

Kolping Banner

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International Report and 2026 Lenten Project

International Board of Directors Meeting:

The Bi-Annual Kolping International Board of Directors meeting was scheduled to take place in India from October 23rd to 26th in the city of Chennai, India. Unfortunately, there were complications for the international participants in obtaining Travel Visa's to India with approximately 80% of the participants unable to obtain a Visa or approximately 40 attendees. I myself was unsuccessful in obtaining a visa and received a letter informing me that my Visa had been declined. As a result of the Visa complications the in-person meeting was cancelled and instead a digital Zoom meeting was held on Saturday, October 25th. Given the worldwide presence of

Kolping – participants signed onto the call across over 12 different time zones.

Highlights of his meeting include the fact that Kolping Germany Celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2025. From its humble beginnings in Germany we were informed that Kolping International is now active in 3 new countries – Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Pakistan.

The support provided by many of the Kolping Families in Europe for Kolping Ukraine was highlighted and several national organizations including Poland, Hungary and Rumania were recognized for their continued strong support of Kolping Ukraine. It was also mentioned that in addition to providing aid to Kolping Ukraine,

Kolping international also provides aid and relief to Kolping Families impacted by natural disasters including floods, hurricanes etc....

A shift in the political environment in Germany was mentioned to highlight that funds for international programs from the German Government are not as widespread as they had been in the past. The current environment carries the sentiment that these funds should be used in Germany instead of funding international projects. Kolping International has an increased focus on generating private donations as funds from the German Government are reduced.

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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, Open

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Secretary, Barbara Hessler

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Kolping Family Locations:

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718-456-7727

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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,

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Los Angeles Kolping Family,

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New York Kolping Family,

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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

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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 PO Box 76008, Highland Heights, KY 41076 e-mail: anna@kolping.org

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



From the President's Desk ...

Can you believe we're already well into the second quarter of the 21st century? Somehow it all feels like it's moving at warp speed.

I've been reading a lot lately about the pros and cons of New Year's resolutions. One camp argues that setting specific personal goals is a recipe for failure; the other insists that without goals, it's hard to move forward at all.

Personally, I tend to fail at very specific goals, whether they involve weight, exercise, or home projects. But I've found that identifying broader aspirations can be far more rewarding. This week, a few of our members are leading a "Vision Board" exercise during our new KlubHaus day. KlubHaus began as an idea from newer members who wanted a relaxed space to "hang out" and work on personal projects. It has since evolved into a flexible gathering that might be a game day, project time, or, this month, a Vision Board session.

I've never made a Vision Board before, but it's described as a creative way to visualize what we hope to do and accomplish over the year using images and words. It sounds both meaningful and fun.

That got me thinking: could this be a useful exercise for the Kolping Society as well? Our Families are wonderfully diverse. Some are struggling, some are thriving. Some are small, others large. Some own no hall, while others manage multiple properties. Our circumstances may differ, but at our core we share common values and a deep sense of understanding. That bond is something truly special.

This year, I will be terming out as your National President. It has been an honor to serve, and quite a journey: navigating COVID, losing our longtime administrator Pat Farkas, organizing a convention, and figuring things out as I went.

We've accomplished a great deal. Several Families have celebrated 100- and 125-year anniversaries. Rochester Kolping is experiencing a revival. We've held conventions in Cincinnati and St. Charles, with New York on the horizon. Still, it feels like a good moment to step back and intentionally visualize our shared future.

So... I challenge each Kolping Family to spend some time, at a general meeting or a board meeting, creating a Vision Board for the National Kolping Society. What would you like to see us do this year, and in the years ahead? Bring those ideas to our next convention, now less than a year away. We have the opportunity to propose initiatives that move us closer to our aspirations while achieving meaningful, practical goals.

The gauntlet has been tossed. I'm excited to see what you imagine.

*"In the book of life,
the answers are not in the back."*

....Charlie Brown



(Cont. Lenten Project - Kolping Kenya Small Animal Program)

The canonization of Blessed Adolph Kolping continues to be a work in process. Currently there is a prospect of a miracle in Brazil that has been identified and is in the process of being researched and vetted. No specific details were provided as I believe this was very new information.

