



Kolping Banner

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Congratulations to our “21 in ‘21” Scholarship Winners

When we posed the question of whether we should offer a Kolping Scholarship again, many were a bit skeptical, as interest had waned considerably in the past years. Would anyone participate? Would our younger family members be interested in answering essay questions about themselves and Father Kolping? Well, we found out and the answer was a resounding “YES!”

The scholarship committee was extremely please to have received the 32 applications, and even more impressed with how much thought and introspection was reflected in the essay submissions. It was not easy making the final selections, but we all agreed it was a fair, transparent and unbiased process – one we hope we can repeat next year.

We would like to give a special thanks to our scholarship committee - Anna Stukenborg, Monika Weiss, Marilee Uhlhorn and Lisa Brinkmann for all their efforts, ideas and time reviewing and rating the applications. And thanks to Ted Wilke for getting the checks out so quickly and thereby allowing the committee to hit its deadlines and get all monies to the recipient by the end of June.

Below are the names and Kolping family affiliation of this year’s scholarship winners:

High School Seniors (\$1,500)

Alex Geoppinger - Cincinnati
Nicolas Mibach - San Francisco
Aidan Wienkamp - Cincinnati

College Students (\$3,000)

Stephanie Ahrnsen - Cincinnati
Elizabeth Hoerstmann - Cincinnati
Erika Kupper - Cincinnati
Stephanie Mayer - Chicago
Sydney Scott - San Francisco

Congratulations, and thank you to ALL applicants for your thoughtful submissions.

Lisa Brinkmann

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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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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 ...

Do you feel like you have a case of "Covid Kopf?" I do. And I know it's not age-related! It dawned on me the other day that around 5:00, I start to think of the day as being over. I'm having a more difficult time motivating myself to get out and don't even ask me to get dressed up! I thought this was something just happening to me, but after polling neighbors walking by the house with their dogs, I realized I wasn't alone.

We've all been through a lot this past year and a half. On one hand, we are more than ready to get out and "party", while on the other side, we sometimes feel we need a blast of dynamite to actually do it. It's o.k. It'll happen. What will help is knowing that many of our Kolping families are starting to sponsor in-person programs and activities. We finally will have the chance to see our Kolping friends. And we are excited to do so. I encourage you to join in and begin participating again. It's good for the soul.

Reading through the many scholarship submissions, our committee quickly notice a common theme weaving through most of the responses to the essay on "how has Covid had a positive impact on you?" Applicant after applicant noted how the pandemic forced them to slow down, reflect on what was important in life, and realize the positive role of family and community. Many specifically reflected on times they spent at Kolping events with their parents and (great) grandparents and how these moments left important impressions which will last throughout their lives.

"Ever since I can remember, I have enjoyed participating in Kolping events – getting to know and meet members in addition to being able to see members of my own extended family while learning about my German heritage."

"At first I was reluctant to do manual labor during the hot summer days, but I decided to go with him (his grandfather) anyway...even though I thought it was going to be long and boring, I was surprised to find the work incredibly rewarding."

"Through these (Kolping) experiences, I understand what it means to see Christ in others and live a life of service."

"Just as Father Kolping spoke of it, I have learned the importance of community. There is no replacement for having a group of people to support and feel supported by."

As your local Kolping families start offering activities and programs, I encourage you to clear that "Covid Kopf", invite a friend or two, and enjoy the special opportunity we have in belonging to Kolping.

"I always get to where I'm going by walking away from where I have been."
Winnie the Pooh

Note: We will continue to include excerpts from the scholarship essays in future Banners.

Lisa Brinkmann

A Praeses Proclaims...

REFLECTIONS OF A NEW YORKER AS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH APPROACHES

By Fr. Christopher Heanue Praeses of the Brooklyn Kolping Society



It is hard to think that twenty years have passed since the life-changing events of September 11, 2001. Growing up I remember hearing the stories of “where were you when...” regarding national and world events, like the landing on the moon, or the JFK assassination, Princess Diana’s death. For most, because of my youth, I was not able to participate in the conversation. Yet, on a Tuesday morning, my first weeks as a freshman in high school, I remember where I was on September 11, 2001.

I remember the school secretary calling individual students down to the office. I remember our Manhattan-facing classroom window blinds being shut to not scare the students. I remember my name being called down to the office, where my mother was waiting for me to bring me home. I remember the phone lines seemingly eternally busy. I remember my mother informing that my father, a carpenter, was working in the financial district on a job at that time and we worried where he might be. I remember witnessing

“As a people of faith, we are called to never lose hope and trust in the power and providence of God.”

the collapse of the towers. The cloud of smoke billowing from downtown Manhattan, and the noxious smells that would follow.

