

Kolping Banner

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Kolping Kenya Lenten Project

As we approach another Lenten Season and the 2024 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 project this past year with Kolping Kenya. For 2023 Kolping USA raised \$18,535.00 for the Lenten project. As I mentioned in last year's report, Kenya has been suffering from drought conditions since 2020.



In response to the drought conditions recently experienced in Kenya we discussed at the National Convention in September 2022 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. Kolping Kenya is doing this by providing water collection tanks to the membership that are filled from rainwater collected from the roof and focusing 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 as most families in rural locations rely on local wells for their water source and have to carry water home from the wells on foot.



The cost of a 5,000 liter (1,320 gallons) water tank is approximately \$335. The cost of a multi-story container garden which are made from waste plastic is estimated at \$20.50 per set. So far, a little over \$8,000 of the proceeds from the 2023 Lenten Project have been spent on the distribution of 30 water tanks to the Miambani Parish area of Kenya where there are 7 Kolping Families. Miambani Parish is approximately 125 miles east and a 4-hour car ride from

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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

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 c/o Lisa Brinkmann, 311 Greene Street, Mill Valley, CA. 94941 e-mail: kolpingus@gmail.com.

Please visit the Catholic Kolping Society of America internet website at:
<http://www.kolping.org>



From the President's Desk ...

Happy New Year!

I hope 2024 has kicked off on a positive note for you. The start of a new year often brings a mix of feelings, ranging from anticipation to a touch of superstition about what lies ahead.

For me, the beginning of this year was a blend of challenges and moments of reflection. Wrestling with a stubborn bronchial cold wasn't the ideal kickoff, especially coupled with a family member's sudden change in health that demanded considerable care and attention. A seemingly small project at the Kolping Hall snowballed into a probable kitchen remodel. Adding to the whirlwind was news of a family friend's passing, another entering hospice, and the move of dear neighbors.

Initially, I found myself in a bit of a slump, but read a Forbe's article from 2022, quoting an adage often attributed to Winston Churchill: "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." It went on to say that "Optimism means acknowledging challenges that come your way and approaching them as manageable, temporary kinks on the road to success."

Allowing myself some downtime and overcoming the pesky cold was a relief, and seeing the incredible support from my siblings for our family member highlighted the strength of familial bonds. Working with tradespeople on the Kolping project taught me more than I expected, and recognizing the loss of these individuals only reinforced my gratitude for having known them. As corny as it might sound, finding silver linings in tough situations truly helps to get through them.

Father Kolping leaned in on his positive determination – first to help a sick friend, then to become a priest and lastly to start an organization that has survived over 150 years. I have been encouraged and invigorated reading of the many charitable, social and fun activities our Kolping members (all of whom are volunteers) are doing – assisting at food pantries in Brooklyn, collecting toys at Christmas in San Francisco, hosting a 33rd annual winter BBQ in Chicago and cooking up an annual Fish Fry for the community in Cincinnati ... and more.

We have still many projects and programs ahead of us in 2024, at both our local Kolping families and with the National Kolping. I encourage all members to stay upbeat and positive and to offer ideas, help and constructive input as we work to keep Father Kolping's values of family, faith and community alive. Happy 2024.

Lisa Brinkmann

*"You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem,
and smarter than you think."*

— Winnie the Pooh

44th National Kolping Convention

**St. Charles, Missouri
September 6-8, 2024**

The National Kolping Society is excited to host the 44th National Kolping Convention in St. Charles, Missouri's first State capital. This location was chosen to honor our first Kolping family, founded in St. Louis in 1856. Unlike former conventions, this one is hosted by our National Kolping Society and is only possible due to the work of Kolping members around the country.

We are fortunate to have booked the Embassy Suites in St. Charles, with room rates of \$170/night, with a 2-night minimum stay (taxes not included.). This venue is located approximately 10 miles from the St. Louis airport, a quick 15 minute drive.

Registration cost will be \$200/person and \$100/ family member under 16 years of age.

