



Kolping Banner

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2024 Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Congratulations to our 2024 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) Recipients. Tom Montgomery and Henry Faulk presented the DSA plaques and pins to members from each of our local Kolping families who have gone above and beyond in service and practicing the values of Father Kolping:

Patricia Gerage.....	Brooklyn
Michael Callahan	Cincinnati
Barb Hessler	Cincinnati
Monika Kessling	Los Angeles
Alex Schmitt	New York
Ann Nordin	Philadelphia
Gordon Hawkes	Chicago
Robert Geoppinger	Cincinnati
Jeffrey Ewald	Detroit
Joan Dengler	New York
Michael Weinborg	New York
Deacon Bill McLoughlin...	San Francisco



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Secretary	Barbara Hessler
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National Trustee.....	Marilee Uhlhorn
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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.

Episcopal Moderator:

Bishop John M. Quinn

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Praeses, Fr. Richard Bretone

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Vice President, Helene Schrand

Secretary, Barbara Hessler

Treasurer, Ted Wilke

Trustees Lucille Colletti

Henry Faulk

Marilee Uhlhorn

Monika Weiss

Wolfgang Weiss

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 ...

The 44th National Kolping Convention ... how'd it go?

Speaking as one of the lead organizers, I cannot tell you how proud I was of the work done by our convention committee. Kolping members from across the country joined forces to identify vendors and venues, compile and coordinate convention booklets and bags, and serve as "ambassadors" to welcome delegates and guest. I would like to send out a huge thank you for all their dedication, hard work and professionalism:

Natalya Borodin, New York
Lisa Brinkmann, National
Lucille Colletti, National
Barbara Hessler, National
Monika Kessling, Los Angeles
Helene Schrand, National
John Stevie, Cincinnati
Marilee Uhlhorn, National
Ted Wilke, National

Father Bretone, New York
Kathy Biesty, San Francisco
Henry Faulk, National
Veronika Kessling, Los Angeles
Tom Montgomery, Cincinnati
Maria (Mia) Steigerwald, New York
Danielle Tombragel, Cincinnati
Doris Wilke, Cincinnati

I am going to use much of this edition of the Banner to share pictures, highlights and plans for the next few years.

Lisa



Donations

In Memory of Anita Wuerzinger Catholic Kolping Society of Detroit

Anonymous

Kolping Society National Endowment Fund

c/o Lisa Brinkmann
311 Greene Street
Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

44th Kolping Convention in St. Charles, Missouri

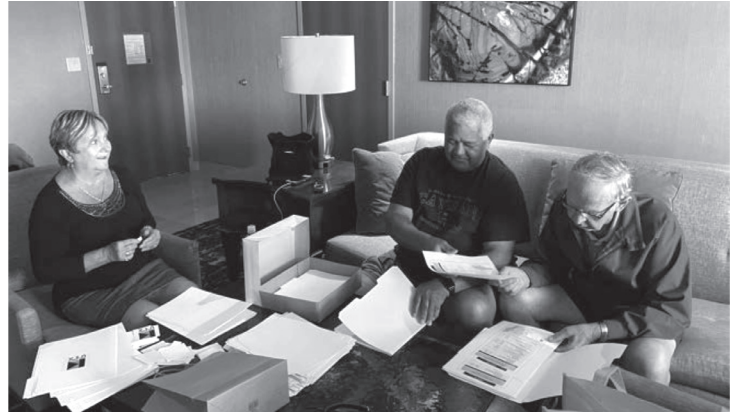
WELCOME REGISTRATION AND RECEPTION

Friday was a little crazy for some of us, as we worked to put together the welcome packets (which Veronika and Monika graciously shipped), manned the registration desk and welcomed everyone to our “kick off” reception. Thanks to Mark Stempler for hand-delivering a special schnapps for members to officially Prost the opening of the 44th National Convention.

