

Kolping Banner

Official Publication of the Catholic Kolping Society of America | Vol. 98 - No. 2 | December 2022

Christmas Greetings 2022



Dear Kolping Sisters and Kolping Brothers,

We are waiting for Christmas to come. The year 2022 has been a very challenging year for the Kolping community all over the world: in the Ukraine people are struggling with war. But we have experienced that Kolping Sisters and Kolping Brothers are doing their best to help wherever possible and the solidarity from all over the world is still very touching. In Africa and other parts of the world, the consequences of the war are worrying people because of increasing prices for fertilizer etc. Here, Kolping farmers are better off because of the growing methods they were taught in courses and thanks to practical help by raising goats. And there are many other things which are troubling people in our days, like the climate change, political developments, private situations. But everywhere I go people give testimony to the truth that belonging to a strong community is necessary to cope with the challenges and it is a big joy to share life in good and bad times.

And this is the mystery of Christmas: God himself shares life with us, in good and bad times. And it is, I at least do hope so, the experience within our Kolping associations and the international movement: we belong together in good and bad times, we share our joy of life and we try to help one another wherever we can.

I wish you a good time for Christmas and thank you very, very much for all your solidarity you have shown in the last year and I do count on you in the year to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christoph Huber'.

Msgr. Christoph Huber
General Praeses



Msgr. Christoph Huber

National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund received the following contributions for the months of October 15, 2022 to November 15, 2022

*In memory of Joseph Fragner, Melanie Fragner and Wolfgang Urbat
Los Angeles Kolping Society*

*In memory of Donald Rheker
Detroit Kolping*

Kolping Society National Endowment Fund

c/o Lisa Brinkmann
311 Greene Street
Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

In the Banner this Month:

From the President's Desk . . . page 2

A Praeses Proclaims page 3

News from Brooklyn page 4

National Administrator page 6

International News page 8

Kolping Banner

The Kolping Banner, published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Catholic Kolping Society of America.

Subscription Rates are \$13.00 per year, \$1.35 per issue, and \$1.00 for bulk orders over 100 plus postage. Back issues are available; by mail, all back issues \$2.50 including first class postage.

Send subscription requests with check, materials for publication, and address changes by the 10th of the preceding month to the Catholic Kolping Society of America, P. O. Box 4907, Clifton, NJ, 07015-4907, Telephone: 1-877-659-7237, e-mail: PATFARKAS@optonline.net.

Typesetting, Layout and Printing by Peerless Printing Company, 2250 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45206, 513-721-4657. Mailing by Performance Mailing, 2250 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45206, 513-241-5055. Postage paid at Cincinnati, Ohio, Permit No. 1474.

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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 ...



Merry Christmas everyone and here's to a happy New Year!

I don't know about you, but honestly, this year has exhausted me. Between Covid, the political environment, inflation and "stuff", I can't wait to start a brand-new year! I'm looking forward to getting back to a more normal routine, where seeing friends and planning activities is no longer a big deal.

Granted, this year brought with it some great milestones. For the Kolping it meant a successful convention after a long delay, the celebration of 150 years for Chicago, a record-breaking Schutzenfest in Cincinnati and re-initiating in-person activities for most of our Kolping Families. Our scholarship program generated insightful and helpful recommendations for engaging younger people/members and we can proudly know we've provided much-needed financial support to our Kenyan Kolping brothers and sisters as they added a major drought to their challenges.

Our 2024 convention committee has already met and has a jumpstart on plans – so mark your calendars (in pencil) for the weekend of September 6-8, 2024. We'll be working on the scholarship program for 2023 before you know it, and our committees for the Junior Kolping Meet-Up and loan program will be starting up after the holidays. We still have one committee – social media – that is in dire need of members. With Twitter a twit and Facebook losing face, I'm not sure which direction this will be going, but if you're interested in helping, please let me know!

All these activities aside, I hope everyone is able to celebrate the birth of Christ with family and friends. Because, really, that's what the Christmas season is all about.