Below is a brief overview of the schedule of events:

▪ **Friday, September 6th**

- Board Meeting and Welcome Reception in the evening

▪ **Saturday, September 7th**

- Mass at hotel
- Delegate meeting and presentations (all day)
- Non-delegate tour of St. Charles, lunch and rest/shopping time
- Evening dinner and awards banquet

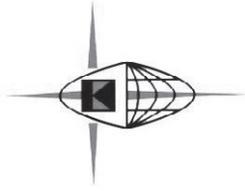
▪ **Sunday, September 8th**

- Mass
- Riverboat lunch cruise on the Mississippi River
 - For those wishing to spend more time, this is near the Arch and Busch Brewery

We will be posting future updates, details and registration on the National Kolping website at www.kolping.org

Since this is a National Kolping event, we are encouraging members and Kolping families to consider taking out an ad in our program booklet. It's a wonderful souvenir and memory. Participating at the convention – as a delegate or non-delegate – helps us ensure the vitality of our Kolping organizations. It is a time to (re)make acquaintances, share ideas and plan future programs, and, of course, have fun! We hope you can make it.

If you have any questions, feel free to email kolpingus@gmail.com



44th National Kolping Convention

**St. Charles, Missouri
September 6-8, 2024**

Registration Form: Deadline: July 15, 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Kolping Family: _____

Convention Package (same price for both delegates and non-delegates)*

Adults _____
(\$200/person)

Children (16 and under): _____
(\$100/person)

Total Amount Enclosed (Due by **July 15, 2024**): _____

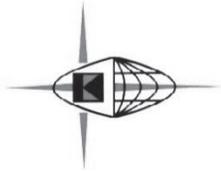
* Convention package includes Friday hospitality party, Saturday lunch, Saturday evening dinner and awards ceremony, Sunday Mass and Riverboat lunch cruise, and all transportation to and from events. Non-delegate package also includes entry fees to local tours and attractions.

Please make your hotel reservations at the Embassy Suites by August XXX, 2024 through the hotel website at:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=STLEMES&arrivalDate=2024-09-05&departureDate=2024-09-09&groupCode=92Q&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink>

Or by phone, call Hilton Reservations at: 800-774-1500 and use code "92Q" to get the group rate.

Please return this registration form with your check **payable to** the Kolping Society of America at:
Kolping Society of America
c/o 311 Greene Street
Mill Valley, CA. 94941



44th National Kolping Convention

Program ADs

One way we all can support the 44th National Kolping Convention is by purchasing an ad in our Convention Program booklet. It's a wonderful way to acknowledge the importance of Kolping in your life, as well as to show the spirit of Kolping in the USA. We have many options for ads and donations and hope one will fit your budget.

All ads and payments will be accepted until July 1, 2024 to be included in the program. Program size will be 5 ½ X 8 ½.

Select your ad size:

Full-page color ad:	\$175	_____
Full-page black and white ad:	\$150	_____
Half-page black and white ad:	\$ 75	_____
Quarter-page black and white ad:	\$ 50	_____
Eighth-page black and white ad:	\$ 35	_____
2-line Patron ad:	\$20	_____
1-line Supporter ad:	\$10	_____

Contact name: _____

Contact phone: _____

Company name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Comments: _____

Ad for Patron/Supporter Section (personal message/memorial): _____

Enclose a business card or camera ready artwork to : kolpingus@gmail.com

Ad space is limited, so please respond quickly. We appreciate your support. Should you have questions, please contact

Mail checks and order forms with your ad to:

Kolping Society of America, c/o 311 Greene Street, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Bingos, Brunch and Fun in the City by the Bay

Our Day of Thanks



The San Francisco Kolping kicked off their Day of Thanks bingo with bags of food lining front entry as members dropped off contributions for the Food Drive. Father Paul was able to add these donations to those at his parish, St. Bartholomew's in San Mateo.

