



# Kolping Banner

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## 2023 LENTEN PROJECT – KOLPING KENYA

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our 2023 National Lenten Project. We are grateful to all who have contributed. As approved at the 2018 National Convention the Endowment Fund will add \$7,500 to all donations which have been collected.

**TOTAL DONATIONS COLLECTED - \$11,035**

**ENDOWMENT FUND ADDITION - \$7,500**

**FINAL TOTAL \$18,535**

Brooklyn & Queens Kolping Society - \$ 400

Philadelphia Kolping Society - \$ 500

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 ...

Yay, Spring is finally here! It's such an exciting time with the school year coming to an end and summer vacations drawing near. It's also a time to rediscover the wonders of nature - florescent green leaves blooming on the trees, abundant wildflowers sprouting out everywhere and longer days to enjoy them. Here, I see the golden poppies color the hills and cracks in the sidewalks as I find myself driving around doing personal errands, visiting my mom and checking in on the Kolping Hall.

During my rides, I often listen to Audible books and, most recently, have been entranced by one called Benjamin Franklin's Last Bet, by Michael Meyer. I never realized that Franklin had a lot in common with Father Kolping and his values. In his last will and testament, Franklin had designated monies to be lent out to tradesmen to jump-start their careers. He believed in investing in the individual and the value of accumulating skills, through knowledge and learning a trade. He declared that work was not just a financial endeavor, but one that, when done well, provides purpose and dignity to the individual.

Father Kolping, too, saw the importance of helping young people to pursue their education, trade and passions. Developing a safe and welcoming community was essential to each individual's development. Yet, for a community to truly strive, it was also important that the individual established their personal foundation, purpose and feeling of usefulness. Honing skills and pursuing education would give those individuals the confidence to entrust themselves for bigger endeavors...and ultimately enable them to give back to their community and help build the greater good.

Now-a-days as AI (artificial intelligence) threatens to eliminate jobs and even careers, it is increasingly important that we focus on how we might help to provide our young people opportunities to find their purpose and help make their communities stronger.

The Kolping scholarship program has been a good start in this pursuit. This year we've received 21 applications and are reviewing them at the time of this writing. Our youth are sharing their ideas on how we might engage more of them in our Kolping activities and keep the Kolping Society relevant going forward. For us older members, we must remember that giving the younger folks the opportunities to take on more responsibilities, try new things and succeed (and yes, maybe fail) is the one way we can grow our organization and keep our values alive.

In the next Banner, we will share excerpts from the scholarship submissions as well as the winners. Thank you to all our Kolping families for supporting this important program.

**"The two most important days in life are the day you were born and the day you find out why."** – Mark Twain – Henry

Lisa Brinkmann

# A Praeses Proclaims...

## REST AND RELAXATION

*Fr. Michael Reilly*

*Praeses of the Philadelphia Kolping Society*



As the summer months begin to approach, I am sure all of us are looking forward to some needed rest and relaxation. But I also think it's a good time to renew ourselves spiritually and remind ourselves that living out our faith as Catholic Christians never takes a break.

Our founding father, Fr. Kolping worked tirelessly to help those who were disadvantaged by leading the movement for providing and promoting social support for workers in industrialized cities while also working to promote the dignities of workers in accordance with the social magisterium of the faith.

Not that long ago, we celebrated the Ascension of Our Lord, where before he ascends to the Father, Jesus tells his followers, very simply, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." He urges them to baptize, to teach, to carry on the work that he has begun. But his first direction is so clear: "Go." The world is waiting. Act on what I have taught you.

The apostles were not supposed to spend their time sitting around and

sharing stories of the good old days. There was work to be done. They left the mountain, went into the city, and prepared for the phenomenal mission that was about to start – the spreading of the gospel to every corner of the world.

*“...the work of living the gospel both in our hearts, and in the world.”*

Christ's words to his apostles are words to us all. "Go." The world will not be converted relaxing. The message will not be spread reminiscing about the good old days. It will happen in the streets, in super markets and private homes, in books and newspapers and media of all kinds. It needs to be lived in the world.

And that is what the disciples did. That is what Fr. Kolping did. They prayed. They read. And then got up

and set out into the city, to make disciples of all nations.

Perhaps their example can remind us of the great work of God that all of us are charged with carrying out – the work of living the gospel both in our hearts, and in the world.

How will we fulfill that beautiful work today? How will we transform it into a prayer? How will we heed Christ's order to "go"? How will we make the ordinary tasks transcend? How can we raise our lives to God?

Fr. Kolping once said: "Let's show Christian living in ever more practical ways and the present will be better and the future brighter."

So, do not stay too long resting and reminiscing about the old days. The Kingdom of God is waiting to be spread. Sooner or later, our vacations will end and we will be back into reality.

Sooner or later, we have to go and make disciples of all nations.

And there is no better time than now.

