

Kolping Banner

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2023 Lenten Project Update



We've all read reports from our President, Lisa Brinkmann, and International Representative, Ted Wilke, on how Kolping Kenya has utilized the funds we raised through our Lenten Project, the following is a summary from Kolping Kenya's director, Patrick Kioko, on how he sees our donations impacting Kolping families in Kenya.

The impact of Kolping USA's Lenten Project Donation – Patrick Kioko

The Dairy goat project started in 2017 with the aim of improving the livelihoods of Kolping Family members. The dairy goat project has held great impact on our Kolping families through the following ways:

1. Kolping members are able to get enough goat milk which is usually on high demand due to its high nutrient content.
2. Kolping members with surplus milk can sell in the market at KSH 80 per litre (\$0.56).
3. Dairy goat beneficiaries have been able to plant organic vegetables using goat manure.
4. Goat manure is highly recommended due to its good air aeration and ability to release nutrients into the soil slowly. This has seen Kolping members grow vegetables in very large quantities.
5. From the sale of surplus milk and vegetables, Kolping members have been able to generate revenue which has really helped them to pay for school fees, buy household goods among other things.
6. In future, if we have large quantities of milk, we plan to do value addition for members to produce products such as yoghurt and cheese.

In November 2022, three Kolping families (Mwea, Kirimunge, & Mukuria) were issued 37 dairy goats. These three groups were also beneficiaries of dairy goats from previous donations and have received in total 115 goats. Since 2017 to date, we have issued a total number of **539** dairy goats to 24 Kolping families.

In addition to the goats, we also started multi-storey garden farming. This technique allows our Kolping families to grow vegetables. The majority of the Kolping families in Kenya are in arid and semi- arid areas. These regions receive little to no rain. This means there is a struggle to get fresh vegetables from the markets. The multi-storey Garden project was aimed at increasing food security in our Kolping families.

Through this project our Kolping families have been able to,

1. To increase food production which has led to increased availability of

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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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Kolping Family Locations:

Brooklyn Kolping Family, 6504 Myrtle Ave., Glendale, NY, 11385-6250, 718-456-7727

Chicago Kolping Family, 5826 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60646-5544, 773-792-2190

Cincinnati Kolping Family, 10235 Mill Rd., Cincinnati, OH, 45231-1924, 513-851-7951

Detroit Kolping Family, 1201 Rock Valley Drive, Rochester, MI 48307

Los Angeles Kolping Family, 1225 S. Union Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90015-2021, 213-388-9438

New York Kolping Family, 165 E. 88th St., New York, NY 10128-2241, 212-369-6647

Philadelphia Kolping Family, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA, 19114, 215-606-7020

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

Saint Louis, Missouri, 5410 Oakvilla Manor Dr., Saint Louis, MO, 63129-3012, 314-894-2136

San Francisco Kolping Family, 440 Taraval Street, San Francisco, CA, 94116-2530, 415-831-3989

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 ...

Congratulations to our 2023 scholarship awardees and thank you to all the applicants who, although not selected, graciously shared their thoughts, ideas, and recommendations with our committee.

When we reestablished the scholarship program, we hadn't realized how the program itself embodied the values espoused by Father Kolping. By allocating monies from our Endowment fund to support education, we reinforce our mission and emphasize the significance of knowledge and skills. Through this initiative, we introduce the stories and values of Father Kolping to a younger generation, one that may only know of Kolping from Christmas parties and Schutzenfests.

In reading Father Kolping's story, our younger generation is learning that while we may not be accountable for things that happen to and around us, we are responsible for how we respond to them. Our responses serve as a reflection of the principals and ideals we value most. In their writings, many of our younger family members emphasized the importance of family, community and having a sense of purpose is this "post-Covid" time – values shared by Father Kolping.

Recently, I've had a sad experience watching some good friends as they learned that their youngest son broke his vertebrae in a surfing accident. While this was a hugely unfortunate accident, he was lucky in that his friend was able to drag him to shore; the medivac was there to helicopter him to the Children's Hospital; and the surgeon on duty was one of the best in his field. While many people would take this information and become depressed and despondent, not knowing if your son will walk again, I watched as my friend very slowly and clearly declared, "I know what I need to do. I will now learn how to become the best nurse ever." This statement epitomizes Father Kolping's belief that "the first thing that a person finds in life, the last to which he holds out his hand, and the most precious that he possesses, even if he does not realize it, is family life".

