World Day of Prayer
October 27th, 2021

Appreciation of Unity in Diversity as a means to establish One global Kolping-brotherhood

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Dear Kolping sisters, dear Kolping brothers,

this year is the 30th anniversary of Adolph Kolping's beatification, an event that we traditionally had planned to celebrate with an international pilgrimage to Rome to commemorate with gratitude this great event of his beatification on October 27, 1991 and to pray at the same time for Adolph Kolping's canonization in the not so distant future. The coronavirus pandemic has thwarted our plans and since there were too many imponderables, we decided to postpone the international pilgrimage until next year.

Meanwhile we are quite confident that we will be able to meet in Rome in 2022. It's a pity that the pilgrimage had to be put off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, compared to the terrible effects of the pandemic, this is only of secondary importance. Meanwhile we mourn the death of millions of people who died from COVID-19. A much higher number of people got infected with the virus and together with their families and friends they worried a lot about whether they would recover from the disease. Hundreds of thousands of people continue to experience health problems, and there is no end in sight. Apart from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the physical and mental health of people, we must also be aware of the economic consequences. Millions of people in the Global South have lost their work due to the pandemic, pushing them into extreme poverty and misery because there is no social protection in most countries in the world. Children are particularly affected because their parents cannot pay the school fees, making it more difficult for children to have access to education.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the large number of people in the Western world who reacted to the challenges in the Global South by making donations into the Kolping Corona Solidarity Fund. This made it possible for us at KOLPING INTERNATIONAL to provide rapid and unbureaucratic help for the most vulnerable people in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Central and Eastern Europe.

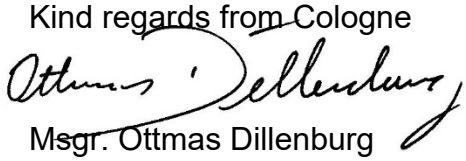
I would like to ask all of you to use the World Day of Prayer in 2021 to join us in a global prayer chain to pray for those who are most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, for all the people who died from the virus, for those who are grieving for the dead, for those who are suffering from long-term effects of an infection, for the hundreds of thousands of people who will get infected with the virus, for those who have financial problems because of the pandemic and who are therefore forced to live in poverty and misery.

My special thanks go to Kolping India. This year, our Kolping sisters and brothers in India prepared the World Day of Prayer for the worldwide Kolping community and this despite the fact that India was and still is particularly affected by the pandemic.

Kolping sisters and Kolping brothers, this will be the last Kolping commemoration day that I will celebrate with you in my capacity as General Praeses. Let me conclude by thanking all of you for your contributions to the international work of Kolping, for your local commitment in the spirit and tradition of Adolph Kolping, for helping us face the concerns and challenges worldwide, but also for joining us in our happiness when we have been successful and can be grateful for what we have achieved.

“There’s a lot we can achieve if we keep trying; we can accomplish something great if competent forces unite!“ Adolph Kolping.

Kind regards from Cologne



Msgr. Ottmas Dillenburg
General Praeses

Republic of India

India is deemed as one of the oldest civilizations in the world. The vast expanse of land from Kashmir in the North to Kanyakumari in the South is the second most populous country with 1.37 billion population. India is the seventh largest country by area in the World. India is also the largest democracy in the World.

India became independent in 15th August1947 from British empire after a long struggle spearheaded by Mahatma Gandhi. With secular credentials, the fathers of independent India made it as a federal Republic in 1950, governed in a democratic parliamentary system.

India is a pluralistic, multi-lingual, and multi-ethnic society. India remains as one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. Apart from its many religion and sects, India is a home for innumerable castes and tribes as well as to 22 major and hundreds of minor linguistic groups. India is a Federal Union comprising of 28 States and 8 Union territories with their own language and specific cultures. The national identity emerges with the appreciation of regional identities. The cultural and linguistic plurality is the beauty of India. With diverse languages and cultures, India moves as one nation as the constitution of India affirms unity in diversity. Each region has its own mix of religion, caste (social class), language, and literary, cultural and historical traditions. The unity in diversity makes India an example of cultural brotherhood.

