

# Kolping Banner

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## Christmas Greetings 2021



Dear Kolping Sisters and Kolping Brothers in the United States of America,

The last few months, or rather the last two years, have been characterized by extraordinary circumstances, not only here in Europe, but also in the United States. Traits that make us human beings so special, like when we share a spirit of community and togetherness or interact with our family and friends – all of this became impossible. Vaccinations finally made it possible for us to return step by step to our old life. Still, we are not yet back to normal.

The feeling of being restricted, threatened and imperfect is similar to the situation into which Jesus Christ was born more than 2,000 years ago. People had been eagerly waiting for God’s message. They had put their trust in someone who is coming to bring light into their darkness, to free them from fear, and to show them new paths to a good life. Jesus did this in a very different way than what many people had expected of him. Born in poverty, as part of a family on the margins of society, he taught us from his birth the message: we human beings can free ourselves from fear only if we rely on and care about one another, if we share our lives, our worldly possessions, our time, our whole life with one another. Everything else leads to narrowness and ultimately to loneliness.

In our Kolping Families and in our worldwide Association we practice again and again how to show solidarity, to be there for one another, to help each other. Not only within our Kolping Families and within our Association but with all people we meet. The child in the manger finally grows up to a human being who is not eager to acquire and possess things, who does not thirst for fame and recognition, but who offers service, love and companionship.

Based on the principles of Adolph Kolping and the gift of the Holy Night in our hearts, let us be confident about the upcoming months in the New Year, full of hope that we will soon be free from the constraints of the global pandemic and that we will be comforted for the losses and fears experienced in the past months.

Merry Christmas to you! May your Christmas this year bring you good luck, good health and the blessings of God who became human through his son. Let us follow his love together.

TREU KOLPING,

**Msgr. Christoph Huber**  
General Praeses

**Dr. Markus Demele**  
General Secretary

**Karin Wollgarten**  
Managing Director



Msgr. Christoph Huber



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.

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**Rochester, New York Kolping Family**, 284 Malden Street, Rochester, NY 14615-2658,

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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 ...

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

It feels a bit odd sending these wishes already, especially since I'm sitting out on the deck in a t-shirt and shorts! O.K. maybe if I were writing this a few weeks ago, I'd be lamenting the atmospheric river and cyclonic bomb that rained down on us. But in both cases, I am grateful, as we desperately needed the rain and am happily enjoying the warmth.

I'm actually a bit tired as it's been a long year. Our downpours created a leak in San Francisco's Kolping Hall roof, damaged the ceiling and caused the floors to buckle - and parquet floors do buckle in wonderful patterns. Roofers, plumbers, floor guys and contractors have been in and out, giving their opinions and quoting the jobs, and of course, there was the insurance adjuster. Yet somehow in the midst of all this, I can still say we were lucky - it could have been worse.

It's hard during trying times to stay positive, but, hey, what's the alternative? Maintaining an optimistic outlook turns out to be good for your health. Positive thinking can help you live longer, strengthen immunity to disease, lower blood pressure, and reduce stress! It has also been noted that the small act of smiling can increase positivity around you and help you maintain your own optimism.

Looking out to 2022 I am hopeful that we will see our activities resume, local memberships rebound and a new energy infuse our Kolping Families. We are excited to (finally) be able to catch up with one another at the convention in Cincinnati. Our scholarship program has been funded again for the upcoming year, so stay tuned for more details. Our support of the Kenyan Lenten project reaffirmed our commitment to building the spirit of Father Kolping around the world. It's all good and worth a big smile.

In the spirit of optimism, I wish you all a blessed, happy and healthy New Year.

*"Keep looking up....that's the secret of life."* - Snoopy

Lisa Brinkmann

## National Kolping 2022 Scholarship Program

Attention college/university scholars, trade school students and high school seniors! The National Kolping Society is offering another scholarship program for 2022. Details will be available in the next Kolping Banner, so stay tuned!!

We also welcome any Kolping member who would like to serve on the scholarship committee to contact Lisa Brinkmann, Anna Stukenborg, Marilee Uhlhorn or Monika Weiss.



