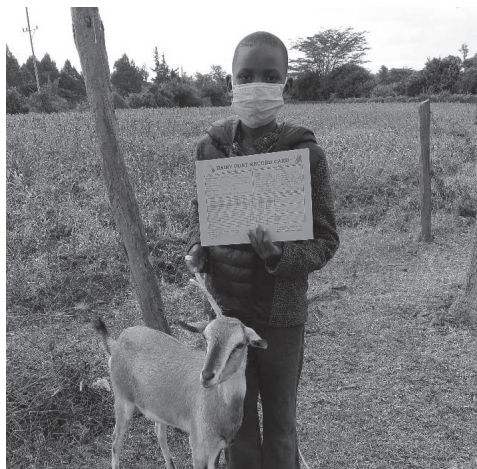




# Kolping Banner

Official Publication of the Catholic Kolping Society of America | Vol. 96- No. 4 | April 2021

## LENTEN PROJECT – KOLPING KENYA



I am pleased to report that Kolping Kenya was able to use the proceeds from the 2020 Kolping USA Lenten project to distribute 134 dairy goats consisting of 120 does and 14 bucks. Due to complications from the Covid Crisis the distribution of the goats did not occur until December 16th to 19th of 2020 but turned out to be a welcome Christmas Present for the recipients. The dairy goats were distributed to 7 Kolping families in the Central Highlands Region of Kenya approximately 100 miles north of Nairobi.

Kolping Families that received goats are as follows:

Kamanki  
Consolata

Kiumunge  
Gatugi

MutathiOini  
Makuria

Mwfa

The national director for Kolping Kenya – Patrick Kioko forwarded a copy of all receipts and documents pertaining to the purchase and distribution of the goats, along with a list of recipients from each Kolping Family. In addition, he forwarded photos and 2 videos of the recipients. Patrick expressed the sincere gratitude on behalf of Kolping Kenya and all of the recipients for the continued generosity of Kolping USA and our Lenten Goat project. As you know Lisa Brinkmann and myself visited Kolping Kenya a year ago just weeks before the COVID crisis hit in the USA, and I can tell you first hand how much of a difference a goat can make in the lives of Kolping Kenya members.

Know that the Kolping USA Lenten Goat Project makes a profound difference in the lives of the recipients. Please continue your generous support of this project for the 2021 Lenten Season.

Sincerely,

Theodore F. Wilke  
Treasurer Kolping USA

(continued on page 4)

### In the Banner this Month:

From the President's Desk ...	page 2
A Praeses Proclaims .....	page 3
Detroit Kolping .....	page 4
National Kolping Convention Postponed .....	page 4
National Endowment Fund ...	page 5
New York Kolping .....	page 6
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

### National Officers:

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Associate Praeses  
President, Lisa Brinkmann  
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### Kolping Family Locations:

**Brooklyn Kolping Family**, 6504 Myrtle Ave.,  
Glendale, NY, 11385-6250, 718-456-7727  
**Buffalo, New York Kolping Family**, 59 Joanne Lane,  
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  
**Detroit Kolping Family**, 1201 Rock Valley Drive,  
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 Easter!

I think celebrating the resurrection of Christ, the season of renewal, and the beginning of Spring is even more meaningful this year, as we all hold hope that COVID will soon be behind us and can "begin again" to develop our

sense of normal.

If nothing else, during the past year we all gained a new appreciation for community, family and friendships. We've realized how important social gatherings are to our overall well-being. Activities that we may have taken for granted – potlucks, work days, pancake breakfasts – became events in which we longed to participate.

I wonder if, when this is all over, organizations, societies and clubs will see a resurgence in membership. In the past years the virtual community took precedence over the physical one. And when our only choice to socialize became "zooming", we recognized the importance and value of simple "chit chat". Even more important than socializing is our need to have purpose, something to do and people who depend on us to do it. There is power in knowing that your presence makes a difference – to your singing group, in a work day, or simply contributing to the bingo blackout pot. There is power in seeing people's eyes light up when they see your familiar face or a smile (or maybe even smirk!) across the room as they hear you speak. There is a powerful force at hand when you know you are part of a bigger community.

Our Kolping families have been blessed with many members who have embraced the power of community and passed on this value to future generations. It didn't take a pandemic for them to understand how hard work, education and family values benefit not just the individual but the community at large. Their examples were visible as we saw Kolping members in New York and Brooklyn use this last year to renovate their facilities. Kolping Los Angeles took the time to welcome new leadership. In San Francisco members made efforts to keep in touch with calls, safety kits and cookies. In all our Kolping Families we saw innovation, opportunities and renewals.