While it sounds like a cliché, time does pass very quickly, and moments missed can never be recaptured. Let's all try to capture as many special memories as we can together and help make memories for those who may not be able to do so themselves.

I wish you all a very blessed, happy Christmas.

Lisa Brinkmann

"Sometimes the smallest things take up the most space in your heart."
- Winnie the Pooh



A Praeses Proclaims...

BLESSINGS UPON OUR SOULS AND OUR KOLPING FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS

By Fr. Richard Bretone

National Praeses and Praeses of the New York Kolping Society

What a blessing to be writing you once again at the end the year. Thank God we are past the pandemic and now on to getting our country and our world in order. I could mention all the things we need to do on a national and international level, however, it would be like recounting all the many things we have heard repeated over and over during our recent elections.

The order of our world is often beyond our immediate control, but there is something we can focus on this holiday season and that is in our control. It is the order within our soul. The order of the soul from higher to lower would be: intellect, will and passions.

The intellect is where, we as human beings, are most uniquely human, and where we can unite to God through our consciences and our reason. Our will is the place where we choose correctly the things of God in this world. Our passions or desires can be focused upon maintaining our vigilance and motivation on our pathways to God. Passions, ruled by reason and guided by the will, keep us moving in the flow of God's love throughout our lives. This can be a really good time to ask oneself a few holiday questions with this "order of the soul" in mind.

Over the course of the past year, where did we place our attention? Were we concerned about the many things and distractions of the world? Were we worried about all the possibilities of things not working

out, that is, were we caught-up in the negativity that seems to feed our news and information?

On the other hand, did we use our intellect and reason well so as to grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God? Did we attend church regularly? Did we pray often, and above all, did we thank God for all of our blessings?

If we did the latter, then, perhaps, our will was moved to volunteer in civic and religious endeavors. We put away salacious entertainment and we took up the rosary and spiritual reading. Our imaginations were inspired and our desires followed.

Seeing the world correctly from this spiritual perspective, we longed to see a world free from stress and anxiety! We grieved over the loss of people due to drugs and human trafficking. We ached that religion, and especially our beloved Christianity was on the decline; and we longed for the days of simple values and simple mentoring into the ways of maturity for our youth.

Motivated and energized, we will bring these longings into our respective Kolping Families, and we realize that we have a structure and a voice that can actuate our desires for a family with traditional values, and a support system that can make it work.

Kolping is a place where the ordered soul can once again begin to live a faith-filled ordered life. What better

place to spend our time and energy, our imagination and know-how! At the end of our Kolping Meetings one of the family members yells out, "Treu Kolping" and we all respond "Kolping Treu!"

Long live Fr. Kolping and everything he stood for! May this be the year he is accepted for full canonization, and may we live the order that he instilled in all his families!

Merry Christmas everyone, and a blessed and Happy New Year!

Fr. Richard J. Bretone

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

CHICAGO

Beth Anne Swiatowiec

CINCINNATI

Bernadette Brunsman

Michael Hasenfratz

George Ostendorf

Erma Vosseberg

DETROIT

Donald Rheker

Catholic Kolping Society of Brooklyn

Greetings, Kolping Sisters & Brothers! By the time you read this we will already be in the Holiday Season, so we'll take this opportunity to wish everyone a belated Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and all the best wishes for the New Year.

Going back to September, we want to thank our Cincinnati Convention hosts for everything they did to make our stay so comfortable. Covington, KY was a great home base for our Convention, and oh, those views from our hotel rooms across the river, Bengals Stadium on the left, Roebling Bridge center and the Great American Ball Park (home of the Reds) to our right. And once it got dark outside and the lights came on the view was more spectacular. Four of us from Brooklyn attended, Pat & Chris Gerage, myself and our Vice President Jessica Meyer - this was her first convention. In addition to our hosts, a big thank you to our National President and Officers. Lisa Brinkmann. is a great facilitator and it's amazing how much was accomplished in one day. We visited and enjoyed hospitality at the Cincinnati Kolping Center. The Mass Sunday morning was very moving. Everything culminated with brunch on a Riverboat Cruise, where we said our goodbyes. It was worth waiting four years to attend this convention!



