



Kolping Banner

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Lenten Project 2023

The focus for the Lenten Project is on providing water collection tanks that are filled from rainwater collected from the roof, as well as multi-story container gardens that are more efficient from a water perspective. This will provide a solution for watering the goats, provide a source of water for plant irrigation and a source of water for the family.

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San Francisco Kolping Society - \$5,000

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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 ...

Well, it's daylight saving time and we've all sprung an hour forward...it's like a getting a snapshot of the future!

I just returned from a week-long bike ride along Florida's "Forgotten Coast." I try to do something once a year that brings me to a part of the country that I would otherwise probably never see. Not only was I able to get away from the constant rains we've been experiencing in California, but I met new people and "rolled through" unfamiliar towns. I ate the local seafood and learned how to pronounce the name of the town, Apalachicola, correctly. Being on a bicycle has some added advantages, namely, you are fairly disengaged from every-day life, text messages and responsibilities. You can be alone in your own thoughts for a few hours a day.

While on the trip, one of my fellow bike riders shared some passages from the book she was reading, "The Way of the Traveler", which talks about coming back home. It describes how in returning from a trip, short or long, we do so with a treasure trove of experiences and new knowledge about ourselves. Getting back home meant we were successful in meeting the challenges presented by new places and new people, encounters that help make us stronger and wiser. It also reveals the value of home (even with the atmospheric rivers) and the feeling of peace it brings.

For many of us, our local Kolping families provide a sense of home away from home. Kolping hopes to foster the sense of community, family, and self. We are comfortable joining in with the activities and look forward to meeting up with friends and familiar faces. We get to share the highlights and challenges we've faced since our last encounter and can offer advice or just an ear to a problem.

What we often forget, as we travel around for our vacations, is that there may be a local Kolping family in the city (or country) you're visiting. You might want to check our website to see if there is a local activity offered in which you can participate. It's a great way of gaining new experiences, seeing "how the locals do things" and even making new acquaintances. And I'm sure you will feel welcome and comfortable.

Our Social Media Committee will be working with the local Kolping families around the country to list some highlights of upcoming local activities on our website (www.kolping.org) If you are traveling abroad, check to see if there might be a Kolping family in the country and city you're visiting. And if you are sticking close to home, enjoy the time you can spend with your local Kolping brothers and sisters - it's special. Better yet, invite a friend or two to help make the experience even more meaningful for all.

Let's enjoy those extra hours of sunlight together!

"Only that traveling is good which reveals to me the value of home and enables me to enjoy it better." - Henry David Thoreau

Lisa Brinkmann

A Praeses Proclaims...

MORE THAN JUST A DAY

By Fr. Michael Scherschel
Praeses of the Chicago Kolping Family



“Alleluia!” “He is risen!” “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!”

The responses we sing and hear on Easter Sunday are too significant and meaningful to last just one day. In our Church, Easter is not just a one-day celebration. It takes us eight days to celebrate Easter Sunday in what we experience as the Easter Octave. And it takes an entire season—50 days—to dive into the mystery of Jesus’ Resurrection and what it means for us today.

What is prominent in our churches throughout the Easter Season is the Paschal Candle (or Easter Candle), which is placed either near the ambo or altar and lit throughout the 50 days. The US Bishops reflect on its significance: “The paschal candle is the symbol of ‘the light of Christ, rising in glory,’ scattering ‘the darkness of our hearts and minds.’”

That’s why it seems so fitting that it is located near the place where we hear the gospels. The light of Christ—which shines throughout the scriptures—is meant to stay lit and kept burning within our hearts. And to help us do that, the Church leads us through the Easter Season with a selection of gospel readings that move us from the empty tomb to the empty upper room, when the apostles—filled with the Holy Spirit—open the door and bring the good news (which is what “Gospel” means) into the world.

The first three Sundays of the Season have us focus on the event of the resurrection itself. The disciples not only discover the tomb is empty, but then Jesus appears in their midst in an entirely new way. We hear the different reactions to the event, from doubting Thomas to the two on the road to Emmaus whose eyes were opened. They are grappling with what it all means.

“We are an
“Easter People”,
helping to welcome
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On the Fourth Sunday, there’s a shift. We start to be introduced to Jesus as the Good Shepherd who leads us, inspires us, and moves us to realize he is always here to guide us.