Lenten Project

This Fall we learned that the funds sent to Kolping International for our annual Lenten project had not yet been forwarded to Kenya as planned. Lisa Brinkmann, Kolping International and I met, when we discovered that the Lenten Project funds had been held in a special account in hopes of using funds to facilitate a larger project for Kolping Kenya with funding from the German government. After some discussion, and learning that the program funding from the German government was still tentative, we decided that our funds

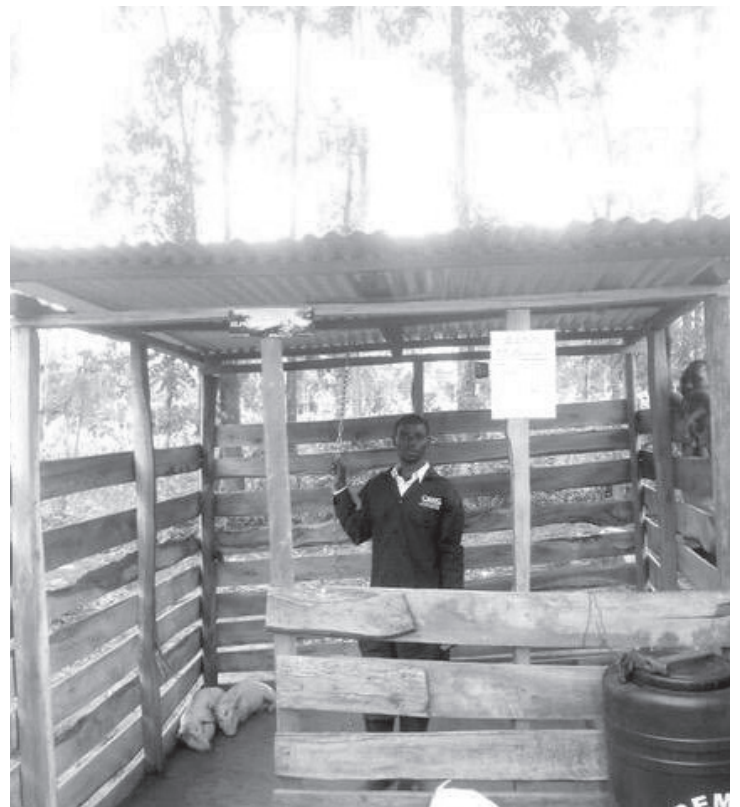
should be deployed as planned and communicated to our members – for small animal projects. Kolping Kenya recommended allocating these funds to its new pig farming project, to which we agreed.

The Kisumu and Homa Bay families of Kolping Kenya used these funds to purchase 200 piglets, necessary feed, and the materials to construct shelter for the animals. To qualify to be part of this project, participants attended classes conducted by a qualified trainer who covered the following areas

- Introduction to the importance of pig farming
- Housing of pigs - dimensions and construction
- Feeding of pigs and identification of pest/diseases.
- Weaning of pigs and marketing.

Twenty candidates were selected to receive 10 piglets each to raise. These recipients had to demonstrate that they had completed all sessions of the training, provide space and security for the animals and have a reliable source of water.

Director of Kolping Kenya – Patrick Kioko expresses his gratitude to Kolping USA on behalf of all of the Members of Kolping and is encouraged on its success to date.



A Praeses Proclaims...

THE NEED FOR AUTHENTIC WITNESSES

By Fr. Christopher Heanue
Praeses of the Brooklyn Kolping Society



Dear Members of the Kolping Society,

As we continue to rejoice in the Christmas season and look ahead to the coming year, I write to extend to you my heartfelt prayers for a blessed Christmas and for a happy, healthy, and holy New Year in 2026. This season invites us not only to celebrate the birth of our Savior, but also to reflect more deeply on how our faith shapes every aspect of our lives and our service to others.

As I write this reflection, we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany and await the arrival of the Three Kings. In this time we are reminded that faith is never meant to be passive. The Magi were astrologers, men trained to read the signs of the heavens. What is notable is not only their knowledge, but their attentiveness. They **noticed** the star. They allowed it to interrupt their routines. And they trusted it enough to follow wherever it led. Their journey challenges us to ask an important question: **are we attentive**

to how God is moving in our own lives and in our community, or do we miss His presence because we are too distracted or too comfortable? Do we notice the Lord in our midst?

This same attentiveness to God's call is what inspired our founder, **Fr Adolf Kolping**, to create a society rooted in faith, dignity, and care for families in need. It is also the heart of the Gospel itself. In Matthew's Gospel, the Lord reminds us, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink... ill or in prison and you cared for me." **This call to recognize Christ in those most in need remains central to the mission of the Kolping Society today.**

When the Magi finally encounter the Christ Child, they offer gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts proclaim Jesus as King, God, and Savior who will give His life for the world. The Feast of the Epiphany begs the question toward us. What gifts do we bring to Christ today?