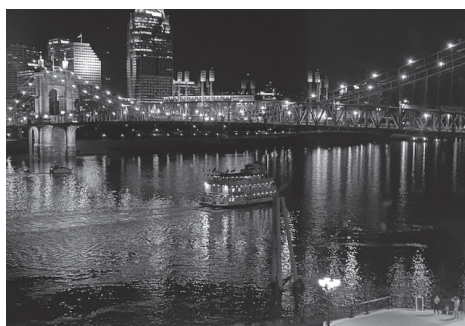
Jessica Meyer & Bill Conte took a moment out at Saturday's Banquet for this photo.



Pat & Chris Gerage posed in the Cincinnati Kolping Center.



Bill met up with Robert Sommer, Cincinnati member and grandson of our late Brooklyn members Ida & John Sommer. Robert was a frequent visitor to our Kolping Center in his college years.



Who wanted to go to sleep with this view out your window?

Once we returned home, the focus was on our upcoming Mass and Communion Supper, scheduled for Saturday, September 24. Our Praeses had a busy calendar, and we reached out to a new friend, Father Johny Changan Thomas, who celebrated Mass at our Center for the very first time. This was our first Kolping Mass since Autumn, 2019, and was in memory of the several members we lost in that time.



Above: During our Mass

Below: Group shot after Mass concluded



Immediately after the Mass the group moved into the meeting room. The first order of business was to present our 2022 Distinguished Service award plaque to Albert Tscherne. Albert joined the Society in 1953, and over the years has served in various roles including Corresponding Secretary and Board of Directors member. He is still on our board and Kolping benefits tremendously from the knowledge and wisdom he brings.



69 year Brooklyn member Albert Tscherne receives the 2022 Kolping Distinguished Service Award from Bill Conte

We then remembered and honored our past presidents, Evelyn Heller Blatz and Steve Wenzler, who both passed away in 2020. Bill Conte gave remembrances of both Steve and Evelyn. To get started, he donned

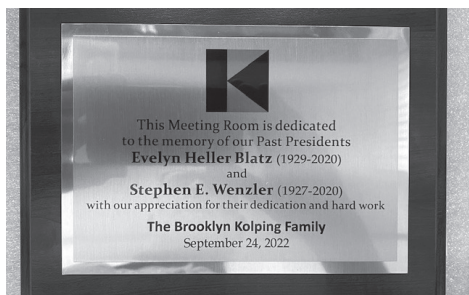
one of the Kolping jackets Steve was very fond of, and suspected he was smiling down on all this. Bill shared many fond memories of them both, and he was followed by Diane Wenzler, and then Jeffrey Blatz who added some memories of their respective parents, and what Kolping meant to each of them. Finally, we dedicated the meeting room and the new Kolping Archives to their memory, Father Johny blessed the room and plaque, ending the ceremony in prayer.



Steve Wenzler & Evelyn Blatz (seated) in 2009. Bill Conte wearing one of our vintage Kolping jackets that Steve Wenzler was fond of.



Diane Wenzler (third from right in white sweater) sharing memories of her Dad, Steve Wenzler. On the left looking on are Michelle & Jeff Blatz (blue shirt), Evelyn Heller Blatz' daughter in law and son. Jeff also shared memories of his Mom.



The plaque that Fr. Johny blessed and now hangs next to the archives in our Meeting Room.

Following the dedication we enjoyed a bratwurst, kraut and potato salad dinner, prepared and served by our resident chef and member, Chris Gerage. Thanks to Father Johny, to Evelyn and Steve's family members who came, and everyone who attended and especially those who helped along, both in and out of the kitchen.

Finally, we had our Autumn/Halloween Pot Luck Social on Saturday, October 22. Our potluck socials are a new idea to get our members and friends together at the Center. As sometimes happens, a few regular members (including a few kids) were busy and couldn't attend. But we welcomed 25 adults and six children to the Kolping Center - some in costume!