Religious freedom is enshrined in the Constitution although majority of the population practise Hinduism. Religious minorities include Muslims (14 %), Christians (2.3 %), Sikhs (1.7 %), Buddhists (0.7 %), and Jains (0.4 %). Other religious groups include Jews, Parsis (Zoroastrians), and animistic tribal peoples. The practices and beliefs associated with Hinduism vary by region, and from person to person.

India has been assessed to be the seventh largest country in the world by area. The recent population statistics has shown that India is the second most densely populated country. The studies have shown that India still continues to suffer from poverty, illiteracy, social exclusion and derisory health care facilities in spite of the fact that India has been ranked as one of the fast-growing economies.

India lives in villages and it is extensively rural based. Therefore, agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy as two thirds of the Indian population is engaged in cultivation and their sustenance depends directly or indirectly on agriculture. Agriculture and related activities contribute almost 27 per cent of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in India. Agriculture not only helps to feed the large population, but it also supports the principal manufacturing industries with raw materials.

India has an extensive coastline of 8118 kms with 3827 coastal villages and equally large area under estuaries, backwaters, and lagoons. It is generally assumed that India is enriched with developed sea resources in a total area of 3.29 million sq.km. India is the second largest producer of fish in the world, contributing to 5.68 per cent of global fish production.

India is the fastest growing major economy in the world with large and rapid growing middle class. India looks generally healthy from economic standpoint. The economic growth has reduced poverty; the literacy rate has improved sharply. India is sucessful economically, but this has not translated into imprvoving the quality of many Indians.

India is classified as a country of medium human development, ranked 131th in the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index 2020. Life expectancy is 69.7 years at birth, and 28 per cent of the population lives on less than $2/day. The adult literacy rate is 74%.

India's impressive growth story is fraught with contradictions. Economic reforms in India, which began in the 1980s and gathered pace in the 1990s, widened social inequalities across the country. India remains a country containing a staggering number of people who are poor. India is home to 36 per cent of the world's adult illiterates. Child undernourishment typically affects 34 per cent of children in India. Ten per cent of the population holds more than 55 per cent of the wealth. Despite rapid development in socio economic spheres, India still has to go long way to fully accomplish Millennium Development Goals especially in the areas of gender equality, health, social inclusion etc.

Charity is not a new concept in Indian human history. The concept of dahnam (giving) and sevai (service) has been part of India society. The poor had been taken care by Civil society organizations and religious institutionns in the past. In fact the Civil Society organizations were active in cultural promotion, education, health, and natural disaster relief as early as the medieval era. They proliferated during British rule, working to improve social welfare and literacy and pursuing relief projects. During the second half of the 19th century, nationalist consciousness spread across India and self-help emerged as the primary focus of socio-political movements. Christian missionaries active in India at this time directed their efforts toward reducing poverty and constructing hospitals, schools, roads, and other infrastructure. Meanwhile, NGOs focused their efforts on education, health, relief, and social welfare.

International NGOs entered India in significant numbers to provide drought relief during two severe drought in 1965–1966 and 1966–1967. Many of them established permanent local operations thereafter. Moreover, foreign funds began flowing to domestic NGOs in India, changing the character of civil society.

It was around the same period in 1962, Kolping brothers and development aid workers Karl Konermann and Ingolf Grabow founded the first Kolping Family in Mumbai. About to complete 60 years of existence in India, Kolping activities is now spread across several states in South India and continue to serve the marginalised communities following the principles and ideals of our founder Blessed Adolph Kolping.

GROWTH OF Kolping in India

The history of the Kolping Society in India goes back to the year 1962 when the Kolping brothers and development aid workers Karl Konermann and Ingolf Grabow founded the first Kolping Family in Worli, a district of the dockland area in Mumbai. Together with the members of the young Kolping Family, they constructed a small Kolping House at Worli where meetings took place, educational and training courses were conducted.