As a teenager, I may not have truly grasped the events of September 11th, but I do know I learned a few life lessons on that day. I learned what evil was and how it could manifest itself. I learned by watching the examples of elders, how to practice patience, understanding and the power of prayer in times of trouble. I learned the power of community coming together and how a united spirit can accomplish anything. I learned that what could divide us as a country (our

political parties, our ideologies), didn’t matter as much as what united us, our common identity as Americans.

As a people of faith, we are called to never lose hope and trust in the power and providence of God. We are reminded in scripture, “A people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2), for God always shines His light on us, especially in troubling times.

Twenty years later, we find ourselves struggling through another world-changing event: the Covid-19 pandemic. There have been moments of great darkness, yet once again, we must remain hopeful and trust in the providence of God. There has been much to learn from this pandemic, as much as we learned about ourselves and our country during the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

In our lifetime there will be many, “where were you when...” experiences. Each one, life-changing, to which we often say, “Never Forget”. And I never will.

National Endowment Fund

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

In Memory of Elaine Wilke, deceased member of the Cincinnati Kolping Society

Helene Schrand, Cincinnati Kolping Society

Kolping Society National Endowment Fund
c/o Lisa Brinkmann

311 Greene Street | Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

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

CINCINNATI
Anni Wessels-Conrad

ROCHESTER
CLARE SEEGER

KOLPING SCHOLARSHIP

Team Kolping USA – Board members, trustees, Kolping family presidents and scholarship committee,

I want to thank everyone who made the new Scholarship program a possibility, from the first idea of it, to implementation and execution. It was truly a blessing to be a part of this project, and there are some very important things that I learned about our Kolping USA family.

Firstly, we have some extremely talented and devoted members. Working with Lisa, Monika, and Marilee made putting this project together a pleasure. Each person contributed their individual talents and knowledge to come up with a process, content and execution for the scholarship essays. Juggling busy schedules, going out of comfort zones with technology, and different time zones was a challenge, but these ladies are professional, respectful and kind.

Secondly, we, as an organization, have a great opportunity. As I was reading the essays, I came to realize just how important connections can be. Most of the applicants had some connection with Kolping through a family member, but had not made that connection a personal one. As would be expected, different applicants chose different aspects of Blessed Fr. Kolping's life to write about, but in writing their essays, they began the process of making that connection personal and relevant to themselves. Continuing to build those personal connections is such a great opportunity for Kolping USA!

Thirdly, reading these essays caused a realization of just how relevant Blessed Fr. Kolping's teachings are almost 200 years later. Technology has changed exponentially, governments and even entire countries have come and gone, but individuals still struggle to pursue professions that lead to financial stability, a rewarding and healthy family life, and most of all the love of Jesus Christ that Blessed Fr. Kolping so wanted to share with the world.

I feel that this Kolping National Scholarship Program is an extremely important program going into the future. It provides our organization an avenue to educate the applicants about Blessed Fr. Kolping and his teachings, encourage them on their journey by sharing his struggles and perseverance, and to financially support the next generations, as they work to better prepare themselves for what life has in store for them. I am certain that Blessed Fr. Kolping would be pleased with our endeavor!

Sincerely,

Anna Stukenborg
Vice President
Kolping Society of Cincinnati

International Kolping



Record donations in the year of the Coronavirus pandemic

(Cologne, 23-06-21) In its annual report 2020, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL looks back on a challenging year. Despite the difficult pandemic situation, the Catholic social association was able to support 171 projects in 41 countries, including educational and agricultural projects, income-generating measures, and well and cistern construction.

In addition to sustainable “help for self-help,” numerous emergency measures were also supported in 2020. “The Coronavirus crisis hit the poor and disadvantaged in the Global South particularly hard. Our local associations reported hunger and great suffering. Therefore, we created the Kolping Corona Fund and provided 29 Kolping associations with financial means for humanitarian aid”, reports General Praeses Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburger. The focus of this worldwide emergency aid was on the supply of food and hygiene articles as well as on health education so that the pandemic would not spread further.

In total, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL had around 10.7 million euros in revenue available for its work in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Central and Eastern Europe in 2020. Of this, around 5.8 million euros came from public funds (previous year: 6.9 million euros). In addition, the year of the Coronavirus pandemic saw the highest donation income in the history of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL at 4.78 million euros. Compared to 2019, this represents a strong increase of 21 percent, and a five-year average increase of 42 percent. The vast majority of donations come from within the association. “The pandemic sparked overwhelming solidarity,” says Managing Director Karin Wollgarten with gratitude. “More supporters than ever before got involved with KOLPING INTERNATIONAL to help people in need in the Global South.”