There was more than enough food, including deviled eggs, sauerbraten, pulled pork, stuffed cabbage, and chili, to name a few items. This was complemented by some side dishes like baked macaroni & cheese and a delicious homemade German potato salad. Desserts included apple pie a-la-mode, brownies, cupcakes, and berries. No one went hungry for sure!



A colorful appetizer ready for the pot-luck buffet.

There were activities for the children. They started off by decorating pumpkins, there was a ring toss game, a bean bag toss, and corn hole was set up on the dance floor and enjoyed throughout the evening. But the event that brought the generations together was a Halloween version of bingo, played for token prizes. We were all given a ballot and voted for 'best costumes' in several categories, with awards presented.



Fun activities for kids of all ages!

This event was planned by Pat Gerage and Jessica Meyer. Thanks go to Paula & Sean Josten, Gary & Valerie Meyer, Laura & John Murphy and Bill Conte who helped and kept things moving along. Everyone who attended said they had a nice time, and they are looking forward to our Christmas party on December 10!

Treu Kolping, Bill Conte

The National Administrator Writes

December is a time of celebration, a celebration of the Birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. May he give us hope for the coming 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 2023. I thank everyone who participated in the 2022 raffle. Your support is greatly appreciated for the running of the National Office.

We are again offering Kolping Scholarships for 2023. There will be more information in the Banner regarding applications and there is always information on the Kolping website.

The 43rd National Convention was held the weekend of September 9, 10, 11 and 12th. I would personally like to thank Cincinnati Kolping for hosting this event. It was not an easy task and had to be postponed two times because of COVID. They did a wonderful job and there were only good comments about the convention. Again thank you for your hard work. It was a success!

In February we will again be starting the Lenten Project and continuing with Kolping Kenya. In the next Banner there will be more information as to what aspect we will be aiding Kolping Kenya,

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 personally send me articles on the events of your society.

Lisa Brinkmann
William Conte
Mary Frances Dolland
Carol Ideler

Paul Leifholtz
Laura Mahrenholz
Nancy Pelzel
Ted Wilke

On behalf of myself and my family, I wish each of you a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and especially a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Patricia Farkas