PREPARATION:



*Marilee Uhlhorn, Doris Wilke, Helene Schrand
Donna Faulk organizing the bags*



*Lu Colletti, Henry Faulk and Werner Wilke
assembling the welcome folders*

REGISTRATION:



*Cathy Vennemeyer and
Doris Wilke*



*Monika Kessler, Muffy Friel, Lisa Brinkmann,
Carol Ideler and Marilee Uhlhorn*



*Marilee Uhlhorn
the Welcome Wagon*

WELCOME RECEPTION:



WELCOME RECEPTION (continued):



THE AWARD BANQUET

How many ways can you say fun? I guess if the band is named “The Wurst Bavarian Band”, your off to a good start. Between Lisa’s welcome, Father Huber’s saying of Grace and the lively attendees, I must say, it was definitely gemuetlich. In addition to presenting the award recipients with their plaques and pins, Mark Stempler lugged the New Member trophy from Chicago to St. Charles in a case which would arise suspicion or fear. Mafioso - almost, but secure would definitely describe it. Thanks much to Kolping Chicago for the thought and design of this awesome case!



This year Mia Steigerwald presented the award to the San Francisco Kolping. While extremely proud, Lisa finagled a vote which determined that, going forward, the award will reside in our National office and the Local Family would receive a travel-friendly acknowledgement.



John Mueller, President of Cincinnati, presented the convention flag to Ted Wilke, National Treasurer, who will hold it in safekeeping until our next convention.

Below are some highlights from the banquet:



MASS

The Kolping Family was honored to be able to have their Mass at All Saints Parish in St. Peter's, Missouri. Coincidentally, the priest presiding over the service was a colleague of Cardinal Dolan, a special friend of New York Kolping, and grew up near the Kolping Park in St. Louis. A congregation of over 7,000 members, welcomed us to their parish.



After Mass, we took a bus trip to Blumenhof Winery where we enjoyed the remaining time together and share a glass (or two) together.



PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

The afternoon of our meeting was spent discussing proposals presented to the delegation as well as determining whether we would continue with our ongoing initiatives, namely the Scholarship Program and Lenten Project.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The delegation unanimously voted in favor of continuing the scholarship program for college, trade schools and high school seniors. The gratitude conveyed by the participants underscored how important these scholarships have becoming in bridging the financial burden of pursuing education and trades. They also provide an opportunity to educate participants on the life and values of Father Kolping – a win/win!

If you are interested in joining the scholarship committee, please let your National Rep or Anna Stukenborg know.


Hey Lisa, I wanted to start off by thanking you for giving all of us a chance to win very generous scholarships to help pay for our greater education at college. Unfortunately I did not win this year but I am beyond honored that I can participate in a contest as influential as this.

Thank you so much for the great news! This will be extremely helpful with the cost of my tuition and room and board for this year.

Thank you so much for selecting me as one of the recipients of the 2023 Scholarship! I am honored and overjoyed to receive this award!

Thank you so much for the award. This means a lot to me and my family. I will definitely put this award to good use.

I am so grateful and indebted to The Kolping Society
Thank You!



44th National Kolping Convention

LENTEN PROJECT



Lisa presented the impact of our donations on the well-being and livelihood of our brother and sisters in Kenya and showed a short video (which will be posted soon on the website) from the families receiving goats, vertical gardens and water tanks. The delegation voted to continue and deepen our relationship with Kolping Kenya.

Money Contributed

Lenten Project Contributions 2024			
	Lenten Project		
	Kolping Kenya - Small Animal Initiative		
	Total Contribution	Individuals/ Kolping Families	National
2018	\$ 10,612.00	\$ 10,612.00	\$ -
2019	\$ 16,032.00	\$ 16,032.00	\$ -
2020	\$ 23,645.00	\$ 16,145.00	\$ 7,500.00
2021	\$ 20,589.00	\$ 13,089.00	\$ 7,500.00
2022	\$ 21,203.00	\$ 13,703.00	\$ 7,500.00
2023	\$ 21,547.50	\$ 14,047.50	\$ 7,500.00
Total	\$ 113,628.50	\$ 83,628.50	\$ 30,000.00

