



# Kolping Banner

Official Publication of the Catholic Kolping Society of America | Vol. 99-No. 1 | October 2023

## 2024 National Kolping Convention

Progress Report: Doris Wilke, Marilee Uhlhorn and Danielle Tombragel (Marilee's granddaughter) drove down from Cincinnati, while Natalya Borodin and Mia Steigerwald flew in from New York to meet with Lisa Brinkmann (National/San Francisco) to explore St. Charles, Mo., the location for our 2024 National Convention.

The first day the group spent with Chris Wilson from the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce, touring local attractions, viewing possible venues and visiting potential churches. Later that evening we met up with Harry Steger, from St. Louis Kolping, who provided more tips and options. The next day

the group set off for St. Louis to explore and report.

What a team! By the end of Friday night, the group had summarized, digitized and organized the places visited, prices charged and

activities recommended. Next steps – begin our regular meetings on Zoom with the rest of the committee and welcome others to join us. If you are interested, please email Lisa at [lbrinkmann@mac.com](mailto:lbrinkmann@mac.com).



## Thank You

We were looking forward to the end of a very busy 2022 and when the corner turned to 2023 we were shocked how sick Gerhard became in January. We are eternally grateful to our Kolping family for your immediate and overwhelming response. Your support has helped carry us through this unexpected medical journey. Thankfully, Gerhard is doing great after his surgery and is very ready to get back to it albeit with some restrictions for now. We look forward to many more years of fellowship with you all.

Gratefully,  
The Schmitt Family



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## 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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Bishop John M. Quinn

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#### Kolping Family Locations:

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

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

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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 ...

I can't believe the summer is over! "They" say that time passes faster the older you get – if that is true, I've just graduated from a bi-plane to a super sonic jet. Last year around this time, we were all in Cincinnati enjoying a wonderful convention and celebrating the fact that we could finally celebrate together, in-person.

We're now starting serious activities around the next convention, which will be in St. Charles, Missouri, a town right next to the location of the first Kolping in the U.S., namely St. Louis. This past week I met with some of our committee members to tour the town and surroundings, looking for places to meet, eat and have fun.

Ted Wilke (Cincinnati) and I will also be heading off to Germany for the International Kolping convention near Cologne. I'm excited as it will be my first time meeting our fellow Kolping representatives from around the world. To prepare for this trip, we were asked to create a poster, outlining the accomplishments and activities of Kolping USA. At first I thought, "geez, how do I represent the USA in one poster?"

I began soliciting information on the activities in the various Kolping families around the country and discovered that Kolping USA truly is promoting and demonstrating the values of Father Kolping. The following is just a sample of the impact we are having in promoting:

**Education:** over \$125,000 in grants and scholarships to local schools and students in 2023;

**Community building:** over \$40,000 in donations to local charities in 2023, an average of \$18,000/year for Kolping Kenya, participation in food drives, homeless projects, toy drives, local parades and events and other activities;

**Spirituality:** periodic Masses held at Kolping locations, donations to other congregations, gifting historic chapel to the city of Detroit, rebuilding the St. Joseph cross in Cincinnati;

**Housing:** providing low-income and student/intern housing in Los Angeles and New York Kolping houses, renting space to local nonprofits;

**Socialization and family:** Sports facilities and teams, Schuetzenfests, Oktoberfests, bingos, special interest clubs, Kolping on the Hudson, Kolping Kicks, working together to keep our Kolping families going.

It will still be a challenge to put these accomplishments into a poster, but I will be very proud to have it on display. Thank you to all of our Kolping members throughout the United States who work so hard to keep our values alive!

Lisa Brinkmann

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."  
— Mae West

# A Praeses Proclaims...



## GIVE TO GOD WHAT BELONGS TO GOD (MT 22:21)

By Deacon William McLoughlin  
Praeses of the San Francisco Kolping Family

October 4 and October 7 seem to cast a brilliant light on the entire month this October. October 4 is the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, and October 7 is the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. Both celebrations remind us of the amazing power of prayer and devotions.