After a visit of Mr. George Rodriguez, the President of the Kolping Family of Worli to Germany in 1977, a new development was initiated with the support of the Kolping International. The Kolping Family started a Fishing Cooperative Society that enabled the members to buy boats and modern fishing nets at a fair price. This timely financial help was extremely helpful in providing income generation opportunities to the fishermen. Thus, the Kolping Family of Worli proved that the ideals of self-help could be successful if the resources are reasonably used.

The situation was different in the diocese of Sagar in Madhya Pradesh. Inspired by the work of Kolping Associations, Fr. Paul Pallipadan who was studying in Germany on his return to India took personal interest to organise Kolping groups in Sagar Diocese. Due to his untiring efforts, seven Kolping groups were established since 1979. Under Kolping Society, schools, infirmaries, and potable water facilities were established to ameliorate the life situation of the poor in Sagar Diocese.

Official Foundation of National Kolping Association

In the year 1980, Fr. Jose Akkarakaran introduced Adolph Kolping's work to the young men, attending a "Work Camp" at Aloor in Kerala. The youth who were very much interested in creating a better society in and around them, took keen interest in knowing

and learning more about Kolping Association. The youth found the teachings and the activities of Adolph Kolping appealing to their interest towards creating better World for all. Hence, they decided to start Kolping Association in their place. Fr. Jose Akkarakaran played an important role in helping these committed youth to start Kolping Association in Aloor with about 40 young men from 5 different dioceses of Kerala.

The National Kolping Society of India was formally inaugurated by Msgr. Heinrich Festing, the General Praeses at that time of Kolping International along with the Diocesan Praeses Rudolf Geiselberger from Augsburg on 1st March 1981. This was the first National Kolping Society in an Asian country. Fr. Jose Akkarakaran was the National Director of Kolping Society in India. He served as the National Director from 1981 to 1989

The Kolping activities in Kerala had prompted the neighbouring States such as Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to start Kolping Associations. Recognising the rapid growth of Kolping Family Associations in India, the Kolping International extended financial support for social education, creation of employment opportunities for the youth and shelter construction for the poor. In 1986, Kolping International established Partnership with Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support the Poverty Reduction programmes through Kolping India.

Fr. Victor Santiago served from 1989 till 2009 as the National Director of Kolping India. He was squarely responsible for the renewal of Kolping National Association in India. Kolping India as a development organ took another leap with a change in Leadership in 2009. Fr. Antony Raj assumed the role of National Director on 27th October 2009. During his period from 2009 – 2019, Kolping India went through a structural reorganization in terms strengthening of Kolping programs in the existing regions and expansion to new regions. New projects were launched based on the needs of the marginalized communities.

On completing his full 10 year term as National Director, Fr. Antony Raj conducted Election to the National Board wherein Rev. Dr. Maria Soosai was unanimously elected as the New National Director at the National Board Meeting held on 27th October 2019. Under the new leadership, Kolping India has ambitious plans to elevate itself as one of the leading development organisations in India. Kolping India has also played a decisive role in Kolping's Continental and International forums.

