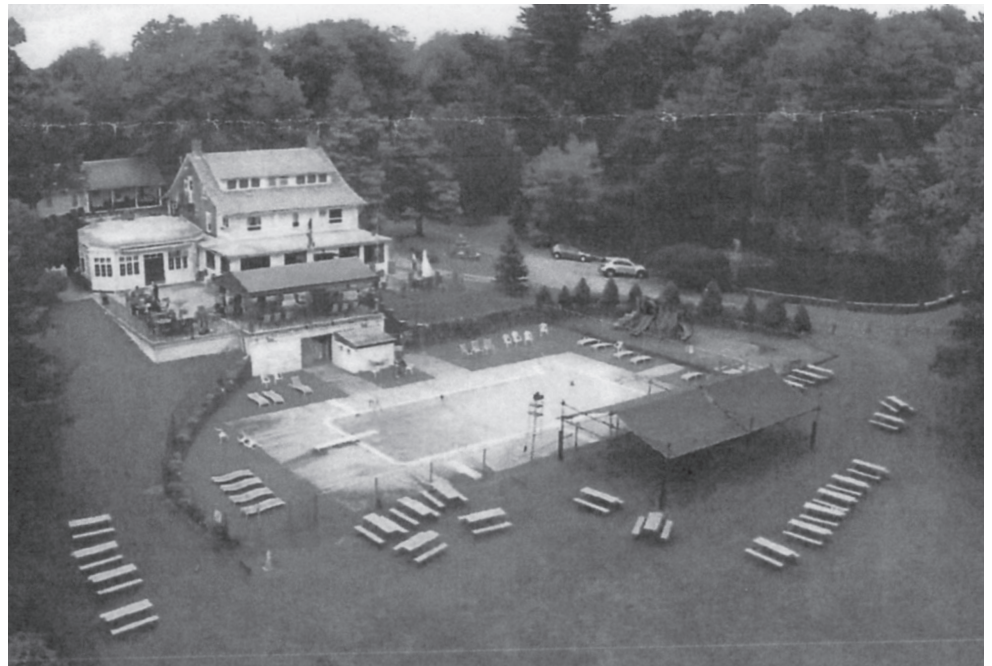
## KOLPING ON HUDSON

As many of you have seen when you visited us several years ago for the Kolping Convention, we have a beautiful summer home, Kolping on Hudson. Although the pandemic required us to delay the opening until mid-summer, we were able to utilize the time to safely initiate repairs and organize projects that will benefit us for years into the future. Thanks to the generosity of Marlene Bittermann and many other many Kolping members, new air tight windows were installed in the dining room. Not only do they look beautiful, but they will help hold down the costs of summer air conditioning. Mike Scheuermann and Alfred Vogel organized a team of volunteers to build a new roof for the dining room. Painting and repairs were completed at Assmuth Hall and the Hemsing Wing. Although we were not able to enjoy our summer home to its fullest due to delayed opening, distancing and masking requirements, crowd limitations, and other Covid restrictions, we thank God for keeping us all safe and providing us with such talented and enthusiastic volunteers.

A special thanks goes to Heide Umland who has worked for twenty-five splendid years as House manager for Kolping on Hudson. Every year she initiated spring cleanup, booked and organized summer gatherings and festivities, insured the property was well maintained throughout the season, and then finally, closed up Kolping on Hudson for the winter months. At the end of the year Heide has announced her retirement.

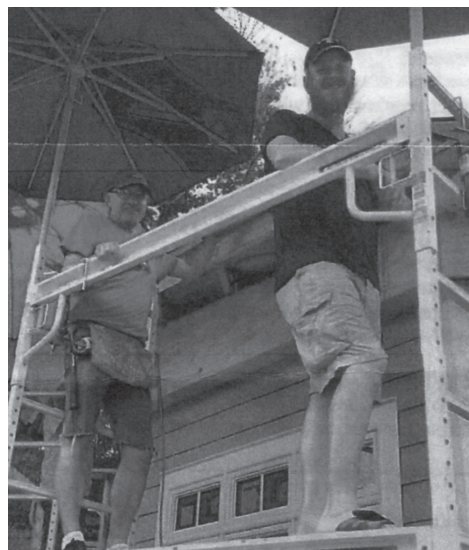
Well done Heide! We wish her a long and enjoyable retirement.

John Reitter





The work on the dining room at Kolping Hudson has been a massive undertaking and our volunteer crew worked through all sorts of weather. On one of the hotter sunnier days, the rigged up this array of umbrellas to keep a little bit cooler while the work moved forward. Thank you friends!  
- Photos sent by Heide Bruegger



# “21 in ‘21” Kolping Scholarship Program

The National Kolping Society of America is excited to announce its scholarship program for 2021. In keeping with Father Kolping’s commitment to education, training and a strong family connection, we felt this is a great opportunity to support our members in their personal endeavors. The National Board has allocated \$21,000 for this 2021 program.

This program will be opened to college and trade school students, as well as those entering their senior year in high school. There will be five scholarships of \$3,000 each, available for qualifying college and trade school students. Those pupils entering their senior year in high school can apply for one of four scholarships of \$1,500 each.