St. Francis with his life of poverty, humility, prayer, and joy shows us how a person can imitate the life of Christ, and bring the world to God the Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, shows us the wonderful prayer of the Rosary. Mary leads us through the mysteries of Christ's life to get us even closer to the Heart of Her Glorious Son.

These beautiful celebrations coincide with the gathering of 364 participants including bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated women, and laypersons in Rome from October 4 through 28. This Synod (the word meaning a council of church officials) has been called by Pope Francis to open to the world for dialogue and prayer. Pope Francis has said: "Synod is about dialogue: among the baptized, among members of the Church, on the life of the Church, on dialogue with the world, on the problems that affect humanity today, with a spirit of prayer."

The group meetings around tables of 10 will allow a few minutes of individual dialogue followed by a few minutes of silent individual prayer. Then the process will be repeated with everyone having a chance to be heard. Open dialogue and intense spirit of prayer, calling on the Holy Spirit to be the protagonist. WOW! We of our Kolping Family can pray with all

*“By honoring and serving each other, we honor and serve God our Father.”*

those in Rome during these October days asking for God's Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.

Each of us in our Kolping Families around the world have already been involved in spreading the Love of Jesus Christ to our neighbors. Thanks to Blessed Father Kolping we have a practical and effective community enabling us to share our blessings with our neighbors who need help and encouragement and prayers.

This is a challenging time for all of us, and prayer helps us every day. Jesus tells us "...give to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21) Our life is a gift from God, and our life belongs to God. It is the ordinary people who devote their time, skill, and heart to caring for others. We, through Kolping, are the ordinary people who care for our neighbors. Each of us individually transmits the Christian Spirit. By honoring and serving each other, we honor and serve God our Father. Every person is conceived in the image and likeness of God, and when we see God in every person we meet it is God's Love we feel. Not that we as human beings can always love our neighbor as God does, but that is where God's mercy and forgiveness rescues us. And so we need to pray again, and

then see there is so much good in the world.

There is this story from Mother Teresa's book, "Where There Is Love, There Is God":

"A man came to our house and he said, "Mother, there is a family, a Hindu family, that has eight children. They have not eaten for a long time. Do something for them." So I took some rice and I went. When I arrived at their house I could see the hunger in the children's eyes. Their eyes were shining with hunger. I gave the rice to the mother, and she took the rice. She divided it into two, and then she went out. When she came back, I asked her "Where did you go?" She said, "They are hungry also." Next door neighbor, they were also hungry. What struck me most, not that she gave the rice but she knew they were hungry. And because she knew, she shared. And this is what we have to come to know. I did not bring more rice that night. Next morning I brought, but that night I allowed them to enjoy the joy of sharing, loving.

Love, to be true, has to hurt and this woman who was hungry-she knew that her neighbor was also hungry, and that family happened to be a Muslim family. So it was so touching, so real."

A little prayer from the Missionaries of Charity at St. Paul's in SF who shared with me because St. Mother Teresa shared with them:

"Mary, Mother of Jesus, Be My Mother Now"

Treu Kolping,  
Deacon Bill

# Greetings from Cincinnati

Hearty greetings to our fellow Kolping Families! It has been way too long since we've given you an update on the happenings at Cincinnati Kolping. As you all know, we hosted the National Kolping Convention a year ago in September of 2022, and time has flown by ever since.

Since the Convention, we have added 42 new members to our Kolping Family, and so many of them have rolled up their sleeves and volunteered for many of our events already. We are truly blessed to have so many enthusiastic and hard-working members who come from all walks of life and range in age from 20 to 98!