As usual, our members were especially generous with the donated raffle prizes and in purchasing the raffle tickets. We were able to raise over \$200, which was donated to the Martin de Porres House of Hospitality, which serves meals to the homeless and low-income residents. Congratulations to our bingo winners and Lucy Chambers, our "Who is the Biggest Turkey" winner!



Santa's elves showed up to decorate the Kolping hall and create a festive atmosphere for our Christmas Mass and Brunch, namely Cathy Vennemeyer, Barbara Eckhart, Kevin Cunnane, Muffy Friel, Arlene Bushner, Karen Cilia-Santi and Gunther Ehrich.



Father Paul and our Deacon Bill presided over a lovely Mass with members enjoying a few Christmas hymns. Lunch was catered through Guerro's Market and egnogs flew off the bar! Santa's helpers Greg Costanzo and his elf, Muffy Friel,

delivered Christmas gifts to all members. It was a fun, relaxing afternoon truly filled with the holiday spirit.

Members were especially generous in donating toys to our gift giving efforts. Bill and Chris McLoughlin delivered these to a local fire department to regift for Toys for Tots.



Lenten Project

In this edition of the Banner, you'll find an envelope to make donations to the Lenten Project that much easier. Please consider supporting your National Kolping organization in enhancing our partnership with Kolping Kenya. As you'll read in Ted's article, even a small donation goes a long way in improving the life and promoting Kolping within the communities of our Kenyan brothers and sisters.

2024 Scholarship

We will be posting the applications and essay questions for the 2024 National Kolping Scholarship to our website on February 16, 2024. Keep an eye out for it on www.kolping.org

Annual Raffle Winners

Congratulations to our National Raffle winners. It really can pay off to purchase those tickets!!

FIRST PRIZE \$1,500

Heddy Freese
Cincinnati Kolping

SECOND PRIZE \$1,000

Michelle Buhz
Brooklyn Kolping

THIRD PRIZE \$500

Omischi
Chicago Kolping

Donations

Brooklyn Kolping Society to the Endowment Fund.

Brooklyn Kolping Celebrates 100 years!

Congratulations to our Brooklyn Kolping family on celebrating their 100th anniversary on January 20, 2024.

Kolping Kenya Lenten Project

(continued from page 1)

the capital Nairobi. The balance of funds of approximately \$10,000.00 will be used in the first two months of 2024 for the distribution of container gardens along with training on how to use them appropriately.

I will provide a final update once all funds have been spent. 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 2024 Lenten Season.

Sincerely,
Theodore F. Wilke
Treasurer Kolping USA





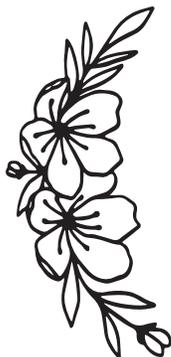
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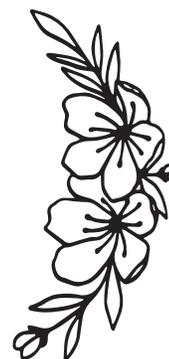
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Rest in Peace Pat Farkas



The National Kolping Board is very sad to share the news that our National Administrator, Patricia Farkas, passed away unexpectedly on January 17, 2024.

Pat resided in Clifton, NJ. She and her late husband, Ed Farkas, were instrumental in establishing the now defunct Passaic NJ Kolping Family in the 1980's (with the late Father Walter Pruschowitz). When her Kolping Family was disbanded, she joined the New York Kolping Society.

In 2004, Pat assumed the National Administrator's job when Ed passed. As National Administrator, she played an important role in the Kolping Society of America, coordinating the publication of the Banner, supporting the National Board with its Lenten projects, annual raffles and conventions and, basically, being an integral, dedicated member of our Kolping Family. She will be sorely missed as she leaves a large void in our National Kolping leadership.

Please join us in sending our condolences to her family and friends. She will be greatly missed. Any donations made in her memory should be sent to the Kolping Endowment Fund.