



Kolping Banner

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2023 Kolping Kenya Lenten Project

As we approach another Lenten Season and the 2023 Kolping USA Lenten project for the benefit of our Kolping Brother's and Sister's in Kenya I wanted to highlight the results of our Lenten projects over the years with Kolping Kenya. Since our initial Lenten project in 2018 through our 2022 Lenten Project, Kolping USA has donated \$92,081.00 to Kolping Kenya which has funded the purchase of 502 goats in 24 different Kolping families throughout Kenya.

The goat project has been a success, but in speaking with the National Director of Kolping Kenya – Patrick Kioko some of the challenges facing the membership has been several years of diminished rainfall. This has resulted in some challenges including more expensive feed for the goats, a struggle to obtain water and trying to balance the need for household water with the need to water the goats.

In response to the drought conditions recently experienced in Kenya we discussed at the National

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Kolping Scholarship Update

At our last convention, the Board and delegates all agreed that we should continue with our scholarship program for college, university and trade school students, as well as high school seniors.

Our committee is starting its work on it now and will have all the essay questions available to applicants by March 15th. The submissions will be due by April 30th.

As in previous years, applicants must be active members and/or their immediate family. Active members are those who have been members of the Kolping Society for two or more years. Immediate family members are spouses/partners, children and (great)grandchildren. We hope that part of the application process, our members can encourage them to consider joining!

Please spread the word and check our website at kolping.org for the details.

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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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 ...

Welcome 2023!

This year certainly has started off with a bang! We're in the midst of another atmospheric river here in California and our poor Kolping brothers and sisters in Buffalo are probably just digging out of the terrible snow from the Artic blizzard. By the time you've read this, we will have witnessed history as Pope Francis presides over the burial of Pope Benedict XVI and maybe our Congress will have a new House speaker.

Interestingly enough, Blessed Father Kolping and Pope Benedict XVI shared some very basic values that have withstood the test of time – namely the importance of the individual and of having purpose in life.

Pope Benedict is known to have said, "I would like to remind everyone, especially governments engaged in boosting the world's economic and social assets, that the primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity." He also offers the importance of having a purpose, "The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."

We often forget how important we all are, as individuals and as members of a larger family, community, society. Our unique gifts – personality, skills, outlooks – have impact on others, whether we realize it or not. While some may feel their contributions do not count or are too small, we can all find purpose in small acts, like participating in activities, calling a homebound friend or helping to take down decorations, and know these simple actions make a difference. I can't tell you how happy I am and how it makes my day when I see a crew of people show up to lend a hand with an event – it's magical to watch and fun to experience ... for everyone.

2023 will offer all Kolping members the opportunity to reach out and make a difference. Our national Kolping will be sponsoring scholarships soon this year to members and their families who are pursuing higher education/trade. If you know someone who is qualified and interested, share your Kolping experience with them. Our local Kolping families are always welcoming volunteers and members and there is always something to do – from social media planning to setting tables. Plan to "show up" and participate as you can, and let us all enjoy the uniqueness of our Kolping family.

Happy 2023!
Lisa Brinkmann

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to the
New York Kolping Society for their contribution of \$6,000
For the support of the Catholic Kolping Society Nation Banner.
We appreciate it!

A Praeses Proclaims...

**“SEE WHAT LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED ON US
IN LETTING US BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD!
YET THAT IS WHAT WE ARE.”
(1 JN 3:1)**

*By Deacon William McLoughlin
Praeses of the San Francisco Kolping Society*



This February 22 is ASH WEDNESDAY. Each of us will begin our Lenten Journey with a cross of blessed ashes on our forehead. We hear: “Repent and believe in the Gospel”.

Now, this year’s joyous ascent to the holy mountain of Easter will begin.

The cross on our forehead reminds us of Christ’s victory over death and the truth of His Resurrection. It is a day of prayer, inner reflection, humility, and joy.

The word Lent comes from the Old English word *lencten*, which simply means Spring. Spring, the season of new life and lengthening days of sunlight. Lent is a time when us Christians turn our faces toward God, that is “WE REPENT”. Lent is that journey to healing and teaching we receive by taking the Gospel of Jesus into our hearts. We remind ourselves we are children of God, and we joyously come closer to our Father.

The Lenten journey, the same as our earthly journey, is not easy. Life is not easy. But Jesus was not born on earth as one of us to make our life easy. Jesus was born on earth to make each of our lives GREAT. Jesus is leading the way. We are all children of God and Jesus shows us the way for reconciliation with our Father.

We each have storms and doubts and fears every day. And as we persevere, Jesus holds our hand. Remember, when we are not holding His hand, Jesus is carrying us. There is a heavenly joy knowing that.

We are all blessed to be able to come together with our Kolping Brothers and Sisters. Meeting with each other at Kolping events we can find that joy and encouragement and friendship that Father Kolping started. Shaking hands again, talking and laughing, listening and smiling, we show we are Christians by our love for one another. And together we become strong as God is strong.