So, on the Fifth Sunday, we hear the comforting words that Jesus never means to abandon us, but instead even has prepared a place for us always to be with him—even death does not end the relationship. A life in Jesus is meant to be lived through him, with him and in him. It’s ongoing.

On the Sixth Sunday of Easter Jesus once again reassures us he won’t leave us as if we are orphans. He sends us an Advocate to make its presence known, who we know as the Holy Spirit. And so, on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, as many dioceses celebrate Jesus’ Ascension into Heaven, his last words are that he will stay with us: “I am with you always, until the end of the age.” And that leads us to the final Sunday of Easter, the great feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit—the way God stays with us to empower us in visible ways to bring His goodness and message to others.

The Easter Season moves us from the awe and wonder of an empty tomb and into the world. Jesus hasn’t gone away from us, but found a way to be as close to us as our own breathing.

That’s why it takes 50 days to celebrate the greatest event of faith known to the human race. It’s the faith we share as Kolping Families throughout the world; the faith we keep alive through our Kolping mission and ideals. We are an “Easter People”, helping to welcome others, take value in our efforts, honor our goodness and help those in need. We are today’s disciples continuing Jesus’ mission of fostering hope in humanity, knowing God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is with us every step of the way.

Happy Easter Season!

Kolping Around the U.S.

Have you ever wondered what the other Kolping families are doing in other parts of the country? We've assembled a mix of "sample" activities from the individual newsletters to provide a glimpse of "Life at the Kolping":

CINCINNATI

Cincinnati began their Lenten Fish Fries, with one every Friday through the end of March.

On March 18th they celebrated their Schützen Royal Ball with King Mark and Queen Julie Faust! And then on April 30th, their Kolping Saengerchor will be sponsoring a Smoked Pig Feast/Concert at the Kolping Center.



BROOKLYN

The Brooklyn Kolping will celebrate their Spring Mass & Communion Supper; Saturday, April 15 in the Kolping Center with Father Johny Chengalan Thomas presiding. And in May, they are planning to participate in the annual march along Myrtle Avenue, bringing the Kolping Society out into our community.

NEW YORK

On March 5th, New York Kolping held their annual meeting, with a German Mass and luncheon.

On March 25th, they sponsored a fundraiser in support of their President, Gerhard Schmitt and his family. Gerhard experiences a severe health crisis and is in recovery. The following is a thank you from his family:



THANK YOU from Alex & Gerhard Schmitt

Mere words cannot express the gratitude we feel for our Kolping family. Your prayers, good wishes, and gifts have given us peace of mind. With great pleasure we have contributed to the Kolping Society in many different ways, but we never thought we would be on the receiving end. We are humbled by your extreme generosity. We never know what God's plan is for us and this sickness certainly took us by surprise. It is surely a frightful crisis, but as a result we are witnesses to God's great works through your outpouring of love and support. The recovery from the infection is going well, but there will be some more challenges to face in the future so please continue to keep us in your prayers. There aren't enough words to thank you for everything you've done.

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco Kolping enjoyed their Luck of the Irish bingo and social event and are taking reservations for their Palm Sunday Mass/brunch as well as their annual Installation Luncheon.

They just concluded their grant program and were able to award checks to local Catholic Schools and nonprofits with missions aligning to that of the Kolping. Below are a few pictures of Lisa Brinkmann, Bill and Chris McLoughlin and Cathy Mibach awarding the checks:



CHICAGO

The Chicago Kolping held its Annual Meeting in March and awarding long-time members and installing officers.



They are a hardy group, as can be witnessed at their Winter BBQ, preparing the meat outside in the elements, while members anxiously awaiting the feast!



International Kolping



Kolping empowers women

Kolping enables women worldwide to obtain further skills and earn a living by providing them with training and microcredits. Kolping helps women to lead a life in dignity through “empowerment”: education, training, support to become self-sufficient. For Vilma Limanchi from Bolivia, life has taken a turn for the better – thanks to Kolping:

Vilma Limanchi is 46 years old and a single mother of four children. The eldest has moved out and started her own family. With her three younger children, Vilma lives in a 30-square-metre two-room flat that cannot be heated despite the cold temperatures in the Bolivian city of Potosí, which is located at an altitude of over 4,000 metres. They share one bathroom with other families living in the apartment building.