General Secretary Dr. Markus Demele also sees the Coronavirus crisis as an opportunity for change toward a more equitable global economy. “The virus has shown us forcefully that we are an interconnected world community and can only solve global problems together. There is no alternative to acting in solidarity. Together, we must now ensure that vaccines are distributed equitably and that the backward steps in poverty reduction that have occurred worldwide are made up for,” he stressed. This responsibility now lies primarily with the rich industrialized countries, he said. “But each and every one of us can also make a contribution to this: be it through mindfulness of global interrelationships, One World work, involvement in politics or donations.”



Rwanda: Emergency assistance

Donations to Kolping’s Corona Fund helped many Kolping Families in Rwanda to get small domestic animals. Farmers increase crop yields by using the animals’ manure and they can sell them at a profit. Former teacher Prosper Baziruwaha from Kamembe has reared piglets for many years and he makes more money selling pigs than living on his teacher salary. He earns enough money to send his children to school and to pay the school fees. Meanwhile, Prosper earns so much money that he donated 13 piglets to poor families in his neighborhood.

Pélagie Mukashema was given a solar panel for her house at the end of December 2020. Now she collects sufficient energy which is beneficial to her entire environment: Her four children who go to secondary school and to university can now study also in the evening since they have now got electric light. And her neighbours can use the power source to charge their mobile phones.

Thanks to a large donation of a Kolping brother, the KOLPING vocational training centre in Muramba has now electricity 24 hours a day: 24 large solar panels ensure that there is always sufficient electric energy. The trainees are very happy because they no longer have to worry about a power breakdown and they can use their machinery and tools all the time.

International Kolping

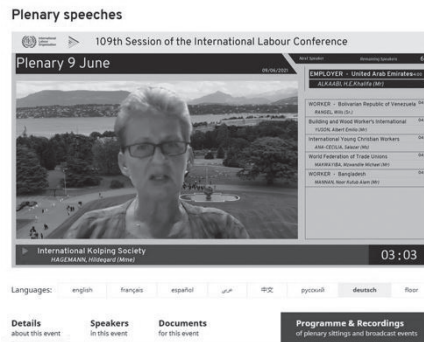


Ukraine: Traditional planting activities on Mother's Day

Traditional planting activities on Mother's Day: Getting people involved in brightening up a park in Ivano Frankivsk

The Kolping Family in Ivano-Frankivsk ran quite a few activities in May: "May has always been a busy month for us", says Volodymyr Schegda. The chairman of the Kolping Family tells us about plenty of activities: "This year is no exception: There are seminars and workshops for parents and nursery school teachers, an Easter marathon for families, a photo exhibition and workshops for children. We have a bakery that helps us support vulnerable families and last but not least there is the traditional planting of roses on Mother's Day!"

It has become a tradition in the Kolping Family to plant rosebushes in a public park on Mother's Day with the help of many volunteers. This special activity on this holiday is widely known and popular: residents and holidaymakers, internally displaced persons, representatives of local authorities, priests and the mayor all become active gardeners.



ILO-Session: Statement of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL

This afternoon, the representative of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL, Dr. Hildegard Hagemann, will give a speech at the online session of the the 109th Session of the International Labour Conference.

In her statement, Hagemann explains that the pandemic has shown in a dramatic and often existence-threatening way that essential work in our global growth-oriented society is often informal, undervalued and precarious. „Thereby, it is particularly to be valued and to be protected precisely in its concern and care for humans, society and the environment“, Hagemann says. „Here, a gap between claim and reality becomes clear because there are standards and recommendations of the ILO by ways to promote protection and resilience for working in the informal economy.“

“Members of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL have experienced in their local contexts, as on the one hand the limitation of mobility and weak digital infrastructure and, on the other hand, the lack of access to social security systems and government programs endanger the existence of entire economic groups. They have launched their own support programs in solidarity and concern and are now committed to strengthening the protection and resilience of informal workers by adequate formalisation steps.”

Dr. Hildegard Hagemann is currently working for KOLPING INTERNATIONAL in Ho Chi Minh City/ Vietnam and supports KOLPING in Asia in both association and project development.



Not there yet, but finally at the start

On June 11, 2021, the German parliament passed the so-called Supply Chain Act. Finally! Ulrich Vollmer, National Secretary of the Kolping Society of Germany, praised the passage as a major step for the benefit of human rights and the protection of our environment in supply chains. He went on to say that for the first time, companies producing goods abroad are held accountable. Experience has shown that voluntary commitments have been ineffective. According to Dr. Markus Demele, General Secretary of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL the adoption of the Supply Chain Act is a first step in the right direction, but it still has too many weaknesses.