We held four Sunday Masses for our members at our Kolping Center in the last year, starting with our Memorial Mass on October 30, 2022, where we memorialized twenty-three of our members who had passed away in the last year. We had another Mass on December 4, 2023 in honor of Blessed Adolph Kolping, followed by our annual Christmas luncheon for the members. We collected 330 pounds of canned goods and \$260 in cash for the Mt. Healthy Alliance Food Pantry at this luncheon. Our third Mass was on April 16, 2023, when we belatedly celebrated St. Joseph's Day, followed by our annual Awards Banquet, where we distribute longevity awards and service awards to our members. Amy Ahrnsen, Henry Faulk, and Ted Hoerstmann were all recipients of the Meritorious Service Award for 2023.

Our fourth Mass took place on June 4, 2023, where we celebrate significant wedding anniversaries of our members. Our Praeses, Fr. Dan Kroger, OFM, officiates at each of these Masses, and Annamarie Geoppinger is our Mass planner. Barb Hessler chairs the brunches for the Memorial Mass and the Anniversary Mass, and we have a multitude of volunteers who help with setup, planning and cooking.

Our Schützenfest King and Queen for 2022-2023, Mark and Julie Faust, hosted the King's Party on November 12, 2022 and the Royal Ball on March 18, 2023, where everyone had the opportunity to dress in their finest and "trip the light fantastic", dancing into the night. We thank Mark and Julie for being our Kolping ambassadors for this past year.

Our Kolping Sangerchor held their annual Weihnachts Konzert on November 27, 2022, and then their Spring Concert and Pig Roast on April 30, 2023. It is always enjoyable to listen to those lovely songs sung in the German language. Not to be outdone, the Kolping "Bier Choir" will be singing at the Downtown Cincinnati Oktoberfest, along with the Kolping Sangerchor.

Our annual Stube Nacht, where we "chase those winter blues away", was held on February 4, 2023, and our Friday night Fish Fries were held from February 24th through March 31st on the Fridays during Lent. This year, they were chaired by Sylvia Ostendorf Smth, who took over for Barb Hessler and Sue Valentino. Again, it took many volunteers to put on these events.



*28 new members inducted in September of 2022.*



*Photo taken at our Children's Christmas Party on December 11, 2022.*



*Recipients of the Cincinnati Kolping Meritorious Service Award: Ted Hoerstmann, Amy Ahrnsen, and Henry Faulk*



*Kolping Members Celebrating Their 40th Wedding Anniversaries at our Anniversary Mass on June 5, 2023: Carl & Sue Schlake, Joe & Mary Workman, Donna & Henry Faulk, and Shirley & Dennis Brunsman*



*Our New 2023 Schützenfest King & Queen, Paul and Amy Ahrnsen, along with their children.*

Our largest event of the year, the 98th Cincinnati Kolping Schützenfest, took place on the weekend of June 16th through 18th, and we were again blessed with glorious weather! This event has been chaired by Jim and Anna Stukenborg for the last eleven years, and it keeps getting better every year! Our new King and Queen, King Paul II and Queen Amy Ahrnsen, were crowned on Sunday, June 18th, along with the new Jr. King, Nikolaus Tripathy, and the new Jr. Queen, Pia Tripathy.

We have also been doing many renovations at the Kolping Center this past year, especially since the building is now over 30 years old. The Tuesday Workers, members of the Building & Grounds Committee, Saturday Workers, and many other volunteers have all been helping with the many projects.

We will be holding elections in November, when we will be choosing a new president and vice president, along with five new Board members. We want to thank our current

President, Anna Stukenborg, and Vice President, Amy Ahrnsen; our former Vice President, Chris Petersman; our Secretary, Jennifer Ruwe; our Treasurer, Brian Schmidt; our Praeses, Fr. Dan Kroger, OFM; our National Representative, Ted Klosterman; as well as our current Board members: Tom Beiting, Mike Brakers, Amy Freese, Rick Hill, Bob Koening, Phil Neumann, Jim Schnieder, Sylvia Ostendorf Smith, Paul Wienkamp, and Ted Wilke, for their years of dedicated service to Cincinnati Kolping. Their hard work and sacrifice are much appreciated, and we have been blessed to have had them as our governing Board.