Our offerings may not be gold or incense, but they are no less precious: our time, our generosity, our talents, our willingness to serve, and our openness to those in need. Like the Magi, we are called to bring the best of ourselves, attentive to the needs of others.

Finally, Scripture tells us that the Magi returned home "by another way." **An encounter with Christ always changes us.** May this Epiphany inspire us to recognize Jesus in our midst, to remain attentive to the needs of our community, and to offer our gifts generously so that Christ may be made known through our lives and our service.

With gratitude and prayerful best wishes for the year ahead,

Fr. Christopher R. Heanue
Pastor, St Joan of Arc Parish
Queens, NY

Thank You!

The Kolping National Board regrettably has accepted Marilee Ulhorn's resignation as a National Board Trustee.

She has been dedicated to serving her fellow Kolping members with her big smile and cheerful disposition for as long as most of us can remember. Thank you, Marilee!
We will miss you!

A special thank you to Mary Frances Dolland for her years of dedicated service to her Kolping family, Detroit, and to the Kolping National office. Happy retirement!

National Raffle Winners

The winners of our 2025 National Raffle are as follows:

1st prize \$1,500:

Manfred Gallwitz (New York)

2nd prize \$1,000:

Mike C. Callahan (Cincinnati)

3rd prize \$500:

Mary Brinkmann (San Francisco)
- online ticket purchase

THOUGHTS FROM DEACON BILL



As winter turns into spring, we remember that cold day in Christmas Time when the Magi were gazing at baby Jesus in the manger "in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain, now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, THEY BELIEVE and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die. The faith of the Magi is the first fruits of the belief of the whole world." (From a sermon by Saint Peter Chrysologus).

The cold dark days of Winter are beginning to grow a little brighter as daylight increases every day. The memories of Christmas greetings and sounds have faded but the strength and example of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph carries us always forward. We never forget the Baby Jesus, but today we look ahead to the celebration of Resurrection. "Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life."

So now Christmas Season is turning into Easter Season. Ash Wednesday is February 18, the beginning of Lent. The word Lent is from the Middle English word "lente" which means Spring. So just as Winter turns into Spring, our cold hearts warm up and become full of grace as the light and Love of God fills us with new hope in the Lord.

There is a story from Father Nouwen in his book, *With Burning Hearts*: "The farmer poured water on hard, dried-out soil, saying, 'Look, the soil cannot receive the water and no seed

can grow'. Then after crumbling the soil with his hands and pouring water on it again, he said, 'It is only the broken soil that can receive the water and make the seed grow and bear fruit.' Just so, our hard hearts become broken with the troubles and sufferings of everyday life. We need God's help to grow. Our own sacrifices and humility leads us to pray, "Lord, help me"

Every time we celebrate Eucharist, we pray together and pray by ourselves. We acknowledge our contrite heart, our heart, that is broken open. Our heart is open to receive the water of God's grace, the water of Jesus' sacrifices, and the water of the life-giving Holy Spirit. That seed of faith in our heart grows and we can share our Faith in God with the whole world. We publicly accept ashes in the form of the cross on our forehead to proclaim we are followers of Christ.

So, let us prepare ourselves for a Holy Lent, a Holy Spring, so we can share our faith with each member of our own family and each member of our Kolping Families. As we share the Holy Eucharist during Lent our healing heart will beat strongly with the Love of God. Remember, it is the Love of God that turns our winters into Spring.

God Bless You All,
Deacon Bill McLoughlin
Treu Kolping

2026 Kolping National Scholarship:

We will be accepting applications for the 2026 National Scholarship starting on March 20th!

Scholarship Candidate Qualifications:

1. Candidates must be in or entering:
 - a. senior year of high school in the Fall of 2026;
 - b. an accredited college or university;
 - c. an accredited trade school
2. Candidates must be active Kolping members or an immediate family member of an active Kolping member.
 - a. Immediate family will be defined as spouse, child, grandchild or great-grandchild.
 - b. "Active" is defined as a member who is current with their dues for at least two years.
3. There is no age requirement.
4. College students who were awarded a scholarship in 2025 will not be eligible until 2027. High school seniors who were awarded a scholarship in 2025 can apply for the college-level scholarship.