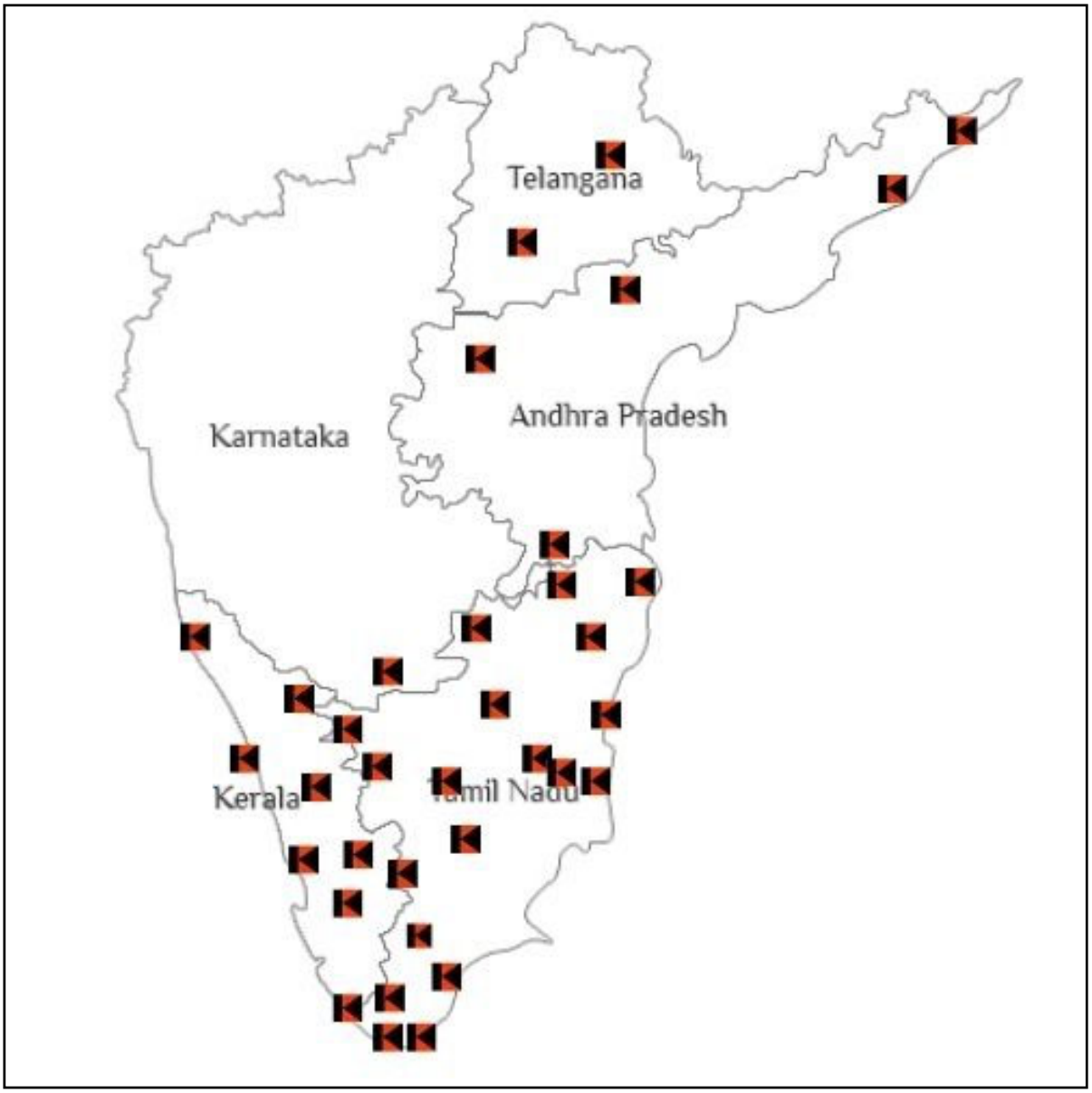


Figure 1 Map of South India

Among the member National Associations of Kolping International, Kolping India is one of the largest National Associations with over 37,500 members, organized into 3125 Kolping Family Associations. With a discreet identity of Family concept, Kolping India has an edge to reach out to the most disadvantaged through committed development partners in 35 regions in India.

VISION

- Just and Empowered Society based on the values of Blessed Adolph Kolping

MISSION

- Enhancing the capacities of the marginalized communities in India for Holistic Development

STRATEGY

Kolping India primarily works among the people who are marginalized and deprived of basic needs through 'Help for Self – Help' approach. Kolping India supports the process of identifying and organizing the aforesaid people into groups known as 'Kolping Family Associations'.

The organization works on a membership model, where every person who subscribes to the values and principles of Adolph Kolping; and the guidelines of Kolping India becomes a Kolping member.