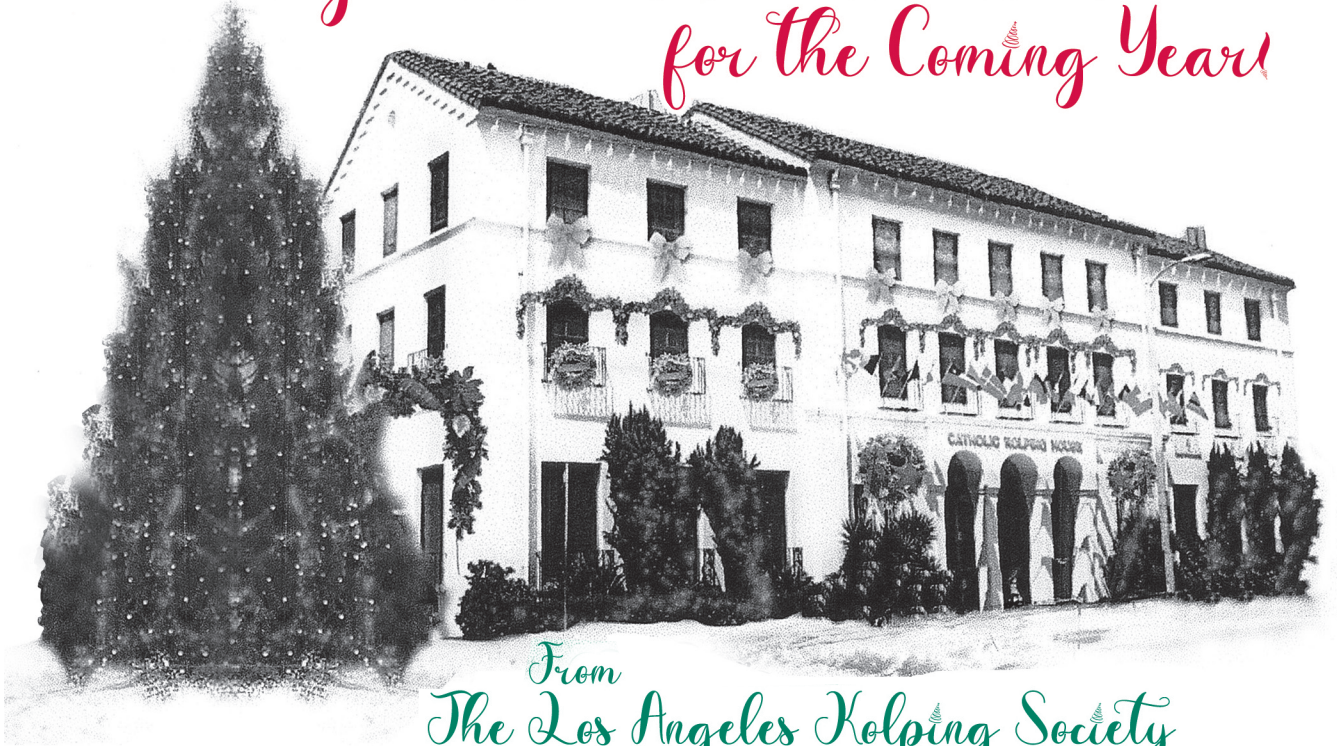
Holiday Greetings

*from the Kolping Family
in
Rochester N.Y.*



*A Joyous Christmas to you.
The Editor and Staff of the Kolping Banner*

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



*From
The Los Angeles Kolping Society*

Merry Christmas



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



from the
St. Louis
Kolping
Family

May you have the gift of Faith,
the blessing of Hope,
and the peace of His love
at Christmas and always

**Best wishes for a
Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year**



CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

PRAESES: REV. RICHARD J. BREONE | PRESIDENT: GERHARD SCHMITT | VICE PRESIDENT: KATRINA DENGLER

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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***



Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas
and a blessed
New Year



**The San Francisco
Kolping Family**

The Brooklyn Kolping Family



*Sends our warmest regards to
All our Kolping Sisters &
Brothers for a blessed Christmas,
and best wishes for a healthy
and happy 2023.*

**And she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name Jesus:
for he shall save his people
from their sins.**

Matthew 1:21

*May the peace of
Christ Jesus
fill your hearts this
Christmas
and bring happiness
to you in 2023*

*from the
Cincinnati Kolping Family*



BEST WISHES FOR A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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



To All Our
KOLPING BROTHER AND SISTERS

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the
DETROIT KOLPING FAMILY





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International Kolping



Myanmar: A visit that brings hope

The first ever visit of a KOLPING General Praeses to Myanmar has taken place recently. The Southeast Asian country has had a very dedicated association for 16 years, which implements the ideas of Adolph Kolping with a lot of courage and achieves great things even in times of crisis. It was unclear for a long time whether the visit of General Praeses Msgr Christoph Huber and Desk Officer Martin J. Rüber could take place at all.



Cameroon: A Kolping association on the move

During his visit to Cameroon, General Secretary Markus Demele finds a lively association with many dedicated members. Hardly noticed by the general public in Europe, Cameroon has been kept in suspense for many years by a civil war in the north and west of the country. "In the shadow of these disputes, a Kolping association has developed step by step over the past few years, which is supported by incredibly committed Kolping sisters and Kolping brothers who work as volunteers." says Markus Demele



Ukraine: Visit to the land of those who are confident of victory

Gregor Federhen, our desk officer responsible for Central and Eastern Europe, has just returned from his trip to Ukraine. He visited primarily projects and the work with refugees in the town of Uzhhorod, near the Slovakian border, where a very active Kolping Family is providing humanitarian aid. Here he describes some of the impressions he had of the current situation in the country.