*“There is a prayer
which should
be said every day:
‘Lord, grant me the
grace to become
a good Christian,
because I cannot
do it alone.’”*

As Kolping children of God, we ask God to help us to know how to serve each other this Lent by serving those around us we move closer to Jesus. We might quietly and prayerfully encourage persons around us who are having difficulties. We might be generous with our time for those who are alone. We can find ways to be kind to our neighbor.

Pope Francis has told us: “Being Christian isn’t easy and we cannot become Christian with our own strength; we need the grace of God. There is a prayer which should be said every day: ‘Lord, grant me the grace to become a good Christian, because I cannot do it alone.’”

This Lent let us make a difference every day to those around us as we make a joyful journey to the Risen Christ.

This Lent, as we continue to pray for Blessed Fr. Kolping’s full canonization, Let us continue to pray for each and every one of us. After all, we are all children of God. And we need God’s help.

Treu Kolping

Deacon Bill McLoughlin

San Francisco Kolping

The end of the year held two fun activities for our San Francisco Kolping—and ones where the generosity of our members was once again to be lauded.



NOV BINGO!



We had a lot to be grateful for at our...

November Give Thanks Bingo

Thanks to Shirley Costanzo's prolific knitting, we were able to raffle some beautiful scarves and an awesome blanket, with proceeds going to the St. Martin dePorres food kitchen on Potrero Street. And this year, members brought food from their own pantries to donate to the local food bank. Lisa and Cathy Vennemeyer filled Cathy's car trunk with your contributions.

The Taylor family, though, were really the winners with Muffy (Friel) and Karen winning raffle gifts and Muffy and Arlene being the first and second bingo black-out winners.

Christmas Luncheon

Many thanks to the elves who showed up to help decorate the hall for our Christmas luncheon. Our crew of Rosemarie Azinheira, Karen Cilia-Sante,, Barbara Eckert, Cathy Vennemeyer, Muffy Friel, Kevin Cunnane, Gunther Ehrich and Lisa transformed the hall into a festive holiday hangout.

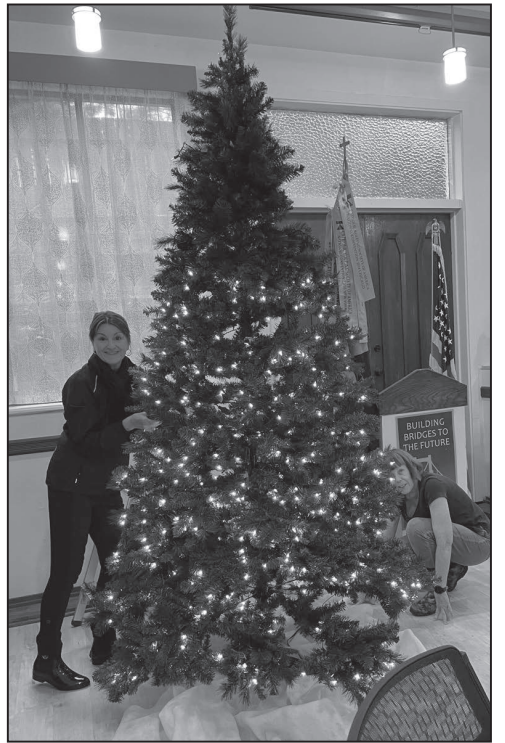
Spirits were high – and that was before Gerry's magical mixology at the bar. Our Deacon Bill McLoughlin led us in prayer to start our Christmas celebration and all joined in song. Members were treated to a lasagna lunch with garlic bread and salad – thanks to Cathy V., Steve Lambly and Lisa – and some tasty holiday cookies for dessert!

Before bingo, we were challenged to an emoji Christmas carol game where we had to guess the Christmas song depicted with the pictures and then sing the first few lines of each. Heidi Ehrich turned out to be the "Queen of Carols", guessing almost all of them first. When singing "here comes Santa Claus," Raymond Brinkmann passed out the little gift bags assembled for members by Lisa. Raffle winnings again went to St. Martin dePorres, with winners showing off their blankets (Raymond), scarf (Irene), gingerbread house (Karen) and holiday kitchen basket (Heidi.) The big winner of the day, however, was Margaret McAuliffe, who not only won a raffle prize, but both the first and second blackout jackpots!

A special thanks to everyone who brought a toy/gift for our Toys for Tots box. Muffy and Lisa brought them over to Fire Station 40 on 18th Ave and when the firemen saw us they said, "Oh wow, this is great. We now have a full barrel to bring downtown on Monday!"

S.F.
Kolping





International Kolping



New beginnings in Sri Lanka

Associations do not always develop uniformly in an upward direction – Adolph Kolping had this experience also when he founded the first Journeymen's Societies. This was also the case in Sri Lanka, where after an initial period of growth and the founding of various Kolping Families, a number of challenges came to light, with the result that hardly any new projects could be initiated in recent years.