A Kolping Family Association or Kolping Family Group generally comprise of 10 to 20 individuals voluntarily coming together to engage in social and economic development activities that benefit the individual, the group and the community. Regular savings and lending are an integral part of the group's operation besides being sensitive to socio economic issues. Kolping India supports the members to improve their quality of life in areas like education, skill development, health, sanitation, income generation, shelter, and disaster relief.

Capacity building is a core and ongoing activity that educates the members with new insights and learning. It is done through formal trainings, seminars, and workshops besides informal input sessions in the group meetings. The themes of capacity building programs are broadly classified into group governance, civic awareness, environment, and entrepreneurship development. The members are guided and facilitated to access Government schemes and services.

In order to leverage the resources and expertise of other organizations and to extend its own services, Kolping India networks with Institutions such as Schools, Colleges, Universities, Research Institutes and Non-Profit Organisations to serve people more efficiently and effectively.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The holistic approach adopted by Kolping India to address the needs of the marginalized has been transforming lives of the people socially, economically, and spiritually.

Kolping India ever since its inception in 1962 has been proactively involved in building up communities following the principles and ideals of our founder Blessed Adolph Kolping. Kolping India passionately believes that the development is the fundamental right of all people. But in reality, a large population in India is deprived of resources and opportunities for development. The identification of these marginalised communities and mobilising them together as vibrant, democratic social structures with the sense of fellowship and solidarity is the benchmark of Kolping Family Associations in India.

The formation of Kolping Family Associations presents the members a Family like atmosphere thereby facilitating deliberations on developmental issues concerning them and the larger society. Further the capacities of the members are continuously improved through formal and informal training programs to help them develop a critical outlook to the society.

Besides building capacities of the members, Kolping India attempts to improve the quality of life through its development projects. Kolping India cares for the economic development of the marginalised communities. The members are supported to improve their family income through a combination of input sessions and financing mechanism. The Entrepreneurship Development program provides the needed knowledge and technical competency to initiate and manage the income generation activities either individually or collectively. Members in rural areas also opt to rear Milch animals including cow, goat and sheep which has good income generation potential.

In the recent years Kolping India has taken up a vigorous campaign, promoting construction and use of house-hold toilets. The concerted efforts of many stakeholders including the role of Kolping India in ending the practice of open defecation has shown positive results among Kolping members in safe sanitary practice.

Financial support is also extended to resource poor Kolping members to construct dignified and liveable houses. Besides improving the livelihood and living conditions, Kolping India helps Kolping members and their children to pursue higher education or vocational trainings.

Kolping India's integrated approach to address basic needs of the marginalised communities has elevated many Kolping Families above the poverty line.

The Kolping members who have experienced the social, economic, and spiritual transformation have been extending their service as volunteers. Many Kolping Families Associations take up volunteering services based on their interest like visiting old age homes, orphanages, prison, and some Kolping Family Associations take up activities like cleaning of villages, helping people in distress. The volunteering activity of Kolping members was very evident during the natural calamities like Flood, Cyclone and Covid 19 pandemic, where the members of Kolping Family Associations extended labour, material, and financial support to help affected people. The growing solidarity and care for others is the essence of Kolping Family Associations in India. Many people are attracted to the teachings, philosophy, and work of Kolping in India, which result in the continuous membership growth.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Kolping India programs have several well knitted development projects that complement each other to improve the quality of life of every individual member of the Kolping Family Associations. Gender, Environment and Child Rights are the cross-cutting issues that Kolping India tries to incorporate into all development initiatives. Kolping India focuses on the growth of every individual SHG member through 'self –

help strategy'. Kolping Family Associations acts as a source of strength extending its support and motivation to the well-being of each and every member.

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

Building capacities of the target community and more so the personnel involved in the projects are the ongoing activity of our development interventions.

Sensitisation programs, trainings, workshops, exposure visits are organised for members and communities in order to achieve their individual, group goals and thus the project objectives. The broader framework of the capacity building initiatives aims at strengthening the Kolping Family Associations to function as self- sustained entities with trainings on leadership and group management; need based life–skills for members; issue based trainings on environmental themes such as protecting water bodies, management of solid waste, safe sanitation and organic farming.

