



# Kolping Banner

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## 2024 National Kolping Lenten Project

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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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### 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.,  
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213-388-9438

#### 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

#### Saint Louis, Missouri,

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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 ...

In May, I had the pleasure of joining the Brooklyn Kolping Society as they celebrated their 100th Anniversary. At first, I wasn't sure, between work, home and "life", if I could manage the trip across the country, but boy, am I glad I did!

I spent the morning of the celebrations traversing New York City with Brooklyn's President, Bill Conte, who graciously fetched me from Manhattan for the gathering in Brooklyn/Queens. Along the way, he shared nostalgic tales of his upbringing in Queens, toured the Brooklyn Kolping House and then headed to the splendid St. Matthias Church for Mass.

The banquet that followed afforded me the chance to not only connect with Brooklyn members I'd only known by name, but also to reunite with fellow Kolping members from both Brooklyn and New York, whom I typically encounter only at our annual conventions. While it might sound a bit odd to a "non-Kolping" member, it felt like a family reunion. Catching up, spending time together, having fun—it was truly a great time.

The event served as a poignant post-Covid reminder of how the values of our Kolping Society bind us together. It fosters a sense of belonging and camaraderie. Family, community, and faith remain the foundation of our Society. And the decision to be present and partake in this significant milestone was unequivocally worthwhile.

As many have already read, our 44th National convention is scheduled for September 6-8th in St. Charles, Missouri. I encourage you to join us, meet others from our many Kolping families and reignite the friendships that may remain dormant between our conventions. This year we will also have the honor of hosting the General Praeses of Kolping International, Msgr. Christoph Huber. It should be interesting.

To make it easier for you to register for the convention, book your reservation at the Embassy Suites, St. Charles, and/or purchase an ad in the convention booklet, you can now do it online through our website!! Just go to [kolping.org](http://kolping.org) and click on the appropriate button(s).

I hope to see you there. It's totally worth it!

Enjoy the summer months,

Lisa

*"The bond of friendship transcends time and distance, making reunions all the more special."*

Unknown author

# Kolping Scholarship Update



Patience pays off – that should be the mantra for our scholarship program. By April 29th, just one day before the deadline, we had received very few applications. Concerned that this year’s program might not be as active as in previous years, I extended the deadline by two weeks. As it turned out, this extension was unnecessary; most submissions came in on the 30th as expected. This phenomenon, likely well-studied by academics, proves that deadlines truly drive action.

While we haven’t determined the winners from this year’s scholarship program as of the writing of this Banner, we’d like to share a few responses to the question: “From your own experience of reading the Life of Father Kolping, how would you characterize and/or explain the Kolping organization to a friend.”

*Response 1: “From my experience with the Kolping society, it is a close knit community of family and friends who are proud of their heritage, culture, and faith. It is a family friendly organization where generations can come together to celebrate their faith and friendships.*

*Response 2: “I would describe the Kolping Organization as a social organization where you can meet new people, experience things you may never otherwise experience, and make friends for life.”*

*Response 3: “Our Chapter has grown from German immigrants and their families to a new all- inclusive club of locals who enjoy each other’s company participating in fun activities as potlucks, bingo, trivia, for a few hours once a month, while raising money for charitable events and partaking in the faith services we offer. It is all win-win!”*

Thank you all for helping to create an organization that is welcoming, engaging, and enjoyable.

We will announce the winners of the scholarship program in June and are heartened to know that we have planted the seeds for future generations to carry on our values.

## Endowment Fund Donations

In memory of Pat Farkas  
Kolping Society of Brooklyn  
Kolping Society of Brooklyn & Queens

In memory of Maria Kline, the Kolping Society of Los Angeles

### **Kolping Society National Endowment Fund**

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

# Brooklyn Kolping Celebrates 100 Years

The Brooklyn Kolping Family was founded at a meeting held on Sunday, January 20, 1924. Present were the National Praeses, Father Schmidt, some New York Kolping members who resided in the diocese of Brooklyn, and some other working men interested in establishing a Kolping branch in their own area. Since that day it's been a hundred years of both challenges and victories, of working hard together and lifelong friendships.

