



Kolping Banner

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Christmas Greetings 2024



Dear Kolping Sisters and Kolping Brothers in the United States!

Our founder Adolph Kolping wrote once, that he would be glad, if Christmas could be, what it should be: not only a feast for our kids to make them happy, but to be generous to those, who the poor kid Jesus shared his poverty with, the poor people especially the poor kids in the world.

These thoughts I want to share with you for this Christmas, because I think it is as necessary today, as it was in his days. To remember, that Jesus Christ came into this world to be a brother in our poverty and to lift us up to him and heavenly graciousness.



Msgr. Christoph Huber

I'm glad to see, how Kolping helps in more than 60 countries to lift up the lives of people by encouraging them, giving them a chance for realizing what the lord wanted them to be: humans with dignity. So we are part of fulfilling the wish of Adolph Kolping and of so many people today.

I even say thank you also to the Kolping members in the USA for hosting me this year in the National Convention and we shared the world-wide community and for the generous sacrifice, the Kolping brothers and sisters make in the Lenten campaign and the other activities.

May the Lord bless our efforts and grant us a merry and peaceful Christmas!

Yours,

Msgr. Christoph Huber
General Praeses

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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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Bishop John M. Quinn

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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 Oakvill 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 anna@kolping.org.

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



From the President's Desk ...

Merry Christmas!

I am especially happy to welcome the Christmas season this year. While I admit I felt a bit annoyed at first, seeing all the holiday decorations, wrapping paper and gifts already in the aisles at Costco before Halloween, for some reason, before even Thanksgiving, I feel ready for some holiday joy.

We've been hard at work since the convention! Anna Stukenborg and I have partnered with programmers to (hopefully) streamline communication and processes between our National office and local Families. One example is our new approach to submitting Christmas ads for the Banner. Instead of mailing out a letter with a photocopy of last year's ad, pricing information, and payment instructions, we've developed an online form. Now, our Families can review last year's ad, choose to use it again or upload a new one, and decide whether to pay by check or online.

In the coming months, we plan to introduce a document directory for Board members and local Family representatives, making important resources more accessible. We're also excited about a photo gallery to share memories and bolster our social media presence. Additionally, we're working on an online application process for our scholarship program, allowing applicants to submit essays and contact information digitally, saving time for everyone involved.

Starting in the summer, we aim to offer the Banner in a digital format for those who prefer it that way. The current version is already available on our website for easy access. For members who enjoy the hardcopy, don't worry—those will still be available. We'll be transitioning to a quarterly publication schedule instead of bi-monthly.

I am grateful for the support and encouragement from our Board, trustees, national reps and Kolping Family leadership as we make these changes. Feedback is always welcome! And if you would like to contact either Anna or myself, please feel free to use the new email addresses: anna@kolping.org or info@kolping.org.

I wish you all a joyous Christmas season and welcome what the New Year brings!

Happy 2025

Lisa

"It is never too late to be what you might have been."

- George Eliot

Announcement of Resignation: Father Richard Bretone

It is with deep regret that we announce the resignation of our beloved National Praeses, Father Richard Bretone, from his role with the National Kolping Society.

Father Bretone's journey with the Kolping Society began in 1999 as the spiritual director of the New York Kolping. In 2016, he stepped into the role of Praeses for the National Kolping, becoming a cornerstone of our leadership team and providing invaluable guidance and dedication over the years.

Beyond his service to the Catholic Kolping Society, Father Bretone founded the Eternal Flame of Hope Ministries in 2001, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a deeper connection to God through nature, spirituality, and art. A key element of this ministry is "Heaven's Embrace," a breathtaking retreat property nestled in the lower Catskill Mountains of New York.

Father Bretone has been an unwavering source of inspiration and leadership for our community, and his contributions will have a lasting impact on our mission and those we serve.



Please join us in thanking Father Bretone for his years of service and in wishing him all the best in his continued work with Eternal Flame of Hope Ministries. We are confident that his ministry will continue to touch hearts and transform lives.

May God bless Father Bretone as he embarks on this next chapter of his journey.

Kolping National 2025 Scholarships

Information for the Kolping National 2025 Scholarships will be posted to the website (Kolping.org) in February.

Kolping Cincinnati Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary

by Nancy Pelzel

The germination of the Catholic Kolping Society of Cincinnati began with little fanfare on a summer afternoon in 1924, when a group of young German immigrants met at the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens on Pentecost Sunday during a Sangerfest. They discovered that many of them had been Kolping members in Germany and they thought that it would be a great idea to establish a Kolping Society here in Cincinnati. Their first order of business was to recruit a priest to be their spiritual advisor, or Praeses. Father Maurice Ripperger, OFM, the pastor of St. Francis Church, agreed to be their Praeses and with the blessing of Archbishop Henry Moeller, D.D, the official founding of the Catholic Kolping Society of Cincinnati took place on November 26, 1924 at St. Francis Hall. There were 46 members who had joined the Society at that time. Prior to the official founding date, several of the members had formed a Kolping Choir, or Singing Club, which provided a melodious backdrop for the founding ceremony, as it would for many Kolping events in the future.

