



# Kolping Banner

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## 2021 LENTEN PROJECT – KOLPING KENYA

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our 2021 National Lenten Project.

We are grateful to all who have contributed.

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

**TOTAL DONATIONS COLLECTED - \$13,089**  
**ENDOWMENT FUND ADDITION - \$ 7,500**

**FINAL TOTAL \$ 20,589**

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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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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 ...

Many of us have been Kolping members for 10, 20, 30 or more years. In that time, how many remember or have read the story of Father Kolping – from his childhood years to the time of his death? – about the challenges he faced and the obstacles he overcame? Is there something in his story that has given you greater pride in being a member of the Kolping family?

As part of our 2021 Kolping Scholarship program, we asked applicants to read “The Life and Work of Father Adolph Kolping” and answer a simple question: “What did you find most interesting about his story?” (This article if available on our website under the scholarship section at [www.kolping.org](http://www.kolping.org)) We quickly realized that most of the 32 applicants didn’t know too much (if anything) about Father Kolping going into this exercise. After reading this story, most were moved by his determination and selflessness in pursuing his dream of becoming a priest. Some commented on his ability to see the bigger picture, to secure a safe place for young journeymen to call home, despite the upheavals of the economy and society. Many realized, especially after this past year, that the value Father Kolping put on the importance of family rings truer now than ever before.

Like back in the days of the Industrial Revolution, a tremendous pressure was placed upon the ability to keep the family intact. Then, family members were forced to leave their towns and villages for work, finding themselves further and further from their homes. Now, family members are realizing just how sacred and coveted their relationships are - as they have either found themselves spending more time together under the COVID lockdowns OR not being able to see each other at all.

Father Kolping’s story also reinforced the importance of perseverance and accountability to one’s self. Our applicants reflect on how Father Kolping kept his goal of becoming a priest in focus, despite the financial, social and educational barriers he faced (and overcame.) They also wrote about the selflessness in which he offered his care to a dying man at the potential detriment to his own well-being. Honestly, his story is amazing and reading it through these applicants’ eyes brings a new appreciation in being a Kolping member.

As of this Banner, the scholarship committee is still reviewing the many applications we’ve received and will be announcing winners in June. We plan to share some of the excerpts and essays with you in Banner editions to come.

We thank each and every one of our scholarship applicants for taking the time to submit such thoughtful and insight essays. We hope to see them and their friends join their local Kolping family!

Warmly,  
Lisa Brinkmann



# A Praeses Proclaims...

## THE CONNECTION

By Fr. Michael Scherschel  
Praeses of the Kolping Chicago Society

“As the Church reminds us, we’re a pilgrim people on a journey of faith heading to the land that’s promised to us: a land flowing with milk and honey.”

It seems fitting that the month of June begins with the great feast of Corpus Christi. The Eucharist is Jesus’ gracious gift of himself and communicates his desire to remain with us until we see him again face to face. And it’s the Eucharist—Christ’s presence—that continues to hold us together, even during this time of pandemic.

Throughout the last year, as Catholics we’ve experienced how central the Eucharist is in our spiritual lives. Many of us still haven’t been able to attend Mass in person—something that we never thought we’d ever experience in our lifetime or in the history of the Church.

But what many have also discovered during this time, is that the desire for the Eucharist—to experience Christ’s presence—hasn’t diminished. If anything, for those not able to receive in person, it’s simply been heightened. The longing for the Eucharist is the longing for heaven; to be in God’s presence where love is experienced in the fullest possible way.

What we also have missed and longed for is a return to being together, because together—as Saint Paul enlightens us—we become the Body of Christ in the world. Saint Augustine put it this way, “Believe what you see, see what you believe and become what you are: the Body of Christ.” When we receive the Eucharist—whether spiritually or while at Mass—we discover who we are. We believe what we see, that a wafer and a cup of wine are no longer just that, but the very presence of Christ with us.

And we instinctively know that Christ is not meant to be present just to me, but to all those who believe.

That’s why one of the hardest things about the past year has been not to do what Kolping Families have always done: to be together, to unite as a family, to do works of service, to welcome the stranger, to pray as a family of families—to pray as the Body of Christ.