We are looking forward to the National Kolping Convention that will be taking place in 2024, where we will have an opportunity to reconnect with all of our fellow Kolping members throughout the U.S. God bless you all!

Treu Kolping,  
Nancy Pelzel, Cincinnati Kolping

## What's Happening in the City by the Bay?

Who said bingo wasn't fun? San Francisco Kolping's bingos have not only been well-attended, but a source of new member recruitment. In last months, we have welcomed six new members, all of whom joined after an afternoon of bingo, fun and nice people. Kudos to our members for being so welcoming.

Our July "Day at the Races" bingo definitely brought out the competitive nature of our members. Lisa created "race tracks" for each table and assigned each their mascots. These ranged from a Swedish horse to Thai elephant, from a Beanie baby lady bug to a Kenyan rhino. Each table was given dice and at a designated signal, rolled the dice and advanced their mascot

around the track. Things got loud, excitement heightened and smiles were shining at the winning table. Everyone enjoyed it so much, they asked for a rematch!



August's "Day in the City" tested just how well our members knew their City. Lisa handed out trivia questions to each table, asking members to answer the questions within 5 minutes. It was fun – and answers were yelled out with conviction. The winning tables received a Chinese take-out container, filled with fortune cookies! Sadly, some members got their hopes up during the bingo, when they opened their fortune cookie and it said "you will win the bingo blackout." Unfortunately for them, it was a special message Lisa ordered



from the Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Factory in Chinatown.

Members donated gifts for the raffle, which generated almost \$200 which was donated to a local charity! What a fun way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

Lisa Brinkmann



# Rest in Peace, Fr. Mike

It is with very heavy hearts that Chicago Kolping informs our National Kolping members and friends of the passing of our beloved Praeses, Fr. Michael Scherschel who died peacefully in his sleep on August 10. God has called him home to his eternal reward.

Fr. Mike came to us in April, 2012 through St. Joseph College Seminary where he was Associate Director of Vocations. Chicago Kolping supported the Seminary. We were invited to Mass and breakfast there yearly and were able to meet the seminarians and talk with them. Then Fr. Mike would bring some of the seminarians to our Kolping affairs so more members could meet them. It was a good partnership.

In 2017, Fr. Mike was asked to be the pastor of St. Hubert Parish in the neighboring suburb of Hoffman Estates. He assured us at that time that he would always have time for us and he did.

A week before he died, Fr. suffered a heart attack and drove himself to the hospital.

He underwent an angioplasty and had several stents implanted. He was released to go home to family and

rest and recuperate. His doctors' advice – avoid stress. A few days into his recuperation, he went to sleep at night and did not wake up.




God felt Fr. Mike has done everything He wanted him to do and called Father home to be with his God whom he loved so much. We are so sad for ourselves who are missing him so much already, but so happy for Fr. Mike who is for sure in heaven with God and Fr. Kolping. Imagine what that must be like.

Rest in Peace, Fr. Mike. Thank you for everything you did for us and with us.

We will never forget you.


Carol Ideler



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

**CINCINNATI**  
*Margaret Eismann  
Christel Leuker*

**NEW YORK**  
*Rudolph Skrapis*



## National Endowment Fund

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

*In Memory of Herbert Roethel, deceased member of the Brooklyn Kolping Society and GottscheerKUV Verein*

*Brooklyn Kolping Society*

*Kolping Society National Endowment Fund*

**Kolping Society National Endowment Fund**

c/o Lisa Brinkmann

311 Greene Street

Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

# International Kolping



## 100 years of Kolping Brazil

100 years ago, the first Kolping Families were founded by immigrants in Brooklin/São Paulo. While there were nine founding members at the time, there are now about 5,000 members in Brazil who are involved in a wide variety of social projects. This anniversary was celebrated on June 21-22 in Brooklin with 300 guests from different Brazilian states, from Germany, Chile and Uruguay.