Impact

Lenten Project		
Project	Number of Kolping Families Recipients	Number of Individual Family Recipients
Dairy Goats	24	540
Multi-story Gardens	30	600
Water Tanks	6	45



- The delegation voted to proceed with all four proposals, given some caveats and guidelines around a few, as follows:
1. We will put aside a small fund for the creation of a digital document repository, which will allow us to store key documents online and make these available to the National Kolping Board and Local Families, as appropriate. Examples of these include the National by-laws, Board roster, roles and responsibilities, membership lists, etc.
 2. We will focus on leadership succession to ensure the National office will continue to operate should a Board member resign or no longer be able to fulfill his/her duties. The first step to this is to outline each Board members' responsibilities with timelines included where appropriate. Examples are tax filings, Board meeting schedules, etc...
 3. Update and modernize the Kolping pamphlet/brochure to make it more relevant and accessible for all families. This will be available in a format that a local Family can download and distribute. A committee was formed to review current brochures and begin to develop a new one. If you are interested in joining this marketing/communications effort, please let your National Rep or Anna Stukenborg know.
 4. Beginning January 2025, the National Banner will be published on a quarterly basis. Each Family will be taking a poll of its membership to understand who may like to receive this as a printed newsletter (vs. digital), to evaluate the feasibility of moving it to an electronic medium. We will continue to send hard copies to any member preferring it, but hope to move to a more digital publication over time.

Below are some highlights from the meeting:



Natalya Borodin, NY



Monika Weiss, SF



Father Huber, Kolping Intl



Mark Stempler, Chicago



Ted Wilke, Cincinnati



Veronika Kessling, LA



Matt Tiza, Detroit



Barbara Hessler, Cincinnati

International Report

Msgr Christopher Huber, who was appointed as General Praeses in October 2021, presented the International Report and provided delegates with an overview of the impact and major initiatives undertaken by Kolping International. Below are some key “take-aways”:

1. Kolping International is one of the largest philanthropic organizations in the world, with over 400,000 members and 9,000 individual Kolping Families worldwide.
2. Their projects are based on the principle of “Help for Self-Help”, offering programs to help people develop their talents and enable them to become self-reliant and to make a living in their home country.
3. The Kolping Society was able to take immediate actions in assisting members in the Ukraine at the very beginning (and still today) of the war, being the first NGO on the scene.
4. Kolping Myanmar expressed their wish for Kolping not to forget about them, as they live through a civil war, requested that Father Huber visit and asked to keep them in our prayers.
5. In Tanzania, Kolping applicants go through a year-long program – learning how to raise livestock, manage soil moisture and create fertilizer – and demonstrate their commitment to the values of Father Kolping, before becoming a member.





**CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY
OF AMERICA**

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Kolping USA Executive Director

Dearest Kolping USA Family,

I regret having missed the 2024 National Convention, but from the stories I have heard and from the photos, it looks as if all of you had a great time! The national conventions are such great reminders that we are part of something larger than ourselves and give us the opportunity to refocus and reconnect with each other. Congratulations to all of the service award recipients! It is truly a privilege to recognize all of you for your faithful dedication to the work of Blessed Fr. Kolping.



Now that the convention is behind us, President Lisa Brinkmann (our Event Planner Extraordinaire) will be able to focus on getting me oriented to my new responsibilities. I am looking forward to assisting Lisa and the National Board with spearheading the programs and projects that the delegation has approved for the next few years, along with the many other tasks that Pat Farkas did for us that we didn't even know about. Lisa has gone above and beyond this past year to keep things going forward in Pat's absence and I am glad to be able to relive her of the extra work load.

I am certain that I am speaking for all of the Kolping USA Families:
Lisa, thank you so much for your leadership!

Anna P. Stukenborg