Many sub groups were formed in the early days, such as the Ladies Auxiliary, the Sports Club, Drama Club, Chess Club, and Orchestra. The Society held its first Schutzenfest in 1925 at the Kolping Camp on the Little Miami River on leased property. The Kolping Schutzenfest has been held for every year since, with the exception of 2020, when all the world stopped for the COVID pandemic

In 1930, Cincinnati Kolping purchased a former police station and bath house in the Over-the-Rhine district



June 1924 at the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens

of Downtown Cincinnati, which provided space for meetings and events, but more importantly, living space to help Kolping brothers to get on their feet when they first arrived from the homeland.

As the Society grew in membership, it outgrew the Kolping House in Over-the-Rhine, so 9 ¼ acres were purchased in 1953 in the suburbs of Cincinnati where all of the activities could be combined at one site – outdoor festivals, indoor events, member clubhouse, etc. This quickly became known as “Kolping Grove”. During this time, as some sub groups disbanded, others started up, such as the Pigeon Club, Kolping Seniors, the Schutzen Club, 4-H Club, Kolping Band, and Young Kolping.

The Society continued to grow by leaps and bounds, so land containing 57.8 acres was purchased from the Franciscan organization in 1981 and by 1984 a Shelter House and the official Kolping Park were built

and dedicated. The youth soccer and baseball programs were greatly expanded, and by May of 1992, a new facility called the Kolping Center was built and occupied. A Pavilion and garage were added later, and this entire complex is still home to the Catholic Kolping Society of Cincinnati today. It is maintained by a group of retired members called the Tuesday Workers who volunteer every Tuesday to do all the work necessary to keep the facility in tip-top shape, including painting, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, grounds maintenance, etc.

From that small group of German immigrants who had the foresight to start a Kolping Society in Cincinnati to the 650-member organization of today, much has changed, but still, many traditions have carried on. Schutzenfest, Communion Sundays, family gatherings, community outreach, the fostering of camaraderie and the sense of family and community – all of these

are prevalent today, as they were in the beginning.

While the early Society was an organization for young men, mostly of German descent, Cincinnati Kolping is now an all-inclusive organization, men and women, young and old, but still maintaining some of its German roots. There are many sub groups to the Society, including the Soccer Club, Sngerchor, Seniors, The Journeymen Group, Schtzen Club, Tuesday Workers, Genealogy Group, Kolping Golf League, The Women’s Klub, and the Bourbon Club.

The Catholic Kolping Society of Cincinnati, which is currently one of the largest Kolping Societies in the world, officially celebrated its 100th Anniversary on October 19, 2024 at the Kolping Center in Cincinnati with a large gathering of members and their families, as everyone enjoyed good food, entertainment, and camaraderie.



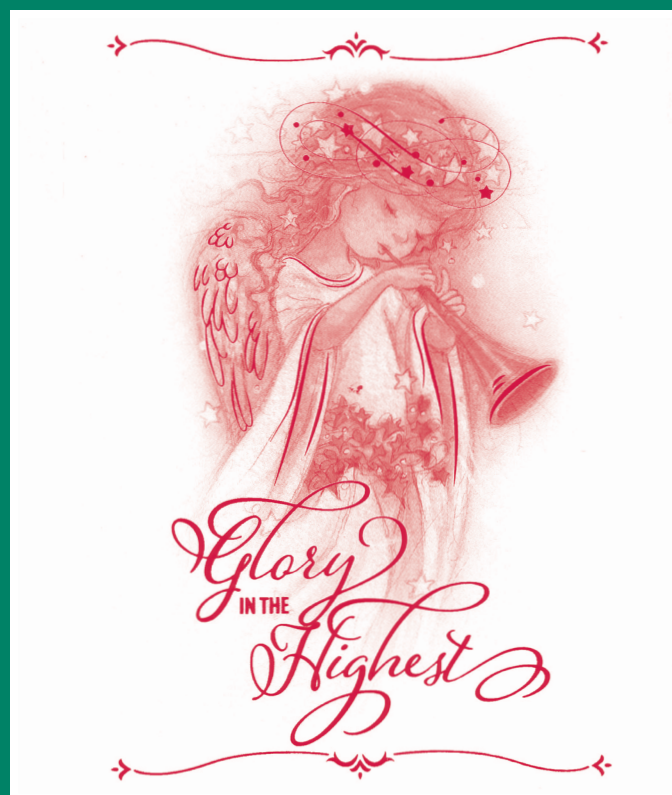


For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

*The Brooklyn Kolping Family wishes you a joyous
Christmas and a New Year Full of blessings!*