Applications must be submitted no later than April 30th, 2026 to qualify for consideration.

National Endowment Fund Donations:

Patrick McDonough
Kolping of Brooklyn and Queens- In
memory of deceased members
Sam Mauro

QR Code for Endowment Fund
Donations:



45th National Convention – New York, New York

Dear Kolping Family,

The 2026 Kolping National Convention is just around the corner — and we would love for **you and your family** to be part of this unforgettable experience!

From **September 18-20, 2026**, Kolping members from across the country will gather to reconnect with old friends, welcome new faces, share stories, laugh together, and look ahead to a strong and joyful future rooted in Father Kolping's values. For those who wish, there will also be an optional **extended stay** to enjoy all that New York City has to offer.



The weekend will be filled with meaningful moments and exciting activities for all ages:

On **Friday evening**, we'll come together for a warm and welcoming Meet-and-Greet in the beautiful dining room of Kolping House on East 88th Street—a true home away from home in New York City. For generations, Kolping House has opened its doors to German students, interns, and professionals, offering comfortable accommodations and a friendly, family-oriented atmosphere deeply rooted in Kolping traditions.

On **Saturday**, we will proudly march

together down Fifth Avenue in the annual Steuben Day Parade, celebrating our German-American heritage. Carrying our Kolping Family flags, cheering alongside thousands of spectators, and appearing on televised coverage makes this a truly special and memorable experience — one you'll be able to share with family and friends back home.

Saturday evening, after some free time to explore the excitement of New York City, we will come



together for a festive banquet in the elegant K88 formal dining hall. Enjoy a delicious meal in great company as we celebrate our shared accomplishments and honor outstanding members during the Convention Awards Ceremony.



On **Sunday**, we will gather for Mass at the historic St. Patrick's Cathedral, the magnificent Neo-Gothic landmark in Midtown Manhattan. With its soaring spires, stunning stained glass, and peaceful atmosphere, it offers a beautiful setting for prayer and reflection at the heart of the city.



After Mass, we will travel together to **Kolping-on-Hudson**, our beloved scenic retreat overlooking the Hudson River. Families can explore the grounds, join organized activities, or simply relax, enjoy nature, and spend time together by the river — a perfect ending to a meaningful weekend.



We truly hope you'll join us for this special convention.

Only together can we continue to carry Father Kolping's legacy forward — as families, as friends, and as one Kolping community.

Brooklyn Kolping

Greetings from the Brooklyn Kolping Family! We hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season, and sending best wishes for the new year.

Our Kolping Family is on Facebook! This is where we post timely reports and news, and post photos. We hope you will visit our page and follow us. Just search Facebook for the Catholic Kolping Society of Brooklyn to find us.

We had a few events during the fall season. Our first gathering was a General Meeting on Saturday, September 27. About 16 of us attended in person. Our evening began with fellowship – we shared a leisurely dinner together and got all caught up after the summer break. The main item on the agenda was to discuss the status of some legal issues, and the future of our

corporate legal entity. Despite the small turnout, we are happy to report that almost our entire membership participated by returning proxies sent in advance and casting their vote on the issues at hand.

We held Mass at the Kolping Center on Saturday, October 18. Our good friend, Father Johny Chengalan Thomas was the celebrant. We are very fortunate that Father Johny is at a parish close to the Kolping Center and is able to supplement our Praeses Father Christopher Heanue who is the Pastor of a large parish in another part of the diocese and whose time is limited. 28 Kolping members and friends attended. Keeping with our longtime custom, after Mass we enjoyed a bratwurst dinner. Father Johny took a few minutes to thank us for our support of Blessed Sacrament Parish's food pantry and talk about the operation.

Below is the photo we posed for after Mass.

A few years back we started a new Kolping tradition – giving out Halloween candy to the trick-or-treaters in front of our Kolping Center. We conceived this to better connect with our community. A Halloween Parade passes right by our door, and Halloween activities (sponsored by our local Kiwanis Club) are held just across the street, which insures many trick-or-treaters. In addition to the Society's support, some of our members also contribute funds. This project was organized by Jessica Meyer, who bought everything and created little bags of goodies to give to the kiddies. Jessica could not join us on Halloween afternoon, but Bill Conte, Gillian Guile, Inge & John Jellen and Sonia Kulesza came and handed out the candy. Our little group persevered on an unusually



Front: Anakin, Zoey and Phoenix Josten. Seated: John Jellen, Conrad & Margie Krische, Inge Jellen, Rosemarie Rom, Joe Hoefflerle, Maryanne Morscher. Standing: Bill Conte, Elfriede Hoefflerle, Helga Zender, Steve & Erica Galik, Jeff Blatz, Father Johny, Fred Hoefflerle, Michelle Blatz, Joe Morscher, Sabine Walby, Alice Kokasch, Theresa Wiederhold, Pat & Chris Gerage, Sean Josten

Brooklyn Kolping (continued)

chilly October day with high winds. At times the wind gusts actually blew our candy supply and small table around!