This month we have an opportunity to congratulate two members from Detroit Kolping, Karl Wuerzinger and Joseph Rheker, who are marking their 75th and 70th years as members, respectively. We thank them for their dedication and continued commitment to the ideals of Father Kolping. I encourage our Kolping families to share stories about their members in future Banner editions. Let's hope our younger generations will read these, join and help keep these values alive....and kicking!

Lisa Brinkmann

*"You'll never be bored when you try something new. There's really no limit to what you can do." Dr. Seuss*

# A Praeses Proclaims...

**To understand the world knowledge is not enough,  
you must see it, touch it, live in its presence.**

*Teilhard de Chardin, Hymn of the Universe*

*By Fr. Daniel Kroger, OFM  
Praeses of the Cincinnati Kolping Family*



Our namesake, Blessed Adolph Kolping, challenges us in today's Covid-19 times. Kolping lived in the period of the Industrial Revolution in Europe. Most of us are familiar with Kolping's major achievement—building organizations that served the needs of workers who were socially and economically crushed by the Industrial Revolution. Kolping's legacy pushes us forward to serve today's people.

Most of us know that Kolping came from humble stock, a shepherd's family. He was apprenticed to a shoemaker because his parents could not afford higher education. As a journeyman Kolping had the opportunity to travel and learn the best skills from master shoemakers. While struggling as a journeyman shoemaker, Kolping clung to his faith, worked hard to advance himself. Then, when he could have gained the rank of master shoemaker, he chose education for the priesthood instead.

A rich family, where he worked as a tutor, sponsored Kolping's higher studies in Munich. He worked diligently as an assistant to the famous church historian Ignaz Döllinger. A summer's travel into Austria and Rome helped him round off his studies. Then he moved to Bonn in where he studied for the priesthood. In 1844 he completed studies for the priesthood and passed his exams. Then he did a year of pastoral internship and he was ordained for the Archdiocese of Cologne.

Kolping was appointed a chaplain and a teacher in Elberfeld, Wuppertal. There he found workers in wretched conditions. They were the victims of progress—the

Industrial Revolution. Guilds were dying. Though skilled artisans who belonged to the traditional guilds could produce higher quality products, factories could mass-produce goods at lower prices. Many tradesmen lost their jobs.

As Fr. Kolping saw the pathetic conditions of his flock he gradually realized that all his education was of limited use in the pastoral work he was doing. He tried to promote justice and Catholic family values.

Kolping wrote to his former professor Ignaz Döllinger in Munich that he no longer had time for theological study because "... the people, practical history, stand before my eyes ever real and give so much more scope for observation and studies..."

Kolping plunged deeper into his ministry to the people he served. Kolping wrote that "The dear God has shown me a different way, and I cannot but be very grateful for having been told that the shoemaker ought to stick to his shoe-last." In other words, Fr. Kolping abandoned his scholarly ambitions to focus on the needs of the people he served. He found them to be courageous, generous, and faithful to human, Catholic values.

Kolping had no use for the empty rhetoric of the academic revolutionaries of the 1848 uprisings in Europe, like Marx and Engels. Instead, he threw his energy into building up the *Gesellenverien* to help people in need find hope and justice. That led him to establish chapters of the Kolping family all around Europe.

What does this overview of Fr. Kolping's life mean for us today? What are some practical implications of his life for us?

First, because Fr. Kolping kept up his prayers throughout his life, he recognized the way the Lord was calling him to pastoral ministry and leading him away from his original plans about an academic career. So, wherever we are in our life journeys, prayer must be the bedrock of our faith. That doesn't mean we must spend all our time on our knees in church. But we really ought to take time to reflect upon what is happening to us, while placing ourselves in the presence of God. That is something deeper than going to church or reciting prayers. It is difficult to do, but we must take quiet time and reflect upon the events of our lives. We must learn to turn off all the noise and the worries of our daily lives, so that we can sense the Lord's presence in our lives. (read Psalm 63:1-9)

Second, because Fr. Kolping faced the pains and the struggles of the workers, he was able to open his heart to God's subtle presence in his life during the Industrial Revolution. Have you felt the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic in your life? Has it brought worry and anxiety? How has your life changed? Obviously, sickness and death have touched millions of people in this past year. But how have each of us faced today's circumstances? How have we been changed by God's grace? Have we recognized God's call? How full heartedly have we responded to our neighbors and to God in the Covid-19 pandemic?

Kolping treu!



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# National Kolping Convention Postponed Until September 2022

We regret to inform everyone that the decision has been made to again postpone the National Kolping Convention, this time until September of 2022. Through consultation with the National Kolping Board and with the approval of the Cincinnati Kolping Board, the Convention Committee decided that it would be in the best interest of all concerned to postpone until next year.