## National Endowment Fund

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

In Memory of Karl Wuerzinger, deceased member of the Detroit Kolping Society

Detroit Kolping Society

Mary Frances & Gary Dolland, Detroit Kolping Society

Norma Reginald, Detroit Kolping Society

**Kolping Society National Endowment Fund**

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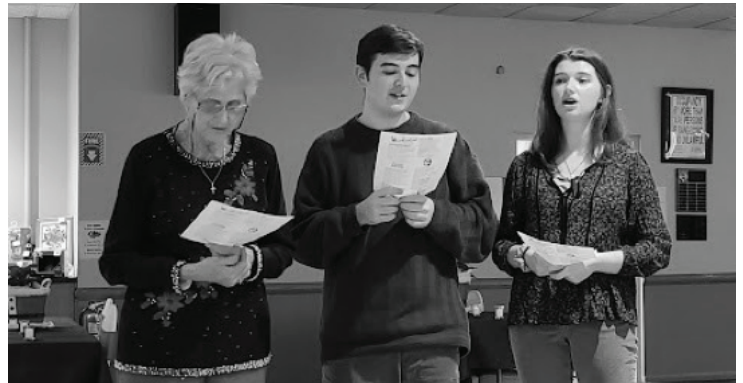
# Brooklyn Reports

By the time you read this report from our Brooklyn Kolping Family it will almost be summer. Hope everyone got through the winter, had a nice Easter and enjoyed the wonder and beauty of springtime.

Looking back, we really enjoyed being together for our Kolping Family Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10. Our Kolping Center was nicely decorated and gave off a festive feeling as our 57 guests arrived. Our evening began with a roast pork dinner, served buffet style. We lingered over dinner, but once the dishes were cleared we started our Christmas Program of poems and readings. The kids from the Josten, Stahl and Wiederhold families took part. Our program concluded with a sing-along and a visit from Santa Claus! Santa brought gifts and spent time with every child, and even some of the adults who were there too. Sad to say goodbye to Santa, we were consoled by desert: cheesecake and platters of stollen and cookies. Many of us also enjoyed a taste of Gluhwein, another long time holiday tradition at our Kolping Center. After the raffles were called, our evening concluded with lots of hugs and warm wishes for a Merry Christmas. Special mention to Pat & Chris Gerage, Jessica Meyer, and Val & Gary Meyer for their contribution to making this party a success!



*Our Kids*



*Alice Kokasch leading the sing-along with help from Frank & Sara Wiederhold*



*Our Kolping Center ready for Christmas.*



*The thrill of seeing Santa!*



*Gary Meyer, Jeff Blatz & Chris Gerage*

January and February tend to be quiet at our Kolping Center – we avoid the threat of snow. So, we looked forward to reuniting with our fellow members after the winter break at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 25. This meeting was traditionally held on a Sunday afternoon, but we moved it to Saturday evening this year. We hoped more members would attend and it seemed to work. The buzz of conversation was in the air as everyone visited and caught up! We enjoyed a cold buffet supper together, accompanied by home-made butternut squash soup, prepared and served by Chris Gerage.

After supper our Vice President, Jessica Meyer, set up the tripod and we assembled for a group photo as a memento of the day. The meeting was brought to order by President Bill Conte, and we reviewed our Society's 2022 activities. We reported on our finances, membership, state of our building, charitable projects, activities, the National Convention and other topics.



*The latest group photo.*



*Anakin Josten & Juliette Stahl*



*Anakin & Phoenix Josten*



*Gio & Jayden Stahl*



*Valerie Meyer, Bill Conte, Jeff Blatz*



*Bill Conte with new members,  
Frank Heller & Jonathan Rodriguez*

We welcomed two members into the society – a highlight of our evening. Frank Heller is the fourth generation of the Heller family to join our the Kolping Society. Jonathan Rodriguez was introduced to us by his wife, Evelyn, who has been a member for a few years now. It was a pleasure to present them with their new Kolping pins while the members looked on. We look forward to incorporating both these guys into our Kolping Family.

After the meeting, we brought out the dessert, ending our evening with coffee and cake, along with more socialization. Thanks to everyone for attending and pitching in to keep the meeting going.

Best wishes to our fellow Kolping sisters and brothers for a great summer!

-Treu Kolping, Bill Conte

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

**DETROIT**

*Karl Wuerzinger*

**NEW YORK**

*Betty Boechlan  
Violet Nelida Kelly  
Hans Lechner*

# News from New York

The New York Kolping family has been putting in a lot of hours getting our summer retreat home ready for the season. Raking leaves, moving picnic tables, washing windows, prepping gardens and lawns, organizing kitchen and sharpening knives are some of the tasks that our members and friends have taken on.

Our Summer service projects have kicked off again and we're running four! There's a food drive that will benefit our neighbors, a winter coat drive that makes it easy for us to do spring cleaning and we save the clothes for the cold weather in six months, bedding and towels are



collected for the SPCA and we're working on collecting toiletries for a women's home.

Our brothers and sisters from other Kolping family are most welcome to come visit us here. Big events are on the calendar on the National website. We'd love to see you!



# Chicago Happenings

We started the New Year 2023 with a bang. Our first activity was our annual Winter BBQ – an event that tests the fates by grilling steaks outside in January. (We do eat inside.) This year, the weather was good (for January) – no high winds, snow, sleet or other icky stuff. It was a bit cold, but not a problem.