Hanging onto the candy on a very windy Halloween are: Gillian Guile, Bill Conte, John Jellen, Inge Jellen (behind that mask!) and Sonia Kulesza.

Our final event of 2025 was our Kolping Family Christmas Party. We welcomed 43 members and friends to the festivities on Saturday, December 6. Our main hall was unavailable due to a problem with the heating system, so in true Kolping fashion we did some re-arranging and moved the party into our Meeting Room.

We strung holiday lights on the ceiling to provide soft lighting and set a festive mood.

Our table settings, designed by the mother-daughter team of Jessica & Valerie Meyer, looked beautiful under the lights. Our guests filled the space, and when we added Christmas music we had all the elements for a cozy and warm Christmas party!

Our good friend Father Johnny Thomas was on hand, and he started our evening off with a blessing. This was followed by a sit-down dinner; this

year it was beef pot roast.

Once the dishes had been cleared, we were ready for our Christmas Program. The first order of business was to introduce our newest member, Michele Kropf, to the other members. We presented her with her Kolping pin and welcomed her into the Kolping family.

Next, we invited Father Johnny to read the Nativity story according to St. Matthew

And remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Father Johnny then entertained us by performing "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel" on his flute. He was followed by our talented young member, Anakin Josten, who impressed everyone with two short classical pieces for us on piano. Jessica Meyer presented the poem "The Light of Christmas"; then Zoey Josten gave us her interpretation of the Dr. Seuss poem "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". Gillian Guile recited the familiar Christmas classic "A Visit from St. Nicholas" as some in the room mouthed the words along with her from memory! The finale was our sing-along, a tradition in our Kolping Family, which had verses in English, German and Spanish.

While we were busy with singing, Santa visited our version of the North Pole (our unheated main hall!), leaving off gifts for the children. He left a note saying he could not stay this year because he still had many Christmas gatherings to get to around the world. He asked us to do a good job giving out presents for him. One of our members, Paula Josten, was perfectly

dressed to be Santa's helper and she did a job that would make Santa proud!

After the presentation, Sonia Kulesza and Gillian Guile jumped into action to sell raffle tickets, with an assist from Michele Kropf and Sabine Walby. Coffee and warm gluhwein was served along with platters filled with holiday cookies that satisfied our sweet tooth while the raffle numbers were called.

It was a fun night for the Brooklyn Kolping Family! Our thanks to everyone who worked on this wonderful event: Bill Conte, Pat & Chris Gerage, Gillian Guile, Paula Josten, Michele Kropf, Sonia Kulesza, Gary, Jessica & Valerie Meyer, Scott Stahl and Sabine Walby. Let's not forget Jen and Terri, who we employ for several years to work in the kitchen and keep the party moving, and who have become part of our extended family.



Above: Happy partygoers including Sabine, Michele, John, Conrad, Joe, Jean, Margaret, Elfriede, Margie, Inge and Sonia.

Happy 100th to Kolping San Francisco!

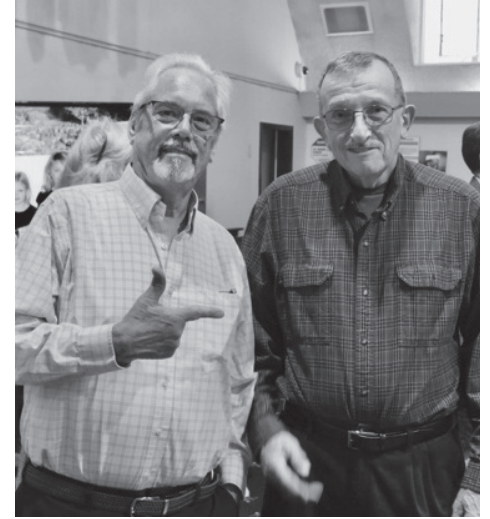
The Kolping Society of San Francisco celebrated its 100th Anniversary on October 18th in truly festive style. Our decorating crew arrived early to transform the space into a beautiful venue, and in classic Kolping fashion, we happily mixed things up. Held at the Irish Cultural Center, guests were welcomed with a celebratory glass of champagne, enjoyed a delicious German buffet prepared by local caterer Apres Vous, and were serenaded by the Lee Waterman Trio performing jazzy classics throughout the afternoon.