Even though many people are getting the vaccines, there is still an uncertainty of the COVID-19 restrictions being lifted by September of this year. We also considered the average age of the participants in the event, the state of all of the U.S. Kolping societies with very little income coming in, and the hesitancy of many people to get on an airplane. It appears that it will take a lot longer than anticipated for life to get back to "normal". The safety and

well-being of all of the Kolping members was our utmost concern in making this decision to postpone.

The National Convention will now take place the weekend of September 9-11, 2022 in Cincinnati. Since it is normally scheduled every two years, this fits nicely into the rotation, with the last convention being held in 2018 in Philadelphia.

We will be sending out new information about the convention either late this year or at the beginning of next year, so stay tuned. We look forward to hosting all of our fellow Kolping members next year and welcoming all of you to Cincinnati!

Nancy Pelzel,  
National Kolping Convention Committee Chair

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## Greetings from Kolping Detroit

Even though things have been quiet lately, the Detroit branch recently honored St. Joseph with a membership Mass followed by dinner and an awards ceremony.

It was cause for celebration!

Long-time member Karl Wuerzinger commemorated 75 years as a Kolping member, a diamond jubilee.

He has always been an active member. The smiling Bavarian has held almost every office, was Schuetzen King and is a DSA recipient. Never one to shy away from physical work he participated in all jobs as needed.

One of Karl's greatest attributes is his precise record-keeping which continues to this day. Included are the membership list, years of service, member's birthdays, etc. Our thanks to Karl and his wife, Anita for the many hours this entailed.

At meetings throughout the years he has provided hundreds of birthday and get-well cards for membership signatures.

Joe Rheker, Jr. also celebrated a milestone, his 70th anniversary. He was quite literally born into the Kolping Society as his parents Joseph and Anna Rheker were among the first members here in Detroit.

He had been active before being old enough to join officially. As a child he marched in the numerous Schuetzenfest parades carrying a small American flag, not knowing then that he would grow to adulthood to continue the tradition graduating to the full size flag and raising it on the flagpole to officially open the Schuetzenfest activities every 4th of July for many years. The only times he missed was during the 4 years he served in the US Navy. He met his wife Lynne at a dance at the Kolping Center. Together they and their family were part of the glue and faith that holds our membership together even now.

Joe went on to actively maintain the Kolping Park, hold many offices including President and received the DSA. During all these years his devotion has been evident. He carved an Eagle for the Schuetzenfest for many years. His management of the park was also noteworthy. Not a single detail was overlooked. He even found time to "hold-up" the bars at both facilities which he helped to build. Joe really lived the Kolping dream.

Both Karl and Joe embody the spirit of Fr. Kolping. We wish them many more healthy years and are proud that they are members of our branch. Treu Kolping.

Submitted by Mary Frances Dolland



## DONORS

San Francisco Kolping Society - \$2,000

Walter Amrein  
Rose Marie Aziheira  
Robert Bauer  
Sigmund Brandl  
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Franz Wilke  
Ted & Elaine Wilke  
Karl & Anita Wuerzinger  
MaryAnn Wurzelbacher

## National Endowment Fund

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

*Donations*

*San Francisco Kolping Society - \$2,000*

**Kolping Society National Endowment Fund**

c/o Lisa Brinkmann

311 Greene Street | Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

# GREETINGS FROM KOLPING NEW YORK

Thinking of visiting New York? Attending School in New York?  
Starting a job or internship in New York? Need a short-term residence to  
start with for your journey to live and aspire in New York?

**STAY WITH US AT THE HISTORIC KOLPING HOUSE ON 88TH STREET!**

Dear Kolping Brothers and Sisters,

We are reaching out to you, to help us save this residence that represents all the teachings and work of our beloved Father Adolf Kolping. Through good times and bad, we have always persevered. Today we are challenged by the impact of the past year's Covid-19 Pandemic. Our occupancy has plummeted, to where we do not have the rental income to keep the building open. If you do not already know, here we share the history, hard work, dedication, and importance of Kolping members over more than a century.

Kolping New York started in the lower hall of the Church of St. Mary Magdalen, East 17th Street on October 14, 1888 with 20 visionary and dedicated men. Theobald Dengler, a Kolping member in Germany, with the aid of Karl Loerwald, who was born in New York, had gathered friends for this event. The latter was well acquainted with the Kolping work because his father had known Father Kolping personally. The pastor of St. Mary Magdalen, a former tailor, offered his school hall to the group, whereupon the first meeting was planned and foundations of the society in New York were laid.



*The outside of Kolping House - street view*

In January 1892, the Franciscan Church on West 31st Street was completed, and the young society was able to use its basement for meetings. At this time, the first piece of furniture was acquired - the large table which today still stands in the reading room of the Kolping House.