Thank you to Sonia Kulesza for coming up with the idea of a celebration about a year ago and Gillian Guile, Jessica Meyer and Bill Conte for your work on it.



We began our celebration with an Anniversary Mass, celebrated by Father Johny Chengalan Thomas at beautiful

St. Matthias Church in Ridgewood, New York. This particular church has a long history with Kolping and has been Brooklyn Kolping Family's local parish.

Following the Mass members and guests proceeded to Gottscheer Hall, where the banquet was being held. New York City Council Member, Robert Holden, joined the celebration and presented a city proclamation to celebrate Brooklyn Kolping's 100th Anniversary.

Then honored guests: Kolping National President Lisa Brinkmann (who traveled from the San Francisco), and New York Kolping President Gerhard Schmitt relayed their congratulations from the National Board and New York Kolping. Brooklyn's President/Vice President team Jessica Meyer and Bill Conte welcomed members and guests and then presented congratulatory messages sent by International Kolping, National Officers, other Kolping branches, and members who shared their memories despite being unable to attend. Marilyn Heller gave us a short presentation on Brooklyn Kolping's efforts to aid orphans and refugees in need during that time of post WWII deprivation in Germany.



This was a perfect opportunity to announce the recipient of Brooklyn's 2024 Distinguished Service Award, Pat Gerage. Lisa Brinkmann presented Pat with the official letter from the National Secretary, informing and congratulating her on this honor.

As the Ceremonies concluded, we settled in for a few hours of music by The Adlers, dancing, and delicious food! Finally, as the evening ended, it was time to call the winning tickets for our 100th Anniversary raffle. Winners were Josephine Ristagno (\$50), Gillian Guile (\$100), and Larisa & Gordon Heiser (\$200).



**Now it's time to start the next hundred years!**



# Top 10 reasons to join us at the 44th Kolping Convention in St. Charles, Missouri

10. Rack up some frequent flier miles while the kids are back in school.
9. Visit the nearby The Gateway Arch is a 630-foot-tall monument in St. Louis, Missouri in your free time. It is the world's tallest arch and Missouri's tallest accessible structure, the "Gateway to the West."
8. Take a selfie next to the Lewis and Clark and Daniel Boone statues in St. Charles.
7. Taste Missouri wines, first introduced to the State by German immigrants in the early to mid-19th century.
6. Do some shopping on St. Charles' historic Main Street (wear comfortable shoes for the cobblestone streets)
5. Visit the Anheuser-Busch brewery, the largest beer-producing facility in the U.S. (before or after the convention.) Want free beer? Take their tour.
4. Meet the International General Praeses from Germany ... as well as Kolping members throughout the United States.
3. Visit the St. Louis Zoo for free! Home to over 17,000 wild animals, the St. Louis Zoo is totally free, walkable, and is always adding new exhibits.
2. Celebrate Mass at All Saints Catholic Church in St. Peters, MO – which just celebrated its 200th anniversary.
1. **Be part of a special convention**, acknowledging the pioneer efforts by our Kolping forefathers in St. Louis who established the first journeyman's association in 1856. This 44th National Kolping convention is a nod to all our smaller Kolping families in the United States and a means to show support across our country.



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# International News

While we focus on the issues of our local Kolping Families and consider attending the National convention, we can't forget that we, too, belong to something much bigger.

## 25 years of Kolping in Timor Leste

“The 25th-anniversary celebration of Kolping’s existence in Timor-Leste was a momentous occasion filled with reflection, gratitude, and solidarity”, reports Bonifacio de J.M. Soares, Coordinator in the National Organization. Through various activities encompassing spiritual, charitable, and communal dimensions, Kolping reaffirmed its commitment to serving the community with compassion and dedication. As the organization looks ahead to the future, it remains steadfast in its mission to empower individuals, strengthen communities, and promote social justice in Timor-Leste and beyond.”

Kolping was present in Timor Leste way before the country got its independence in 2002. Kolping Timor-Leste has currently 1541 members in 140 Kolping Families. The country

is among the poorest in the world. In order to find a way out of poverty, Kolping offers its members in Timor-Leste microcredits and training, among other things. As a result, 60 members

from six Kolping Families were able to start producing coconut oil and generate additional income.