During his journey through Sri Lanka, the main task of General Secretary Dr. Markus Demele was therefore to see for himself what the situation is and what is possible. In discussions with Kolping Families, with the protector of Kolping Sri Lanka Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera O.S.B. and with other bishops, he got an idea of which steps can be taken together for the further development of the association. Kolping members in Sri Lanka were promised support from Kolping India, the large neighboring association which, with its almost 40,000 members, can look back on a successful history of growth.



Kolping South Africa: New project orientation in Transkei

Kolping has founded six new Kolping Families consisting of 150 members in South Africa's Eastern Cape and is now represented in one of the former homelands. During the apartheid era, parts of the black population were resettled by the South African government to the homelands. One of these was Transkei (meaning the area beyond "trans" the river "Kei"), 1500 kilometres away from Cape Town. The region was granted independence as a state, which, however, was not recognised by any other country except South Africa. The people living in the area were not expropriated in favour of white farmers, which means that they have their own land and are able to grow vegetables to this day.

Desk officer Volker Greulich was on site in November to visit the projects. Kolping members grow pumpkin, maize, spinach, beetroot and cabbage on the fertile soil. As in East Africa, Kolping trains the smallholders to produce their own compost and to cultivate their fields. To prevent erosion damage to the mountainous farmland, Kolping Families will terrace their land in future to ensure that the rain does not wash the soil away. "Kolping has changed my life", said a Kolping member full of gratitude. "Apart from maize and rice I don't have to buy any groceries any longer." The gardens are mainly used for self-sufficiency, because with 55 euros of basic income per month, people can barely make ends meet.

In Mewana the soil is stony and the fields are located on slopes. Here, Kolping will distribute goats among its members in the future to help them fertilize their fields with goat dung.



Kolping is a humanitarian beacon: General Praeses in Ukraine

“Every single encounter is incredibly valuable, even if some things are so sad that you wouldn’t think it possible. Kolping has become a humanitarian beacon here”, General Praeses Christoph Huber wrote from Ukraine. In mid-December, he spent a week in Ukraine visiting Kolping Families and accompanying humanitarian aid transports.

Declaration on the ILO Conference

Today, at a time when labor rights are being undermined around the world by multiple crises that include, wars, food price crises, environmental and climate crisis and more, we believe more than ever, that our role is to listen to and include the voice of the most affected by these situations, of those who wish to become the leaders and voices of change.”



Catholic Inspired Organizations working along the International Labour Organization published a common statement as conclusion of their active participation in the 110th session of the ILC which was still in remote modus for them. They express their wish and sincere hope to be permitted to participate in presence again in 2023.

For Kolping 2023 will mark the 30th anniversary of registration in the ILO-Special List of International NGO.

The 2022 Annual Kolping Raffle

The annual raffle drawing was held on
Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

This year’s winners were:

FIRST PRIZE \$1,500

Roz Seubert
Detroit Kolping Society

SECOND PRICE \$1,000

Betty Grammich
Chicago Kolping Society

THIRD PRIZE \$500

Jeanne M. McCooey
New York Kolping Society

The following is a brief accounting of
the raffle:

Total amount received	\$8,970.00
Less expenses:	
Prizes.....	3,000.00
Printing & mailing	\$1,186.18
Total Amount to Operating Account.....	\$4,783.82

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

CHICAGO

Russel Murrell

DETROIT

Elizabeth Pfuerstinger

NEW YORK

*Erna M. Dengler
Marilyn Dengler*

National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund
received the following contributions
for the months of
December 15, 2022 to
January 15, 2023

In memory of Elizabeth Pfuerstinger,
deceased member
of the Detroit Kolping Society
- Detroit Kolping Society

DONATIONS

Detroit Kolping Society \$1,500
Brooklyn Kolping Society \$250

Kolping Society

National Endowment Fund

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



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2023 Kolping Kenya Lenten Project (continued)

(continued from page 1)

Convention this past September ways in which we could further support and protect our investment in the goat project. It was determined that we should pivot the Lenten Goat Project to focus on addressing the shortage of water. To that end we plan to focus the Lenten project on providing water collection tanks that are filled from rainwater collected from the roof. In addition we will focus on multi - story container gardens that are more efficient from a water perspective. In this way we would be able to provide a solution for watering the goats, but also provide a source of water for plant irrigation and a source of water for the family.

The cost of a 5,000 liter (1,320 gallons) water tank is approximately \$335, and the cost of a multi-story container garden which is made out of waste plastic is \$20.50 per set. We will work with Kolping Kenya to determine an appropriate allocation of funds upon completion of the 2023 Lenten Project. Please know that the Kolping USA Lenten Project for Kenya makes a profound difference in the lives of the recipients. Please continue your generous support of this project for the 2023 Lenten Season.

Sincerely,
Theodore F. Wilke
Treasurer Kolping USA