The first Kolping House in downtown New York was purchased on May 30, 1894. Growth of the society by leaps and bounds and changes in the residential patterns of the city created the need for a larger Kolping House. The first one was sold and the lot on 88th Street was bought. The new house, designed by architect Karl Otto, was erected, and officially opened on May 27, 1914. Its 88 private and 8 public rooms crowned the work of the first generation of Kolping in New York. Many of us have fathers and grandfathers that came from Germany and started their lives as American citizens at Kolping 88th Street.

At the 2006 National Kolping Convention, it was agreed that we would use funds raised for the "Kolping Renaissance Fund" to have a "National Office & Archives". At the 2008 National Convention, New York's proposal was chosen, and we were awarded the funds. We built the office out of our old "Rathskeller" at the Kolping House 88th Street between 2009 and 2010. Today, we have a beautiful conference room holding the Kolping National Archives. This room had been blessed by our beloved Cardinal Timothy Dolan. The Cardinal was also able to celebrate with us our Centennial Anniversary in 2014.

Here we are now in 2021, and the world has been changed completely because of this pandemic. However, once again, with the strength, perseverance, knowledge, dedication, our value of family, and most of all **YOUR PRAYERS...**  
**KOLPING NEW YORK WILL LIVE ON!**

**WE ARE NEW YORK STRONG!**

**WE ARE KOLPING STRONG!**

**WE UNVEILED OUR NEW WOMEN'S WING AND WELCOMED OUR FIRST FEMALE RESIDENT TO START THE NEW YEAR!**

**WE ARE OPEN TO ALL VISITORS OF ALL ADULT AGES!**

**WELCOME SPRING WELCOME A VACCINE, WELCOME LOWERED COVID CASES!**

**NEW YORK CITY IS OPENING UP UNIVERSITIES, RESTAURANTS, AND TOURIST ATTRACTIONS!**

We wish to spread the word that the Kolping House is available. It provides temporary accommodations to men, and now, women, who are students, working people, or visiting. Our residence provides affordable, single rooms with all utilities, free Wi-Fi, and based on occupancy, a complimentary lunch or dinner. We are in a safe, upscale neighborhood



located close to shopping, restaurants, parks, museums, and convenient public transportation.

Please share this information with family and friends. We would love to welcome fellow Kolping members and their acquaintances. Visit our website: <http://kolpingny.org/hostel.cfm>, or give us a call at: 212-369-6647, or email us at [residence@kolpingny.org](mailto:residence@kolpingny.org). Contact us anytime for more information.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Treu Kolping,  
Your New York Catholic Kolping Family



Cardinal Timothy Dolan with NY's Board of Directors in the National Office at our Centennial Celebration in 2014.

## International Kolping



### Coronavirus Update

Vaccination campaigns have started all over the world. They do not only bring us hope that 2021 will become a better year but in some countries KOLPING is gradually resuming its association and project work. Supplying people with food remains our first priority. At the end of the year, donations to the Corona Fund were used to buy and distribute seeds and many families were able to use the winter rainfalls to till their fields. Now they can soon harvest their crops and feed their children.



### 15 years of KOLPING Myanmar

The Asian organization has been very active in furthering its association and its project work and produced impressive results. 15 years of Kolping Myanmar: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, anniversary celebrations were smaller than had originally been planned. On December 18, 30 members from various Kolping Families in the region assembled in Taunggyi to attend Holy Mass in order to celebrate the 15th anniversary in line with COVID-19 safety regulations. On December 18, 2005, 15 years ago to the day, the first Kolping Family was founded in Thandwe (Bishopric of Pyay), Myanmar under the name of "La Salette".

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

#### **BROOKLYN**

Eva Marie Freud

#### **CHICAGO**

Leni Ideler  
Anita Kutschka

#### **CINCINNATI**

Gerhard Deddens

#### **LOS ANGELES**

Patricia Pollard

#### **NEW YORK**

Antonia Rehrl  
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## International Kolping *(continued)*



### Join us at #KOLPINGworks

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Adolph Kolping's beatification, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL initiated the social media campaign #KOLPINGworks. How did KOLPING help bring positive change to your life? Or what impact did KOLPING have on others? Use Facebook and Instagram to share the activities your Kolping Families are doing and where the Kolping spirit can be felt! Please visit <https://www.kolping.net/kolpingworks> to find out more about how this campaign works. With your help we will have a colorful collection of KOLPING activities today in the world when we will celebrate the anniversary of the beatification at the end of October.



### Tanzania: Clean water - healthy children

In Tanzania more than half of the rural population has no access to clean water. Many children fall ill due to the polluted water. In the parish of Bongomela, KOLPING has already been able to help a Kolping Family.