I know here in Chicago, we long for the moment of reunion and reconnection when our Kolping families can be physically together again. In the meantime, we stay connected virtually, in prayer, and in the desire we have in common: to have communion with Christ who centers us. We know it’s only a matter of time. As the Church reminds us, we’re a pilgrim people on a journey of faith heading to the land that’s promised to us: a land flowing with milk and honey. It’s coming.

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

### **BROOKLYN**

Eleanor Gartner  
Franz Kokasch  
Irene Lauth  
Marie Werkmann

### **CHICAGO**

Merle Bucher

### **CINCINNATI**

Don Adick  
Charlotte Girmann  
Herman Koehling  
Liz Ruether  
James Sonnenberg  
Elaine Wilke

### **DETROIT**

Joan Linden

### **NEW YORK**

Julia Winter

### **SAN FRANCISCO**

Marianne Kress



# International Kolping



## COVID-19 can be overcome only internationally

More and more people in Europe are receiving their first vaccinations against the corona virus in these weeks. And even those who have not yet had their turn draw new hopes in these times of lockdown and restrictions, economic and social challenges. The hope of overcoming the pandemic rests solely on the various vaccines that are approved and administered. Only through them can the deadly threat posed by the virus be overcome.

From the pandemic, people in affluent countries suffer differently and on the whole less than in poorer countries. In many countries, it is not just about a loss of prosperity as in the USA or Europe, but about the physical survival of infected people and people who can no longer earn a living.

Everyone around the world has a right to health and a dignified life. Vaccinations are the only way to ensure the survival of many people, even in the poorest countries. Therefore, it is unacceptable that rich countries receive around half of all vaccines available, with only about 13 percent of the world's population. The distribution of the vaccination doses makes it clear, as if under a magnifying glass, how purchasing power determines life and death worldwide. Despite their private production, corona vaccines

are public goods and as such must be made equally accessible to all people. Everything that stands in the way, such as patent regulations, must be suspended.

Specifically, this also means that the COVAX program ("Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access"), which the World Health Organization (WHO) initiated together with the Gavi Global Vaccine Alliance, is being strengthened and respected by all countries. Going it alone by governments who buy vaccine doses from the countries of the Global South must be ostracized.

In spring 2020, many politicians in Europe expressed the awareness that the pandemic could only be defeated globally because the virus did not stop at borders. This is still the case.

The corona pandemic has led to a wave of solidarity, especially in the global Kolping Family. Over 1 million euros have already flowed into the corona fund at KOLPING INTERNATIONAL and thus helped to support people in need and to ensure their survival. Joint political commitment to vaccine equity is just as important now.

Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburger,  
General Praeses

Dr. Markus Demele,  
Secretary General

Karin Wollgarten,  
managing director



## Ukraine: Projects continued in 2020

In 2020 KOLPING Ukraine was able to continue its projects last year, albeit in a reduced form:

Seniors learn digitally: Despite the Coronavirus pandemic, KOLPING in Ukraine was able to continue its learning events last year, albeit in a reduced form. Courses at a total of eleven "Universities of the Third Age" were offered digitally in small groups. Fortunately, 700 of the original 1050 seniors made use of the online courses.

Support for children and adults with disabilities also continued, with KOLPING providing around 3000 counseling and support hours to 200 families.

In Uzhgorod in the west of the country, KOLPING has helped internally displaced persons and war veterans to start a new existence through microcredits. Now families can start their own businesses and earn their own money by producing wooden pallets, their own sausages and furniture. A tractor makes work and harvesting easier for farmers in mountain villages.

(continued from page 1)

Albert & Joan Sartorius  
Valentine Sartorius  
Anneliese Scherer  
Helene Schrand  
Hermann & Norma Senger  
Gretchen Stromberg  
Lucille Schwind  
Thomas & Amy Scherz  
Manfred Schnetzer  
Ronald Seelbach  
Marie Seubert  
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Ferdinand Zipprich  
Emil & Carolina Zollinger  
Robert Schneider

## National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund received  
the following contributions for the months of  
February 15, 2021 to May 15, 2021.