Although her living conditions are extremely hard, Vilma manages to send all her children to university. This is possible only because of the help she receives from Kolping. Vilma has been a Kolping member for 15 years. In workshops run by her local Kolping Family she learned something that will give her children a chance for a better future: She makes tablecloths, placemats and

pillows that match the season. To do this, she has set up a tiny workshop in her tiny kitchen. A fabric cover – homemade, of course – protects her most precious possession: a sewing machine. She was able to buy it with a microcredit granted by Kolping. Once a year, she also borrows around 700 euros from Kolping to buy a year’s supply of fabrics, paints and brushes in the capital La Paz.

At sales fairs organized by Kolping, she was able to make her products known and build up a customer base. She is particularly busy in the run-up to Christmas and she is glad that her teacher has new designs ready every year in the workshops. On average, she earns the equivalent of 250 euros a month. This is not a high income even in Bolivia, but because she lives frugally and plans well, her children do not have to work, but can study. “This would not be possible without Kolping’s support. If I hadn’t learned this trade there, I would have had to clean or do the laundry for other people. Then my children would have had to leave school a long time ago to help make a living. Kolping is the opportunity of a lifetime and gives my whole family the chance to develop further.”



India: Kolping Cares – Helping the needy

In southern India, cyclone Mandous brought heavy rains and floods in December. Many people suffered hardship, including Narikuravar and Irular people in Tamil Nadu who have been supported by KOLPING India for some time. The two indigenous communities belong to the lowest, strongly discriminated class of Indian society and live in extremely poor conditions.

After the heavy cyclone, KOLPING India launched a relief operation and provided around 250 Narikuravar and Irular families with rice, lentils, blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets. This was financed from the disaster relief fund of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL. Since extreme climate events have been increasing in Asia, KOLPING India has been providing more and more humanitarian aid as part of its “Kolping Cares” emergency programme.

Even during the lockdown, which lasted for several months, KOLPING India supported the suffering population with meals and used donations to help people financially during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021.



Focus on project

WOMEN ARE TAKING THEIR LIVES INTO THEIR HANDS

It is never easy for women to take a step towards greater self-confidence – especially in a society that is usually dominated by men. Sometimes a small financial start-up is all women need to free themselves from dependencies.

A woman's place in Bolivia is traditionally in the home and with the children. However, when they are supported to become independent, it not only benefits them but also the family. Kolping offers women courses for empowerment, support and exchange with other women – the start to a better future. Men are also included in family programmes. They are an important part of the change process. Thus strengthened, many women take the next step: they develop ideas on how to use their talents and create an additional income for their family. Small loans as start-up support make it possible. Bakeries, sewing workshops or vegetable gardens are established. In addition to their own savings, they can receive a small loan of 300 euros to fund a professional baking oven. For the tailor, a loan of 200 euros is often enough to secure a supply of fabric for half a year.

A small loan changes the lives of women and their families for the better. Please help with your donation! Even 120 Euros is an important addition to a small loan that enables a woman to have an income of her own.

You can support this project indicating the key word

“PFO small loans”:
KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Cooperation e.V.

DKM Darlehnskasse Münster
IBAN DE74 4006 0265 0001 3135 00
BIC: GENODEM1DKM

National Endowment Fund

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

San Francisco Kolping Society
\$2,000

In memory of Dolores E. Bernat,
deceased member
of the New York Kolping Society
Patricia Farkas, New York Kolping

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**

CHICAGO

Anita Thomas

CINCINNATI

Phyllis Lunnemann
Donald (Dean) Thiemann

DETROIT

Elmar Seubert

NEW YORK

Dolores E. Bernat
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2023 National Scholarship Program Kolping – The Next 100 Years

Applications and requirements for our 2023 scholarship program are now available through our website at www.kolping.org

We encourage any member and/or their immediate family to consider applying for this funding. We will have 7 scholarships of \$3,000 available to college/university and trade school students and 4 scholarships for \$1,000 to students starting their senior year of high school in the Fall.

Good luck and pass the word!



**MAY YOU BE BLESSED
IN WONDERFUL WAYS
AT EASTER AND ALWAYS.**

FROM THE EDITOR AND STAFF OF THE KOLPING BANNER