Lisa Brinkmann opened the program by warmly welcoming our guests, followed by a blessing and grace from Deacon Bill McLoughlin and Father Paul. After lunch, guests enjoyed a

brief presentation highlighting the history of Kolping in San Francisco, along with our current activities and contributions to the community. Lisa also added a bit of fun with a short Kolping trivia quiz.

Muffy Friel shared a wonderful slideshow featuring photos of SF Kolping through the years, generously contributed by members and the “kids” of former members. We also heard moving reflections from Sr. Marguerite Bartling (Gracenter), Louis Kolenda (YouthSF), Megan Kimble (St. Finn Barr’s), and Mary McKeever (St. Philip’s), who spoke about how Kolping’s donations are making a meaningful impact in their organizations.

The celebration ended on a sweet note when Mary Brinkmann surprised everyone with a special 100th Anniversary cake, made just for the occasion and enjoyed by all.



San Francisco Kolping's KlubHaus Vision Board Project



St. Louis – Kolping Kicks Soccer Club

We began with 1 boys' team and 1 girls' team in the winter of 1979 playing indoor after the teams finished their Catholic Youth Council seasons for St. Matthias Catholic School in St. Louis, MO. After their school seasons the teams formed what is now known as the Kolping Kicks Soccer Club.

Fast forward 46 years and we now have 17 boys' teams and 19 girls' teams with more than 500 boys and girls wearing the Kolping uniforms and representing Kolping throughout the St. Louis region. Our teams also compete in various tournaments across the entire Midwest area of the country spreading the Kolping name.

Below is a picture of our 2012 Girls team coached by Abby Basler and Ryan Schwentker who have qualified to represent St. Louis at the US Soccer Presidents Cup Regionals this summer. We couldn't be prouder of these young ladies and their coaches. You can find more info on the club at www.kolpingkicks.com.



Top Row: Willow, Zoey, Paityn, Macie, Reese, Ava, Ally, Morgan, Avery, Mia
Bottom Row: Sofia, Leah, Maya, Kennedy, Lily, Kam, Jordyn, Kylie



45th National Kolping Convention PROGRAM ADS

One way Kolping members can support the 45th 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, 2026** to be included in the program.

Program size will be 5 ½ x 8 ½. **SELECT YOUR AD SIZE:**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-line Patron ad: | \$25 |
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(2) Email business card or artwork (pdf/jpg/png) to ingrid22@optonline.net

Ad space is limited, so please respond quickly. We appreciate your support.
Should you have questions please contact: Natasha Borodin (347) 306-2000 or the K88 office (212) 369-6647.

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Kolping USA Executive Director

According to Mary Kay Ash, the key to having a happy life is having work that you enjoy, someone to love, and something on your calendar to look forward to. This is not a new or modern concept. Alexander Chalmers (1759-1834), a Scottish doctor and writer, was also promoting the same idea, "The three grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for."

Blessed Fr. Kolping would have been 21 years old when Mr. Chalmers left this world, but what Fr. Kolping worked to accomplish was a true and tangible manifestation of how to build a meaningful and happy life. He provided a way for the young Journeymen to get established in work that they could enjoy, a "family" with which to share their faith, their joys and their sorrows, and no doubt, activities and fun along the way- more than likely, more fun than their Praeses would have liked!

Technology has definitely changed how we do things, how we communicate (like getting this *Banner* by email), how we travel, how we learn about our world and beyond, but it hasn't changed who we are as humans and our intrinsic need to pursue happiness.

In this new year - 2026 - I encourage you to see your Kolping membership as an opportunity to have a similar experience that the Journeymen had. Find work that you enjoy by getting involved with a Kolping group or committee and volunteering. Spend some time to get to know your fellow Kolping members. I suspect that in a short time, you will find that you have a "family" with which to share the good and bad stuff of life. And of course, check your Kolping calendars. I am certain that you will find many (Praeses-approved) fun things to add your calendar.