LIVELIHOOD

Kolping Family Association members are encouraged to initiate income generation activities to maximize their family income and thereby enhancing the quality of life. Training on entrepreneurship and skill development enable the Kolping members to identify appropriate economic activities suitable to them. Rural population who has been predominately involved in agriculture and livestock husbandry are introduced to alternative and complementary income generation activities either individually (Individual Income Generation Projects) or collectively (Collective Income Generation Projects). Majority of them perceive their small enterprises as profitable and sustainable.

Kolping India also promotes cattle rearing as an income generation activity under its Milch Animal Project (MAP). Traditionally, Milch animal is perceived as the safest and a profitable activity among women in rural areas. The activity also suits the lifestyle of women which allows them to balance their time for their family and work. Comparatively, milch animals assures steady stream of profit all throughout the year.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

The Vocational Training Project (VTP) focuses on supporting either Kolping SHG member or their children to pursue job-oriented courses, that would eventually result in gainful employment in the public and private sectors. Kolping India has also established computer training centres in 22 Regions. These centres teach job-oriented computer courses and attempts to enhance employability skills in the job market.

SHELTER PROGRAM

Right to shelter has been recognized as one the fundamental rights of every human being. The habitat always been deemed as symbol of family identity. Owning a house therefore remains a dream for members who have no proper housing. Realizing the basic needs of poor who cannot afford to construct a house of their own, Kolping India under its Housing Support Project (HSP) extends partial financial support of Rs.50,000 to construct a house and additionally the members are facilitated to avail support from Government Housing schemes.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Kolping India motivates and supports Kolping SHG members to construct house-hold toilets through its Sanitation Assistance Project (SAP). Financial support is offered under this scheme for Kolping SHG members who desired to construct house-hold toilets.

KOLPING HERBAL & INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL TRAINING FARM (KHIAT)

KHIAT is a unique project of Kolping India that focuses on promoting healthy lifestyle in harmony with nature and effective use of plants and herbs for the complete human well-being. The Farm developed in 1.16 acre stands as a productive and remunerative model especially for people having small land holdings. The Farm nurtures variety of medicinal herbs with display of its medicinal properties and usage guidance note. The farm has dedicated sheds and units housing several cows, goats, chicken, ducks, quail, fishes, rabbits, honeybees and produces green fodder, vermicompost, organic plant growth enhancer and pest repellents.

The KHIAT Farm is now widely known as a Model project and have been receiving steady stream of visitors from Government Departments, NGOs, and Academic Institutions.

KOLPING CARES - EMERGENCY RELIEF PROJECT

Kolping India has been responding to emergency situations and natural disasters by providing solace and timely help to the affected victims and their families. The emergency relief projects undertaken by Kolping India includes Tsunami Relief Project in 2004, Assistance to people affected by Thane Cyclone in 2011, Tamil Nadu Floods in 2015, Ockhi Cyclone in 2017, Kerala Floods and Gaja Cyclone in 2018 to the most recent Nivar Cyclone and the ongoing Covid Pandemic.

THE FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE

The ongoing Covid pandemic presents biggest challenge, the humanity ever faced in modern times. As nations struggle to contain the infection individually, the escalating Covid infection calls for a unified effort to fight this crisis to save lives of millions of people. It is very reassuring to see the Global community comes in support of India, when the country has witnessed massive surge in the corona virus cases.

We are pleased to host the World Day of Prayer along with the worldwide Kolping Community who are the torch bearers of lived faith experience of Blessed Adolph Kolping in Jesus and his shared values. On behalf of Kolping International Global Community, Kolping India also takes this opportunity to thank our beloved General Praeses Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburg for his untiring and selfless work towards the growth and development of Kolping International Community.

Let us join together in the Holy Mass invoking God's divine intervention for humanity to successfully overcome the Covid pandemic and seek his blessing on us to carry forward the work of our founder Blessed Adolph Kolping. Let us also pray in a special way for the canonisation of Blessed Adolph Kolping which could be a fitting tribute to the person whose ideals and works are still transforming millions of people around the world.