On that successful note, we planned our March General Meeting with a full agenda – Meeting, Initiation of New Members, Election of Officers and Lenten words of wisdom from our Praeses, Fr. Mike. Again, the fates were kind and our weather was only cold, but dry. 25 new members were welcomed into Kolping, blessed by Father Mike and received their pines.

New members could then vote in the Election. Our slate was presented and accepted by acclamation. Jon Groll graciously agreed to be our President for another term, Christopher Schurrer will assist him as Vice President, George VanDurme continues to guard our money as Treasurer, Jill Hawkes records and Carol Ideler corresponds. Mark Stemper is our National Rep. Board Members are Gordon Hawkes, Al Ideler, Mark Stemper, Rob Mayer, Mick Aleksic, Linda Besetzny, Tim Murphy and Joseph DiCiaula. We are "good to go."

We topped off the afternoon with a Sloppy Joe Supper. Tasty & fun.

Building maintenance continues into the new year. The boiler and hot water tanks are being replaced. Lots of things for the Officers and Board Members to decide.



*New members*



*Board of Directors*

Kolping was approached to be an Early Voting Place. We are one of the few locations in the area that are ADA compliant. It was decided that it would be a good civic endeavor. The first election did not lead to a 50% win by any of the mayoral candidates and several of the Aldermanic contests, so we are now hosting the runoff election. Many neighbors are making use of the convenience of our building, parking and, in general, its very nice comfortable setting. We are getting compliments on our beautiful building from workers and voters. It is good PR.

We are ready to move into Spring and the activities to come.

Carol Ideler, Chicago

# International Kolping



## Kolping Malawi established as national organization

Great joy in Malawi: The local Kolping association was elevated to the status of a national organization last weekend! General Praeses Msgr. Christoph Huber and desk officer Volker Greulich had travelled all the way from Germany to Chipita in the diocese of Karonga to attend the celebrations.

The Kolping Society of Malawi was officially established as a national organization during a church service on Sunday 19 March. National Praeses Father Lorent Dziko was visibly pleased when General Praeses Huber officially presented him with the statutes adopted the day before and a Kolping scapular. Bishop Martin Mtumbuka, who initiated the foundation of the association in 2016, was also present at the ceremony.

“Setting up a Kolping organization here in Malawi has been hard work. But when I see the growth of a community inspired by a new spirit and actively addressing the pressing issue of food security, I know it is worth the effort,” the Bishop of Karonga said at the time.

Since then, the hard work has visibly paid off: there are now 1,010 members in 56 Kolping Families in Malawi who have already been successfully helped by KOLPING to increase their agricultural output thanks to the allocation of goats and training in compost production and the improvement of cultivation methods.



## Water workshop for Kolping countries in Africa

What are the options to irrigate fields in drought areas? How can soil erosion be stopped? What is the most efficient way to use water? These were the questions discussed by 18 Kolping delegates from South Africa, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, Zambia and Uganda at a training session in mid-February hosted by KOLPING Uganda in Kampala.

Two agricultural engineers from Makerere University in Kampala and from the Ministry of Agriculture gave the participants expert information on irrigation systems, soil conditions and legal issues. After the two-day workshop, the participants were able to see in practice the various irrigation systems, such as water sprinklers or drip irrigation, on the university’s trial fields.

As all participants of the workshop are affected by climate change and its impact in their countries, they were able to discuss and collect many ideas that will soon be applied in their project work on the ground. Participants from South Africa, for example, would like to cooperate more closely with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in the future. In addition, more water workshops shall be offered for smallholder farmers. After all, it is not just about irrigating the fields. It is important to know the water requirements of each plant, depending on its species, size and on the season, says Ndamase Sinegugu, summarizing what has been learned. First of all, however, soil conditions have to be measured (moisture, pH value). Another important question is: How does the water get to the field? Is the field located on a hill, do pumps have to be used to transport the water through the hose? “The training must be tailored to the needs of the farmers.”

Following this training session, the two delegates from South Africa travelled with their Rwandan colleague to Kigali to hear more about the long-running and tried-and-tested agricultural projects there. First, the guests learned in theory interesting facts about the production of organic fertilizer and soil fertility strategies. This was followed by a visit of the South African guests to a Kolping Family where they helped produce fertilizer “Among the trees were piles of green leaves, dry leaves, water containers, urine containers, bags of ashes, finished compost, dug-up soil and five thick sticks. We started chopping the leaves into small pieces,” Ndamase Sinegugu reports. The guests were taught how to make organic compost themselves and at the end the wooden stick was put into the compost heap to measure the temperature a few days later. On the second day, the guests travelled to Butete to inspect the community fields where the 116 members grow Irish potatoes. Parts of the harvest are made into seed to have a stock for the next sowing.

This example shows how valuable the global Kolping community is. The organizational structures and international networking allow members to exchange ideas, receive further training and empowerment: experience and know-how are passed on and adapted in the national associations to the individual needs of Kolping Families. This way, help for self-help is also possible here and once again Kolping shows what it is able to accomplish.



**CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY  
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**It is not flesh and blood  
But heart which makes us fathers**

From the Editor and Staff of the  
Kolping Banner