The fact that this Act was finally adopted shortly before the end of the legislative period has been primarily the big success of a large number of civil society organizations who formed the "Supply Chain Act Initiative" in 2019 to fight for the passage of the Act. Ulrich Vollmer thanks all Kolping members who helped to campaign for the adoption of the Act. "Our activities in the past few months have helped to change some parts of this Act for the better. It will now also apply to large international companies with branch offices in Germany."

However, Dr. Markus Demele still sees some gaps left to be filled, such as civil liability and the legal protection of our climate and biodiversity. He underlines: "That is why we have not yet reached our goal, we have only started. Civil society must continue to campaign for a more effective Supply Chain Act!"



National Praeses Josef Holtkotte becomes auxiliary bishop

The Kolping Society of Germany and its Federal Praeses are pleased about the appointment as auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Paderborn by Pope Francis.

Pope Francis has appointed Federal President Josef Holtkotte as auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Paderborn. The episcopal ordination will take place on Sunday, September 26th, 2021 in the High Cathedral in Paderborn.

As Federal President, Holtkotte has been a member of the association management of the Kolping Society Germany since 2012 and is responsible for the spiritual direction of the cross-generational Catholic social association with its nationwide more than 220,000 members. In this task he is also active as the European President and a member of the General Council of Kolping International. "I got to know and appreciate Josef Holtkotte as an excellent preacher, who succeeds in bringing the good news to people in a good way. We appreciate his spiritual impulses, and his contributions to the association's conferences and events as well as in our association media are always an inspiration", says Ursula Groden-Kranich Member of the Bundestag, Federal Chairwoman of the Kolping Society of Germany. "We are pleased about his appointment." Holtkotte is a convincing as well as personable pastor who is devoted to people and is always guided by the ideals of the

association's founder, Adolph Kolping. "That is why people often turn to him with their personal worries and needs," said the federal chairwoman.

Holtkotte sees it as the task of the Kolping Society to act in the spirit of the association's founder in the midst of society and the church. For years he has been campaigning for spiritual leadership to be understood as an independent office that can be exercised by women and men. In his opinion, this process requires a lot of time, patience and strength - an experience that he also had as a member of the Synodal Assembly and the Synodal Forum "Women in Services and Offices in the Church". He has earned a high degree of appreciation and recognition for his ability to communicate, which is an important prerequisite for working in a cross-generational association.

Holtkotte has belonged to the Kolping Family Heilig Kreuz in Castrop-Rauxel and thus to the Kolping Society of Germany since early youth. After studying theology and philosophy in Paderborn and Vienna, he was ordained a priest in 1990. He was elected full-time Federal President of the Kolping Society of Germany in 2012. "With Josef Holtkotte, the Kolping Society of Germany is losing a highly esteemed leader with whom we have worked closely, well and trustingly. We are pleased about his appointment as auxiliary bishop and wish him in his new responsible office that he can spread blessings and happiness. Because, in the words of Blessed Adolph Kolping, this is the highest and best that a person can achieve in this world," says Ursula Groden-Kranich, who also assures him that the Kolping Society of Germany will remain connected to him in his new office.

Photo: Tobias Schulte / Archdiocese of Paderborn



Focus on Project

AIDS Orphans: Learning even during lockdown

While corona figures are falling in Europe, the number of infected people in Africa is rising, because hardly anyone has received a vaccination yet. In Uganda, the government has therefore just declared a six-week Lockdown. This means that most people will lose their income - and very few will have any savings to fall back on. In Uganda, this also affects the AIDS orphans supported by KOLPING.

"The situation is alarming," says Margaret Kawooya, director of the AIDS orphans program in Mityana. The schools are closed for many weeks, so the 143 children and young people are living in their foster families again. This also means no more healthy school lunch. The schools have switched to homeschooling, but most of the children do not have access to the Internet, PC, mobile phone or tablet. Therefore, Margaret Kawooya and her team photocopy the didactic materials for their foster children. With 143 children, this adds up to unplanned costs.

The director is also concerned that many children in the Lockdown will have to work instead of learning. Since many foster families are poor, the children help earn money. Margaret Kawooya is also involved here: so that the AIDS orphans and their families do not have to go hungry, they receive food, facemasks and disinfectant

(continued on page 8)



**CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY
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(Focus on Project cont'd)

spray. Many of the foster parents are already of advanced age and are thus particularly vulnerable. "We are asking the Kolping community for support so that we can get a grip of the situation of the children and their families before it gets out of control," says Margaret Kawooya.

Please help the AIDS orphans in Uganda with your donation so that they have the possibility to learn during the Lockdown and not go hungry. Your donation will help provide the AIDS orphans and their families with school materials and food.



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