HOLY MASS

THEME: Appreciation of Unity in Diversity for establishing One Global Kolping-brotherhood

- Procession from the entrance
- Entrance Song
- Welcome and introducing the liturgical theme.

Liturgical Greeting

C: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen

C: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

A: And also with your spirit

Introduction:

"God created man in his own image….. male and female, he created them and God said to them, Be fruitful (Genesis 1:27-28). Universal brotherhood was established in the creation itself. As God is the father of all, we become sons and daughters of the same Creator despite we share different Geographical territories, culture, language, and ethnicity. Affirmation of the dominant identity tend to neglect the existence of multiplicity of culture and pluralistic trends. The world is given to all to use and develop equally. Therefore, we have equal responsibility to support each other to be the sons and daughter of one God we adore. Appreciation of unity in diversity is the benchmark of Kolping families all over. Irrespective of the differences, we come together as one family as Jesus is the binding force. As St. Paul states that there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles……. We all are one in Jesus. We are part of one body. No parts can function independently, and it cannot claim that it is not part of the body. Each part is entrusted with specific function. Therefore, we have special responsibility take forward the message of universal brotherhood entrusted to us by Jesus our Lord. Inspired by this message of Jesus, our founder Blessed Adolph Kolping ventured into action through caring the uncared so as to reiterate that all the human being belongs to one universal family.

Penitential Act

C: Dear Brothers and Sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A: I confess to almighty God

C: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

C: Lord have Mercy,

A: Lord have Mercy.

C: Christ have Mercy,

A: Christ have Mercy.

C: Lord have Mercy,

All: Lord have Mercy.

Gloria

Opening Prayer

C: **Let us Pray,**
God, Our Father, thank you for the opportunity given to us to reaffirm our commitment to Universal brotherhood, Your Son set an example by His words and deeds, embracing, and extending His helping hand to those who were in need of support and recognition. May we also relive the spirit of Jesus Christ, taking efforts to establish one Universal Human brotherhood through our words and deeds. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

A: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Act of the Apostles 2: 1-11

A Reading from Acts of the Apostles
When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty winds, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance.
Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard hem speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?. And how is it that we hear each of us in his own native language? Par’thians and Medes and E’lamites and residents of Mesopota’mia, Judea and Cappado’cia, Pontus and Asia, Phryg’ia and Pamphyl’ia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyre’ne, and

visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.

The word of the Lord

A: Thanks to be God

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24(23)

R: **Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?**
He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

R: **Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?**
He will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of his salvation.

R: **Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?**
Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

R: **Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?**
Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the King of glory may come in.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to 1 Corinthians

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so its is with Christ. For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body-Jews or Greeks, slaves or free- and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there were many parts, yet one body.

The word of the Lord

A: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia.....

'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father, who is in heaven. (Mt 5:16)'

Gospel: Mt. 14:13-21

C: The Lord be with you

A: And with you spirit

C: A reading from the Hold Gospel according to St. Mathew

A: Glory to you, O Lord!

C: (Proclamation of Gospel)

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a lonely place apart. But when the Crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. As he went ashore, he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces of left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

C: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Five loaves of bread and two fish

Dear Kolping sisters, dear Kolping brothers,

Do you remember a situation in your life when you felt like: Now, that's enough, I've got to do something! I've got to say something! I cannot remain silent?

I am sure that these moments occur in everybody's life. Let me give you an example: I witness that someone is being harassed in the street. I can't just watch and stay out of it. You read about children in the world who go hungry or even starve to death and you think: I've got to do something! The child next door is wailing miserably again: This time you ring the bell and ask the parents if maybe you can be of any help. Or, no, I

will not buy that cheap piece of clothing. For I know where and how it was produced. I do not stay out of it: I can do things differently. I follow my conscience!