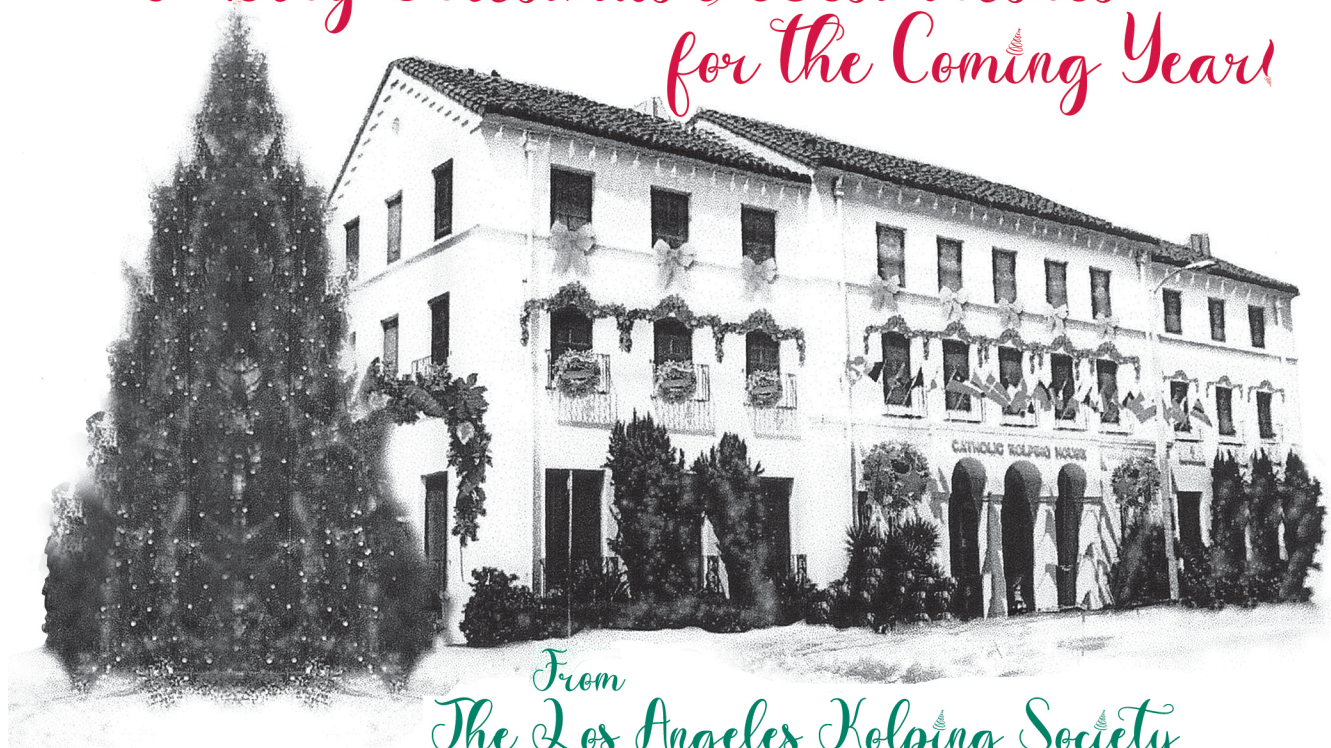
Holiday Greetings

*from the Kolping Family
in
Rochester N.Y.*



*A Joyous Christmas to you.
The Editor and Staff of the Kolping Banner*

*Merry Christmas & Best Wishes
for the Coming Year!*



Merry Christmas



**FROM THE
KOLPING KICKS
SOCCER CLUB
OF
ST. LOUIS MO**



from the
St. Louis
Kolping
Family

May you have the gift of Faith,
the blessing of Hope,
and the peace of His love
at Christmas and always

**Best wishes for a
Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year**



CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

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*May Baby Jesus bless
Our Kolping Brothers and Sisters
on His Birthday
and all through the New Year*

*The Chicago
Kolping Family*



WISHING YOU AND
YOUR FAMILIES A
**Merry
Christmas**



AND A
**Happy
New Year**



FROM ALL OF US AT SAN FRANCISCO KOLPING SOCIETY



To All Our
KOLPING BROTHER AND SISTERS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
from the
DETROIT KOLPING FAMILY



*May the peace of
Christ Jesus
fill your hearts this
Christmas
and bring happiness
to you in 2024*

*from the
Cincinnati Kolping Family*



BEST WISHES FOR A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Catholic Kolping Society of Philadelphia
9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114

Distinguished Service Award



Ann Nordin was not able to attend the National Convention, so her Distinguished Service Award was presented to her by Keith Hildebrand and Paul Leifholtz at the Philadelphia Kolping meeting. Congratulations, Ann!



**CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY
OF AMERICA**
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Kolping USA Executive Director

Dearest Kolping USA Family,

It is just me, or does the Christmas season always seem to come too quickly? Even so, I do enjoy the energy of gatherings with friends and family, Christmas lights to brighten the long winter nights, and the hope of a new year on the horizon! But best of all, remembering that through the Advent season, we are celebrating "Immanuel" - "God with us", the birth of Baby Jesus and the hope that He gives us of eternal life!

On behalf of the Kolping USA Leadership Team, I wish each and every one of our members a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Anna P. Stukenborg