We all have the power to choose how we respond to situations – good and bad. Let's hope we have the strength to recognize our own values and respond accordingly – and better yet, as our younger generation reads and reflects on the values of Father Kolping, they, too, can embrace the teachings he leaves for all of us.

"Always remember your present situation is not your final destination."
Charlie Brown

Lisa Brinkmann

A Praeses Proclaims...



THE KOLPING MOVEMENT

By Fr. Dan Kroger, OFM
Praeses of the Cincinnati Kolping Society

How faithful are we as Kolping members in trying to promote the values to which Fr. Kolping dedicated his life's work? We bear his name and the symbols of his work, but are we doing as much as we could?

Faith expressed in charitable works is the bedrock of the Kolping movement. Though one does not need to be a Catholic to be a member, the Kolping family is rooted in Catholicism. Just consider that Fr. Kolping was a priest who was deeply disturbed by the plight of workers when he was assigned as a pastoral worker in Elberfeld. It was there that he began the organization that now bears his name.

To this day our Kolping families around the world aim to improve the lives of our members in a holistic way—spiritually, materially, morally and socially. That is why there is always a focus on all aspects of life. That is why Fr. Kolping worked to organize and establish homes away from home for young men trying to advance in their expertise as tradesmen. He wanted them to grow in maturity. He wanted them to improve social conditions in all aspects of life.

Kolping centers to this day have rules and regulations. They value diligent work and provide healthy opportunities for cooperative charitable work and recreation. All Kolping families are urged to grow in their faith communities.

Think of the international outreach of our local Kolping families in Lenten projects like the goat program in Kenya. Or consider the histories of each of our Kolping families and the role they played in helping immigrants transition to American culture. There is no "one size fits all." All our families are unique expressions of our Kolping spirit.

Currently, some Kolping members are trying new ways to attract youth and help them mature into future leaders of our communities, schools and governments. That was one of the most important resolutions passed at our last national Kolping convention.

There are strong indications that more and more young men and women are drifting away from religion. Take time to consider the facts documented by studies conducted by social research organizations

like CARA, (the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate). Here is a link to findings summarized in *Faith and Spiritual Life of Catholics in the United States*.¹

The report, published in November of 2021, contains some striking changes seen among youth and their relationship to the Catholic Church. For example, fewer young folks are attending parish activities, including Sunday Mass, because they do not feel obligated to attend. Because of the clergy abuse scandal, many young people lost respect for the clergy in their parishes. Others moved away from church teachings on such issues as birth control, gender, homosexuality, marital fidelity and so forth.

The experience of Kolping families here in the USA was what motivated the National Kolping Convention of 2022 to recommend some actions in search of ways to draw more youth into activities sponsored by our members. Keep your attention focused on what happens in the next few years!

fresh produce in our Kolping families.

2. Improved food security in areas with poor soil quality or limited land availability where traditional agriculture is not possible.
3. Multi-storey gardens have been a tool to educate our Kolping members about sustainable agricultural practices and empower members to grow their own safe food.
4. Kolping members have been able to generate sustainable household income from sell of surplus produce.



We are very grateful for our relationship with Kolping USA.

Philadelphia Reports

The Philadelphia Kolping Communion Breakfast was held on Sunday, April 23. Father Michael Reilly celebrated the Mass for us in one of the dining rooms at the Cannstatter V.V. - Paul Leifholtz



National Endowment Fund

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

Donation

Detroit Kolping Society - \$1,500

In memory of Nancy Rheker, Deceased Member of the Detroit Kolping Society

Detroit Kolping Society

In Memory of Joseph F. Rheker, Deceased Member of the Detroit Kolping Society

Detroit Kolping Society

Bob & Patti Lazzaretto - San Franciisco Kolping Society

Kolping Society National Endowment Fund
c/o Lisa Brinkmann

311 Greene Street | Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132



Greetings from Detroit!