*In memory of Joan Linden,  
deceased member of the Detroit Kolping Society*

Detroit Kolping Society

*In memory of Eleanor Gartner,  
deceased member of the Brooklyn Kolping Society*

Bill Conte

*In memory of Irene Lauth,  
deceased member of the Brooklyn Kolping Society, and my aunt*

Bill Conte

*In memory of Franz Kokasch,  
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



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

**Happy Father's Day**

**From the Editor and Staff of the Kolping Banner**



# International Kolping



## Compromise in the Supply Chains Act better than nothing

Compromise in the Supply Chains Act better than nothing: After months of debate, a compromise has now been achieved on the Supply Chains Act. KOLPING INTERNATIONAL appreciates that the draft bill will force German companies to fulfill due diligence obligations in their entire supply chain in the future.

Germany is thus gradually moving away from the principle of voluntary corporate responsibility in the protection of human rights. From now on, an authority will monitor compliance with the obligations. This authority can impose fines and exclude companies from public procurement in the event of violations. Another positive aspect is that it will be easier for NGOs and trade unions to bring claims on behalf of persons affected.

"In the parliamentary procedure we are still hoping for urgent improvements," says Dr Markus Demele, General Secretary of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL. "Above all, the gradation of the due diligence obligations severely restricts the effectiveness of the law. It is not enough to have a close look at direct suppliers only and to wait for indications of human rights violations by third parties for all other suppliers. The United Nations Guiding Principles have long been more advanced in this respect."

KOLPING INTERNATIONAL and the Kolping Society Germany are part of the "Initiative Supply Chains Act" in which more than 100 organizations have joined forces.



## Financing vocational training

Adalin lives in the Philippines and works as an electrical engineering teacher. The school system in her home country is currently being reorganized and all teachers must now have additional qualifications that they can teach their students. Those who want to do a vocational training in the Philippines have to pay for it. School attendance is free of charge, but that alone is not enough to find a good job. Without the qualifications, Adalin would also lose her job, which she loves so much. What to do?

Whilst the situation in Germany is slowly improving, we have been receiving shocking images from India for days. The pandemic is no longer under control in India, and the health system is collapsing. Kolping India has called us for help.

"The situation in some states is horrendous", wrote Fr Mari, National Director of Kolping India. "The hospitals are loaded with people, and there is a lack of oxygen and medication. Sick people are often left untreated and die outside of the hospitals in the arms of their desperate relatives."

India is recording over 360,000 new Covid-19 cases per day. The situation is getting worse every day. In case of a strict curfew many people would be stranded on the pavement again, says Br. Mari. As happened last year, when Chennai and its environs were in the vulnerable red zone for months. "Then we will again extend help to the poorest with a warm meal a day so that they do not starve", says Br. Mari. In addition, Kolping India wants to help in the hospitals with oxygen, facemasks and disinfectants.

Please help the people in India with your donation to the Kolping Corona Fund. Thank you for your help.



## Civil Society Declaration 2021

The 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Social Development in New York will take place purely digitally, as all events currently do. This also applies to the participation of civil society and the "Civil Society Forum", in which international organizations discuss the respective topic of the Commission meeting.

This year, the question of the contribution of digital technologies to social justice is at the center of the deliberations. KOLPING INTERNATIONAL is a signatory to the declaration, which states, among other things: "We, the representatives of civil society, are truly confident in the transformational power of a Digital Technology Revolution based on human rights and dignity, and guided by the values of inclusion, equity, security and transparency".

Dr. Markus Demele, General Secretary of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL, adds: "Access to and training in the use of digital technologies is a key challenge in the coming years. The COVID-19 pandemic impressively demonstrates how crucial a good digital infrastructure is for the educational and professional opportunities of children and young people."



## Kolping at the “Economy of Francesco”

End of last year young people from 115 countries participated in the international online event “The Economy of Francesco” that was supposed to take place as a personal meeting in Assisi in spring. They were invited by Pope Francis in order to initiate a process of global economic change. Among the participants were two young Kolping members from Europe, Dominik Presul (Slovakia) and Sven Messing (Germany).

During the previous months, the participants of the Economy of Francesco had worked in twelve thematic villages such as “work and care”, “energy and poverty”, “women for economy” or “vocation and profit” in order to develop ideas for an economy that safeguards the environment and ensures justice for the poor. Based on these ideas, the participants developed specific proposals that were presented to Pope Francis during the online event.

Besides this, high-level speakers such as Muhammad Yunus (Nobel Peace Prize winner 2006) discussed with young people from all over the world about different aspects of improving the economic system. The event concluded with a speech from Pope Francis who motivated the participants to be protagonists of the global economic change: “You cannot absent yourselves from those places where the present and future are generated. You are either part of them or history will pass you by.”