In a welcome note to the festivities, General Secretary Dr. Markus Demele emphasized: "Brazil is one of the nuclei of Kolping's international expansion. 100 years ago, courageous brothers, in fact only men at the time, started spreading the tradition of journeymen's associations, especially with a focus on furthering vocational training in Brazil. Over the decades, an active social association has evolved in many Brazilian states, offering people help in the form of fellowship and very concrete support in different types of projects. ... What I find particularly impressive is the diversity of your activities: There is the fight against aridity with water projects in the northeast of your vast country, there are the vocational training projects in

the south, there is the commitment to children and adolescents, there are hotels and income-generating projects, and most of all there are hundreds of Kolping Families in which a spirit of community becomes alive that reflects the spirit of the Gospel."

## Network of lively partnerships

Dr. Demele went on to point out how impressive it is to experience the diverse network of lively partnerships that has been characteristic of Kolping Brazil for decades. "So many people in Europe and other places in the world have close bonds with Kolping Brazil and are eagerly waiting to be with you again or to have you as their guests."

One of the highlights of the celebrations was the dance performance of the Kolping community Jd. São José from Suzano- São Paulo, which represented the regions of Brazil where Kolping is present. They also presented the projects offered for young people. The contributions of six employees, who talked about their personal experiences, were also very emotional and moving. Another highlight was the tribute paid to Paolo Link, who played a major role in shaping the association for decades as National Praeses of Kolping Brazil.



## World Day of Prayer

On the occasion of Adolph Kolping's beatification, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL celebrates the World Day of Prayer every year. It is always prepared by a different National Kolping Association. This shows the diversity and unity of spirituality in the Kolping community.

This year the World Day of Prayer is organized by Kolping Brazil, which also celebrates its centenary this year.



## Focus on project: Ukraine

Every The war in Ukraine – although it has been going on for so long – is still hard for most of us to imagine.

However, the hardship of the people worsens each day. Now winter is coming. Vasyl Savka, National Secretary of KOLPING Ukraine, writes: "We are preparing for the coming winter, which will be very hard. We need generators, sturdy torches with batteries, warm sturdy shoes, fleece jackets, safety vests. We also need as much material as possible to provide medical care for the people. All this is incredibly important to save people's lives."

With your donation, you help the people in Ukraine to get through the winter. Thank you very much for your untiring solidarity.

Key Word: "PFO Ukraine aid"



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## International Kolping *(continued)*

### Focus on families

Kolping Hungary: New series of events focuses on families

The Kolping Family in Gödöllő has launched a successful series of lectures and meetings focusing on topics related to the family: At the “Kolpinghaven”, children, adolescents and adults get together to discuss burning issues.

“What will I do after graduation?” was the title of the first event in spring. How can young people learn more about their future careers, and what help can their parents offer them? Undersecretary Dr. Balázs Hankó and Kolping director of education Vajk Bánhidly provided information and discussed with the young people and



their parents. The second event was about puberty. Two more events are being planned for the autumn on the topics of bullying and healthy eating.

The new event format is not only targeted at Kolping members, but wants to appeal to as many people as possible, young and old. Instead of going to the movies with the whole family as a joint activity, for example, families are invited to come to the

“Kolping haven”. Here there are always new contacts, topics and ideas. And by the way, it is of course also a good opportunity to make Kolping known.

“We have already had the “Kolping Academy” for many years, with lectures aimed at adults,” reports Ms. Ágnes Kaiserné Jósvai, chairwoman of the Gödöllő Kolping Family. The Gödöllő Kolping Family has come up with this new format to reach out to more people, young and old, families and children and also to non-members.

For more information on the Kolping Haven, contact Ms. Ágnes Kaiserné Jósvai, chairwoman of the Gödöllő Kolping Family at [info@godolloikolping.hu](mailto:info@godolloikolping.hu).