We have continued meeting bi-monthly throughout the year at various restaurants since we no longer have a club house. However, at the end of August we are excited to meet at the site of our chapel in the Chesterfield Historical District. The chapel was moved approximately a mile down the road from its former location. In the past we have had Mass preceding the membership meeting/picnic. But since we are without a Praeses it is no longer on the agenda. We look forward to having our meeting outdoors followed by a picnic style lunch and lots of socializing.

Members also meet monthly for a relaxing lunch and to catch up on the latest news. It's fun exploring new places around town. Originally it started out as a ladies function, but then the men found out how enjoyable it was so now both men and women attend.

The membership is always delighted to hear from our former Praeses who are mostly in retirement but still very active in priestly service. Over the past several months we have heard from six Praesides who reside in Ohio, Wisconsin, Florida and Michigan.

Father Ken Pleiman, C. PP. S., 1969-1981
Fr. Larry Abler, O.F.M., Cap.
Fr. James Leary, O.F.M., Cap., 1995-1998
Deacon Peter Schlessler, 1999-2002
Fr. Dan Fox, O.F.M. Cap., 2003-2009
Fr. Larry Webber, O.F.M., Cap., 2010-2016

It was wonderful hearing from them all. We share many fond memories and appreciate all they did for us over the years. Their messages were inspirational and in the spirit of Fr. Kolping. Good fellowship existed all around.

Congratulations to all the scholarship winners. Detroit was fortunate to have two recipients this year. Jaycie LaValley is the daughter of members Eric and Beth LaValley. Jaycie is in her third year at Alma College. Andrew Linden is the son of members Steve and Lori Linden and is a recent high school graduate who will enter college in the fall. Proud grandmother of both winners is Marian Linden, a member for over 60 years! Good luck to Jaycie and Andrew in their future endeavors.

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of three members in 2023. Karl Wuerzinger passed on March 28 (member 77 years), Joseph Rheker, Jr. died June 6 (member 72 years) and sister-in-law Nancy Rheker died June 28 (member 62 years). To say these three individuals left a huge void is an understatement. Karl and Joe were actively involved and worked tirelessly for the Society until the end of their lives. Their attendance was a given at every meeting and function usually in a "working" capacity. Nancy's many health issues prevented her from being present and she attended when she was able. May they rest in peace. Our condolences to their families and friends.

Wishing all of the Kolping families an enjoyable and reinvigorating summer filled with not too much busyness.

-Treu Kolping
Mary Frances Dolland

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

BROOKLYN
Herbert Roethel

CINCINNATI
*Manfred Ellers
Ursula Meyer
James C. Resing*

DETROIT
*Joseph Rheker
Nancy Rheker*

LOS ANGELES
Rosemarie Eilers

NEW YORK
Janet Reinisch

Save the Date – Jr. Kolping Meet-Up

Calling all Kolping families! We would love to hear from you, your kids, your grandkids and/or younger family members on how we can encourage younger people to join and volunteer with the Kolping.

When? **Sunday, September 17, 2023**

Time? 7:00 EST/ 4:00 PST

How? Zoom link to be posted

What? An overview of our initiative from the 2022 convention with opportunities for participants to express ideas, opinions and (hopefully) assist in moving forward

We will be sending more information out as well as posting the Zoom invite to our website.

Congratulations to our 2023 Scholarship Winners

We are very proud to announce this year's scholarship winners. Thanks to our Executive Board, we can distribute two extra awards, making the total distribution \$28,000 for Scholarship recipients will receive \$3,000 if attending a college, university or trade school and \$1,000 if a senior in high school. This year we had 21 applications. Applicants who did not receive a scholarship award, will receive a \$100 gift card, as a thank you for their participation and (hopefully) encouragement to participate in the Jr. Meet-Up in September.

We believe, and it was expressed in many of the scholarship responses, that helping our younger people attain their educational and career goals is a great investment aligning directly with Father Kolping's values.