Applicants will be asked to answer questions, including ones about their personal interests and how they will use any monies awarded. The scholarship committee will review applications, select winning applications and announce the scholarship recipients.

This program will be available to active Kolping members and their immediate families. Active is defined as those individuals who have been members for more than 2 years. Immediate families are defined as members, their spouses, children, grandchildren and/or great-grandchildren. There is no age criteria.

We will be posting applications and guidelines to our website on March 15th. Scholarships will be selected by May and awarded by the end of June. Please see our website for more information: [www.kolping.org](http://www.kolping.org)

A big “thank you” to the National Board for allocating these funds and to the members of the scholarship committee: Marilee Uhlhorn, Anna Stukenborg, Monika Weiss and Lisa Brinkmann.

## National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund received the following contributions for the months of November 15, 2020 to January 15, 2021

### *Donations*

*Brooklyn Kolping Society - \$250*

*Detroit Kolping Society - \$1,500*

### **Kolping Society National Endowment Fund**

c/o Lisa Brinkmann

311 Greene Street | Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

## The 2020 Annual Kolping Raffle

The annual raffle drawing was held on  
Monday, December 7, 2020

This year’s winners were:

### **FIRST PRIZE \$1,500**

Bob & Ann Hemsing

New York Kolping Society

### **SECOND PRICE \$1,000**

Mike Weinborg

New York Kolping Society

### **THIRD PRIZE \$500**

Celeste Hermes

Cincinnati Kolping

The following is a brief accounting of  
the raffle:

Total amount received...\$ 11,285.00

Less expenses:

Prizes.....\$ 3,000.00

Printing & mailing .....\$ 1,150.95

Total Amount to Operating

Account.....\$ 7,134.05



# Prayer for the Sainthood of our Blessed Father Adolph Kolping

Almighty and ever living God!

Your gift to us was Blessed Adolph Kolping, our intercessor and model.

His life with filled with concern for the young people and religious and social distress. For many he was untiring spiritual leader, fatherly counselor, patient teacher and true friend.

He lived the love of Your Son by example for us His loyalty to the church is a model for us. His concern was about work, family and society in the light of our faith to understand. Mutual help in the community he understood as an expression of Christian love. In the holy scripture, the sacraments and prayer he gathered fresh hope to create a deed that we and mankind may benefit.

At all times you called us people to work together to build your kingdom. Today, let us work together to overcome poverty, injustice and hopelessness.

Help us, with the intercession of Blessed Adolph Kolping, with courage for the protection of human life, marriage and family.

Let us, in union with the church and the international Kolpingworks, be the salt for the earth and light for the world.

Fulfill our hope, Adolph Kolping, in union with the whole church, in all languages and nations, as a holy man to revere and worship Through Faith, hope and love let us participate in the accomplishment of your Kingdom in the world as Adolph Kolping did.

This we ask you through Christ, our Lord. Amen!

Submitted by Laura Mahrenholz

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

## **BUFFALO**

John Haderer

## **CINCINNATI**

Christina Gerdes

Mike Kutcher

William Lunnemann

Carol Yoder

## **DETROIT**

Margaret Mann

Bruno Walter

## **SAN FRANCISCO**

Marianne Kress

## International Kolping

### **Tropical storms in Honduras destroy crops and housest**

People in Honduras are not only facing the challenge of increasing coronavirus infections. In November, many areas of the country were destroyed by the tropical storms Eta and Iota. Continuous rain for many days brought mudslides and widespread flooding: houses, roads and bridges were destroyed by floodwaters, fields and crops were also entirely destroyed. Tropical storms in Honduras destroy crops and houses – reconstruction work will take years.

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### **Kolping is Sacred to me**

Kolping Germany calls upon everyone to sign its petition “Kolping is sacred to me” and wants to encourage as many people as possible to vote in favour of the canonization of Adolph Kolping. You can do this online at [www.petition-kolping.com](http://www.petition-kolping.com) or offline by signing a classical petition. Please go to <https://www.kolping.de/materialpetition> to download and distribute the list and many other documents.



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## International Kolping *(continued)*



### #KOLPINGworks

Our online campaign #KOLPINGworks is meant to encourage people all over the world. If there is one thing that has become evident in the past few months, it is the certainty that people remain courageous and change the world for the better. This is what #KOLPINGworks is to reflect in words and pictures: Kolping sisters and Kolping brothers, their organizations and institutions make a concrete contribution to making this world a better place – true to their role model Adolph Kolping



### New and online: Intercession book

As an international community of Kolping members we know that all our actions need God's blessing to bear fruit. In this digital intercession forum, we can all bring our pleas and worries before God and share them with Kolping sisters and Kolping brothers all over the world. Be it a personal prayer or a prayer for our family or society: we ask for the intercession of Blessed Adolph Kolping. May all those who need his presence in particular feel God's closeness.



### Conference of volunteers: meeting in person and virtually

In early October, Kolping representatives for international partnership work (BIPs) met on site at the Deutz youth hostel and online. It was an interesting exchange of ideas and opinions between volunteers and the meeting turned out to be a great success despite the difficult times of the pandemic.