## Chile: Help for Fire Victims

Since February 2, people living near the capital of Chile in the coastal towns of Viña del Mar and Quilpué have been suffering from the fires. Many people had to leave their homes at night and have lost their houses, fields and livestock. So far, at least 122 people have died, over 3,000 houses have

been destroyed and more than 26,000 hectares of land have been burnt. Kolping Chile has been providing help to the victims of the fire disaster from the very beginning.

Kolping members are helping families who have lost everything, organizing accommodation and supplying them with what they need the most. Kolping is

active on site and provides emergency aid. The distribution of donations is organized efficiently so that they reach the families that have been hit the hardest as quickly as possible. The Kolping Family of Pichidegua is also collecting food for the victims in the Valparaíso region.



*Kolping members staging bags of pasta and pet food.*

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# Busy Spring in Chicago

After a fairly quiet Winter time, things picked up in Spring.

A unique opportunity to bring joy and comfort to many people presented itself to our Chicago Kolping member Chirs Schurrer. Chris met Dan Rutherford who is in the process of collecting music sources – records, cassettes, vcrs, cds and anything in between and distributing them to non-profit organizations – senior homes, orphanages, preschools, hospitals, etc., as appropriate.

Dan has connections to about 80 different places that could benefit from music that no one needed any longer. It was perfect timing. People were spring cleaning and wondering what to do with all their “stuff.”

Chris jumped on the opportunity. He advertised through our Kolping newsletter and donations came pouring in by the boxful. Chris collected and catalogued over 6,000 pieces of music. They formed the Chris Wall shown here. Many, many people will benefit from his time and effort. Dan came to our Spring Luncheon to collect Kolping’s contributions, but his car quickly filled and he has to return with a bigger vehicle.



Our April Spring Luncheon of Scrumptious Salads featuring a variety of salads, croissants, rye bread, cheesetray and cookie platters ushered in our Spring activities. Chairladies Jill Hawkes, Jeanne Gonzalez and Linda Besetzny did an outstanding job. The afternoon continued with rousing games of Bingo with lovely basket prizes.

On a sad note, our friend Sandy Damlos, known as our Booster Club Lady and in this case – Bingo Card lady, passed away quietly in her home just one week after again being our super saleslady. Bingo was her absolute favorite and she was delighted to sell the bingo cards and call the numbers. She was always ready to help. May God give her eternal rest.

Happy Summer, Everyone.

Carol Ideler

**Please pray for our dear departed Chicago Kolping Members who have gone to their eternal rest:**

*Heinz Werner, Martin Schuett, Sandy Damlos, Elizabeth Konieczn and Sandy Reynen*



## (International News continued)

### **Kolping Romania at the International Cooking Olympics.**

A team from Kolping Romania took part in this year’s International Culinary Olympics in early February. In the “Regional Teams” category, the team from Banat competed against 23 other international groups to present finger food, a five-course menu and various desserts in an appealing way. The group mastered all the challenges and was delighted to receive its certificate of participation.

Last year, Kolping Romania selected nine cooking apprentices between the ages of 16 and 21 who spent a year

preparing for the Olympics in their free time. Under the supervision of head chef Florin Kiss (winner of the silver medal at the 2022 World Culinary Cup in Luxembourg), they learned new cooking techniques and tested various dishes for the Olympics. They served the test menus to the public in the Kolping restaurant, where they had to win the judgment of the guests.

“Our team wants to gain experience, compete with others, develop further and prove their reliability,” says Ingrid Arvay from Kolping Romania, describing the motivation of the Kolping team.



“This is an important step on the road to a successful career.”



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in our booklet either through the regular mail or online.

**There is a lot going on at Kolping!**

- **Sign-up online for the 44th Kolping Convention . . .**  
**Not able to attend? Consider purchasing a Program Ad**

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If you go to [www.kolping.org](http://www.kolping.org) you will see two big buttons  
– one for registration and the other to buy an ad.

If you click on the registration button, you can pay with a credit card  
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