Congratulations to:

Stephani Ahrnsen	Cincinnati Kolping	Andrew Linden	Detroit Kolping
Jaycie LaValley	Detroit Kolping	Matthew Mayer	Chicago Kolping
Stephanie Mayer	Chicago Kolping	Isabella Miccio	San Francisco Kolping
Edward Musbach	Cincinnati Kolping	Erin Reynolds	New York Kolping
Sara Schnetzer	Cincinnati Kolping	Chad Smith	Cincinnati Kolping

Below is an excerpt from one of the essays:

“Trying to solve the challenges our society faces can feel like trying to seize the wind that whistles past your ear. However, we would be wise to grab ahold of Kolping’s advice: “the greater the challenge, the more resolute one must become.” In a fast-paced, technology focused society, we often expect instant gratification. We can rebut this claim by examining Kolping’s arduous journey to priesthood. It was through hard work that he eventually reached his goal despite opposition.”

International Kolping



Synodal process – Participant from Bolivia

It is a long journey which Pope Francis asked the Church to embark on in 2021. All parishes, dioceses and associations worldwide are to deliberate on what a church of the future must look like if we are to respond more to the call of Jesus.

In a first phase, local churches in various countries met for consultations and sent their feedback to the Vatican. KOLPING INTERNATIONAL also became involved and sent a text to Rome. From the feedback, the Synod Secretariat then produced a document that was used to hold synodal meetings at continental levels.

Representing Kolping Bolivia, Cristina Vanegas Carrillo from Chuquisaca attended the meeting for Latin America in Ecuador. “One of the issues that touched me deeply as a baptised and committed woman is that this synodal process addresses the situation of women and seeks to give greater recognition to the active role women play in society and in the Church. Yes, it is possible to redefine the current role of women and to question the current conditions and structures of the Church in relation to women today,” writes Cristina in her report after the meeting.

All over the world, Kolping sisters and brothers are struggling in synodal assemblies to build a church where all people gladly follow the call of Jesus. It goes without saying that our contribution to the future of the Church is based on 170 years of experience in the history of Kolping as an association, which are marked by equal rights, democracy, equality and participation. Kolping will continue to play its part in the upcoming assemblies in Rome until 2024.



Continental convention in Serbia

In April KOLPING Europe delegates were meeting for their continental convention in Novi Sad in Serbia.

After a very intensive phase of discussions, which had taken several years, two new statutes were adopted for KOLPING Europe at the convention, one as a registered association and another one as a non-registered association. In future, the Kolping Youth Europe will be integrated in these two legal entities.

As the Kolping Youth Europe was meeting at the same time in Novi Sad, many parts of the programme were done together. The main focus this year was “Young people and youth work at Kolping“. Delegates of the Kolping Youth Europe in particular presented a variety of activities and educational formats: Advocacy for democracy and the promotion of a united Europe via videos and social media are current topics addressed by the Kolping Youth. In addition, they hold a big online meeting once a month.

KOLPING Serbia was an excellent host and the delegates were able to meet in a so-called “Living Library” to talk personally with representatives of the association about their project work. From empowering women to start their own businesses to providing training in geriatric care and beekeeping in rural areas: the commitment of the approximately 500 members of KOLPING Serbia is diverse and colourful.

The next continental convention of KOLPING Europe will be held in Timișoara /Romania. For more information on the continental convention, visit the new website of KOLPING Europe: <https://kolping-europa.eu/>



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International Kolping



Day of Action - One Worldfamily

KOLPING INTERNATIONAL invites you to a great Action Day on 30th September 2023, when the Kolping World Family will finally meet again for lively encounters and international exchange.

During the International Convention of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL, we want to discuss topics such as global sustainability goals, social commitment, climate change and the synodal church together with around 200 delegates from all over the world.



Bolivia: Emergency aid for flood victims

Submerged land: At the end of March, continuous rain in Bolivia caused the Acre River to rise to 12 metres, causing major damage in the Cobija area.

Especially in the surrounding area, many families are homeless because their houses have been completely flooded. Thanks to the emergency aid by KOLPING INTERNATIONAL 100 Kolping members received mattresses, bed linen and towels. The distribution took place in two places: At the Kolping House in Cobija and in the village El Porvenir, 50 minutes from Cobija.

Kolping Bolivia continues to have a special focus on 100 mothers, and 350 children and young people who are affected by the floods: They will continue to receive help so that they have a dry home again as soon as possible.