# A Praeses Proclaims...

## THIS ALONE IS REQUIRED

By Fr. Richard Bretone  
National Praeses and Praeses of the New York Kolping Society

What a blessing to be writing you this year! It is with a sorrowful heart that we begin our Christmas reflection, because of the sadness that some of our members feel having lost loved ones due to this very virulent virus that has plagued our world for two years.

We do grieve for them and for us, and we do feel the loss. However, we also approach all things in life with our Christian faith that tells that this life on earth is a place of passage, and that we are here to work through, to accomplish, with God's help, our salvation. All our lives are in His hands, and we are led home in His way, a way that cares for all creatures, even the sparrow (see, Mt 10:28). How much more does he care for you and me! Our loved ones are now at rest and they await our return.

In the meantime, we live the life that God gives us each day--receiving another opportunity to do justice and walk humbly with our God:

He has shown you,  
O man, what is good;  
and what does the  
Lord require of you  
but to do justice,  
and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

(Mc 6:8, RSV)

This Christmas season is the time to put this admonition of the prophet Micah into practice.

To do justice is to give each person in our lives what they deserve. What a difference we can make in those people who may have suffered during these last two years. We can give them encouragement and emotional support. What was stripped away because of this virus, we can now restore to them by instilling hope and confidence, and a sense that the worst is over. We move forward, from this day, with faith.

We can also love kindness, and express this kindness very appropriately during the Christmas season by generously giving to others what they need from God. We can be God's Christmas helpers in fulfilling the needs of others, especially those who may be struggling financially this Christmas. We can help by providing items for their Christmas dinner; or if they are alone, perhaps have them join our family. If they have no gifts to exchange with their family,

we can purchase gifts. If they need some confidence and courage, or reassurance and peace, then we can invite them to Christmas Mass to receive the Prince of Peace Himself.

If we do all this, and we do it like the prophet Micah suggests—as servants walking humbly with our God, then truly this will be for each of us our very best Christmas, because we will be participating in the very life of our God—Jesus, the Christ!

Walking humbly with Him, we become the new apostles, the new evangelizers of our afraid and needy world. How blest are we to be chosen! Indeed, we are just following our founder's, Fr. Kolping's, example: we are humbling serving our God by serving one another.

Merry Christmas!  
Treu Kolping!

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

CINCINNATI  
*Heinz Meyerrose*

SAN FRANCISCO  
*Ron Kapp*  
*Marianne Kress*

# Catholic Kolping Society of Brooklyn

On Tuesday evening, September 14 some of our Kolping members got together to socialize and to 'break in' a recent addition to the Center, new barstools. We had a great time and we are thinking of having regularly scheduled informal gatherings, probably on Friday nights so more can attend. Thanks for coming out Tuesday night!



*We reunited with long-time member Margarete Knapp, visiting from Florida.*



*Alice Kokasch, Trudy, Anne Novotny, Rose Rom*



*Linda Knapp, Inge Jellen, John Jellen, Margarete Knapp*



*Margaret Knapp & Anne Novotny*



*Pat Gerage, Chris Gerage, Jessica Meyer & Sonia Juran Kulesza*



*Margarete Knapp & Bill Conte*

## New York Kolping

Greetings National Kolping Family!

New York Kolping faced many challenges in the "covid era" like everyone and we were happy to start getting a bit back to normal in the Summer and Fall of 2021. Our residence in the Bronx continues to serve an almost-full house despite the challenges our guests faced keeping up with the bills. On 88th Street in Manhattan, our primary market was overseas male students and interns. This pipeline pretty much dried up during the shutdowns of 2020. It inspired some creativity and our talented house manager and board of directors designated a special space for female guests. Our occupancy rates are ticking upwards helping us move our profit and loss statements to a better balance. Our third house - up on the Hudson River - was better suited to deal with the pandemic challenges

since we have so much outdoor space. This Summer we returned to a full schedule of activities - Mothers Day and Fathers Day dinners, Memorial Day and Independence Day Barbecues, New Member Initiations, Tropical Night, Murder Mystery Night, Oktoberfest and Schlachtfest. We even piloted a new event - the Clam Bake - which was a terrific success with new people coming to join us on a beautiful day, live music from Father Jones Band whose lead singer is our member, Dan McGill, and a good time had by all in attendance. Our longtime manager, Heidi Umland, retired at the end of 2020 so 2021 also brought us an experiment as five couples led by Al Vogl and Tracie Truncellito oversaw the operations of our incredibly beautiful home on the Hudson.