The Economy of Francesco has been a great opportunity for Dominik Presul and Sven Messing, who are both board members of Kolping Youth Europe,

to incorporate the experience they have gained in Kolping into a global process. Additionally, they created a network with economists and change makers from all over the world and demonstrated that Kolping is willing to support economic changes that are connected with social and ecological benefits.



## Save human lives!

In a statement KOLPING Europe asks the European Union to immediately fulfill its responsibility. “It is not enough to provide financial help, but now it is necessary to act promptly and decisively to get people out of these undignified and partly life-threatening conditions”, the statement says. At the same time, the EU community is called upon to find a common European solution as quickly as possible, it said. “Saving human lives, that’s what the member states as well as the European Union will have to be measured on.”

Saving human lives - an urgent task of European Union and its member states Kolping Europe on the catastrophic and inhumane situation of Refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Greece The catastrophic inhumane situation takes place in the current corona pandemic few of the refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Greece Attention. In view of this humanitarian crisis, the Kolping Board of Directors is calling Europe urges national governments and the European Union to do their bit Take responsibility and act immediately. It’s a scandal and nothing to justify that children and adolescents, women and men under have to suffer these inhumane conditions.

Bosnia-Herzegovina - Humanitarian Crisis at the Gates of Europe The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been precarious for years. Just before Christmas the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has the Lipa refugee camp closed because the camp did not meet the minimum humanitarian requirements and the Bosnian authorities did not demand that the camp be winterized followed. Since then, the refugees have been waiting in life-threatening conditions in the freezing winter cold. In addition, there is no health care and Opportunities to protect against infection, although some refugees are already showing symptoms of COVID.

Attempts to accommodate the refugees in other accommodations are protests of the local citizens and the political will or unwillingness failed. In spite of urgently needed humanitarian aid has been omitted from financial aid from the EU, and political calculation is carried out at the expense of the needy people.

Detached from a pan-European solution, Kolping Europe demands everyone on national governments to act immediately and refugees out for humanitarian reasons.

Greece - Humanitarian Crisis within the European Union In many refugee camps in Greece, too, the situation is so devastating that humanitarian aid is urgently needed. An example of this is the catastrophic situation of the refugees in the overcrowded Moria camp on Lesbos. Also the newly built camp According to reports, Kara Tepe is said to be even more uninhabitable for the refugees as Moria. Makeshift tents are often under water and there are sanitary facilities there was hardly any, nor was there any hot water or heating facilities.

In this case too, the EU supported Greece financially, but improved the life-threatening situation of the refugees on site does not. A few EU countries have promised to take in refugees from Greece, but the Implementation of these

(continued on page 8)



**CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY  
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## DATED MATERIAL

*(Save human lives! cont'd)*

commitments is just as slow. Kolping appeals here too Europe to the political leaders to act quickly and their humanitarian Now finally to take responsibility.

Illegal push-backs at Europe's external borders Refugees report violent rejections at the Croatian border. Documents and cell phones are taken away, people are mistreated. Also on that There are illegal push-backs in the Mediterranean Sea. Refugees are in non-European waters pushed back and left to the open sea.

Kolping Europe demands: Illegal push-backs must be stopped immediately, because they violate international law and EU law. The Asylum seekers must be given the opportunity to apply for asylum.

It is unbearable when human dignity is violated in Europe With great horror, Kolping Europe realizes that basic European values and responsible action in these humanitarian disasters within the EU and grossly disregarded at the gates of the European external border. Unbearable is that it violates human dignity and acts. It is a Indictment of poverty when refugees in Europe who are in such a catastrophic situation Are in a position to refuse help for political reasons.

Kolping Europe demands the European Union - but above all its member states - to meet their responsibilities immediately. It is not enough financial

3rd To provide help, but it must now be acted quickly and decisively in order to the people from these unworthy

and sometimes life-threatening conditions to get out. At the same time, the EU community is urged as soon as possible to find a common European solution. Save lives, the member states and the European Union will be judged by this have to.

Cologne, February 10, 2021

Margrit Unterstährer,  
European chairperson

Ulrich Vollmer,  
European secretary

Josef Holtkotte,  
European president