Our New York Kolping Family marched in the 62nd annual Steuben Day German American Friendship Parade. Our President, Gerhard Schmitt,

and our Treasurer, Peter Carruthers, served as flag bearers and guided our group up the parade route. It's always great fun to march up Fifth Avenue in NYC dressed in our Kolping colors and lederhosen and dirndls. Our youngest members ride bikes and scooters - a few ride in strollers. If you're ever in NYC in mid-September, be sure to make time to view this fabulous parade.

We look forward to coming together for a memorial Mass in November to remember all our deceased members, particularly those we lost in the past year - Bob Doyle, Norma Curtin, Joan Sartorius, Ed Stinson and Antonia Rehrl.

We will finish 2021 with a St Nikolaus celebration on Sunday December 5th at our Kolpinghaus in NYC. We'll celebrate Mass together, enjoy a wonderful meal, and, if we're on the nice list, Santa may drop in to greet us.

Treu Kolping!

# Kolping International's New General Praeses

Msgr. Christoph Huber is the new General Praeses of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL

(Cologne, 30-10-2021) During today's International Board of Directors' meeting of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL, which was held online due to the pandemic, 37 delegates from 29 countries elected Msgr. Christoph Huber (53) as the new General Praeses of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL with a large majority. We are all very happy that he has accepted the election and will already move to Cologne next week for his new task. He will preside over the International Executive Board and will lead the worldwide Association together with the International Executive Committee.

Christoph Huber was born in Bavaria (Germany), where he has been involved in the leadership of the Kolping Society in Munich and Freising since 2010, as well as being the Regional Praeses of the Kolping Society of Bavaria. He is highly motivated for the step into the international Kolping arena and into the One World work: "It is a joy and an honour for me to serve the Kolping brothers and Kolping sisters worldwide as General Praeses. In doing so I would like to focus on the value of community which I always experience at Kolping. We are Kolping – all of us together. I believe it must be the first goal to promote this. And from the community grows our effectiveness in projects and actions. If we stand

closely together worldwide, Adolph Kolping will lead us into a good future. I am convinced of that."

Msgr. Christoph Huber is thus the tenth successor of Adolph Kolping. The term of office is ten years, re-elections are possible. His official inauguration as General Praeses will take place on December 4, the Kolping Memorial Day, with a festive holy service in the Minorite Church in Cologne (broadcast live on domradio.de).

Former General Praeses, Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburger, congratulated him warmly on the successful election: "With Christoph Huber we have found an excellent successor for the office of General Praeses. I am convinced that he will fill the office authentically, with commitment and with joy." Ottmar Dillenburger did not run again for General Praeses after the expiration of his ten-year term. He is returning to his home diocese of Trier, where he has been appointed Senior Priest Counselor and Head of the Department of "Pastoral Care and Pastoral Personnel" in the Episcopal Vicariate General.

In addition to the election of the General Praeses, the International Board of Directors focused on two other personnel matters:

In the election of the General Secretary, Dr. Markus Demele was confirmed in his office for another six years by a large majority. "I am happy and grateful

to be able to continue to work for our international Association. The Church as a whole and each of the countries in which there are Kolping Families needs the energy and the sense for the common good. Adolph Kolping has charged us with both. KOLPING is growing worldwide and helps each and every individual in his or her personal growth. It is an honour for me to be able to participate in this", says the former and new General Secretary.

In addition, five further members were elected to the International Executive Board of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL. This Board remains unchanged in its composition: Manuel Hörmeyer (Kolping Society Germany), Erich Reischmann (KOLPING Switzerland), Paul Nguyen Huu Nghia Hiep (KOLPING Vietnam), Dancille Mujawamariya (KOLPING Rwanda) and Rufino Rodríguez (KOLPING Honduras) were confirmed in office for another four years.

The next International Board of Directors' meeting of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL is scheduled to take place in Cologne/Germany in 2023. Markus Demele: "We are relieved that we were able to hold today's meeting digitally across all continents. However, this is not a substitute for the lively exchange in personal togetherness. We pray and hope that regional, continental and also international meetings will soon be possible again."

## Curriculum vitae Christoph Huber

Msgr. Christoph Huber was born in Reit im Winkl, Upper Bavaria, in 1967 and grew up there. After studying theology in Munich and a one-year internship in Zimbabwe, he was ordained priest in Freising in 1998. Huber then served as chaplain in the district of Erding (1998-2001), as parish priest in Munich-Feldmoching (2001-2007) and as regional parish priest of the southern region in the archdiocese of Munich and Freising (2007-2010). In 2010 he was elected Diocesan Praeses of the Kolping Society in Munich and Freising and Regional Praeses in Bavaria. In 2012 Pope Benedict XVI conferred on him the title of Monsignor.

# The National Administrator Writes

2021 has become a year for healing and trying to get back to our normal routines. Vaccinations have become very important for the recovery of the world, as well as trying to get back to our daily lives.

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 2022. I thank everyone who participated in the 2021 raffle. Your support is greatly appreciated for the running of the National Office.

The Scholarship Committee questioned this year as to whether or not we should offer a Kolping Scholarship again. The answer was a resounding "Yes." They received 32 applications and they did not have an easy time making the final decisions. They awarded three scholarships to high school seniors and five scholarships to college students. They hope to repeat this next year.

As you are aware, the 43rd National Convention, being hosted by the Cincinnati Kolping Family, had again been postponed due to the pandemic. Please mark your calendars for September 9, 10, 11, 12, 2022 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 Kolping Kenya. 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 reporters 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  
William Conte  
Mary Frances Dolland  
Veronika Kessling

Laura Mahrenholz  
Nancy Pelzel  
John Reitter  
Ted Wilke

On behalf of my 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.



*May the peace and hope of Christmas  
Be with you throughout the New Year*

*The Editor and Staff of the Kolping Banner*

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



*From  
The Los Angeles Kolping Society*

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*Merry Christmas*

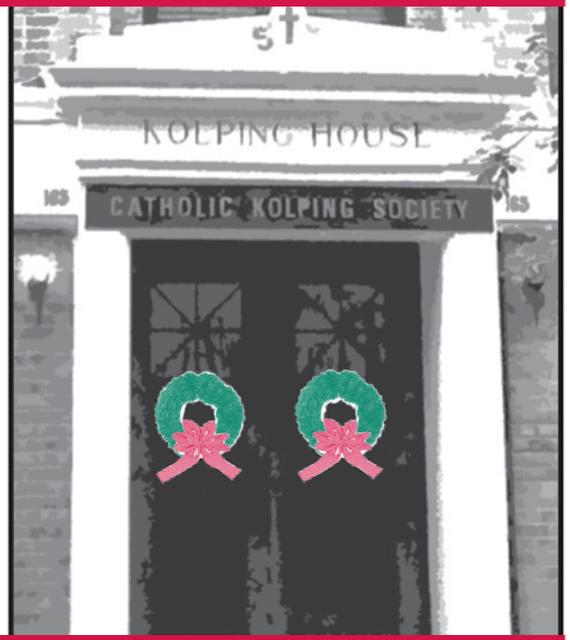


**FROM THE  
KOLPING KICKS  
SOCCER CLUB  
OF  
ST. LOUIS MO**



*Seasons  
Greetings!*  
*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

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



*The Chicago  
Kolping Family*



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Wishing you all a Merry Christmas  
and a healthy, happy 2022



The San Francisco Kolping Society



*The blessing of hope,  
And the peace of His love.  
At Christmas time  
And through the year.*

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. -John 3:16

**The Brooklyn Kolping Family wishes you a blessed  
Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

*May the peace of  
Christ Jesus  
fill your hearts this  
Christmas  
and bring happiness  
to you in 2022*

*from the  
Cincinnati Kolping Family*

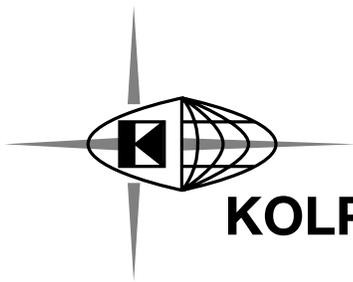


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**BEST WISHES FOR  
A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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

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





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*Mary Littell*

*The blessings of peace, the beauty of hope,  
The spirit of love, the comfort of faith.  
May these be your gifts this Christmas season.*