Sometimes it may require a lot of courage and energy to follow one's conscience, to overcome one's inhibitions, to interfere and to indicate that you are there for others: This is good. Showing courage is a good feeling and it is so important because in our daily routine we often hear those faint-hearted voices: Well, what can I do? There are too many things in this world I cannot change. So why should I care and get involved?

Five loaves of bread and two fish, what does this imply for those hundreds of thousands of people, children, youths, men and women who go hungry every day, for those thousands of people who starve to death every day?

Five loaves of bread and two fish, what does this imply for all those people who keep longing for a fulfilling life day by day? What does this imply for all those people who keep asking vital questions referring to justice, peace and the integrity of creation? So many challenges and then there are only five loaves of bread and two fish.

This is exactly the challenge the disciples are facing in the reading we have just heard. They see all those people who hope that Jesus can help them, heal their sick and give their life a meaning. There he is standing and "he had compassion on them". He cannot act differently. Jesus could have also said: "Send those people away. I need a rest". Instead, he feels empathy and compassion. They expect so much from him and he does not want to disappoint them. When the evening comes, the disciples start to worry. Those people need something to eat. It is not possible to buy food – this is a lonely place. How is this going to work? This is why they want to send the crowds away. However, Jesus feels responsible. The people have walked long distances, the day was long. There is no other option for him than to say: "you give them something to eat". The disciples remain sceptical. There is not much they can offer. Five loaves of bread and two fish. That will not be enough. They feel uncomfortable because they see only the shortage of food. This will not be enough! And then Jesus becomes the host. He takes the five loaves of bread and the two fish, thanks and breaks and gives the loaves to the disciples who give them to the crowds. You are right when this reminds you of the Last Supper. This is what the evangelist Matthew wants us to know: Jesus invites us. He wants people to have enough food, both literally and figuratively as this can be transferred also to enough faith, love and hope.

Adolph Kolping followed this example in the 19th century. Many things he wrote and spoke about in his lifetime have been preserved and still fascinate us. This also applies to his energy, his diligence, his strong will not only to accept things as they are but to tackle a problem and to change things for the better. Statements such as "There is nothing we can do about it" or "That's the way it is" would have been unacceptable for Adolph Kolping.

Consequently, he did not ask people to find comfort in believing in an afterlife but he appealed to them to find their own ways and means of dealing with and overcoming problems in their lifetime, to set an example for others in so far that they take their life in their own hands and change things gradually for the better, to alleviate suffering with the aim to create more just structures and finally to overcome the needs of the times.

This was not by any means empty rhetoric for him but an integral part of his daily work. He dedicated his life to addressing the needs of the times and to solving problems. John Paul II therefore referred to him as a “model for today‘s Church“.

Today, Kolping sisters and Kolping brothers in this “one world” try to apply the ideas and visions of Father Adolph Kolping to modern times. This also implies that we set an example in what we are doing, that we make a point of matching words with deeds, that we live the principles of the Bible in terms of how we deal with one another. Following the visions of Father Adolph Kolping, Kolping Associations see themselves as a part of the Catholic church with their actions being based on the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thus, no-one has the right to live at the expense of others. Every single individual is invited to sit at the table of humanity. Every single person must be granted his or her rights.

Adolph Kolping was a man of words and of deeds. He was not content with analyzing living conditions in the world only or with complaining about poor conditions. He was determined to tackle problems, to collaborate, to accept responsibility. This is a basic attitude Kolping Societies all over the world must have and share.

Pope Francis is thinking along the same lines: We must focus our attention on the human being and in particular on the needy.

We can learn from Jesus Christ in the New Testament what this actually means. We will be on the right track if we remember how he related to people.

Five loaves of bread and two fish – this does not seem to be enough to survive. And yet, it can be, figuratively speaking, so much more if I allow God to get involved. If I trust God to turn the small options I have into something great. Five loaves of bread and two fish – what can that be? Five answers and two ideas? Sharing five minutes of my time and two words with another person? Just like that and without a special reason. I am sure there are so many more examples we can find in different directions and that each of us can find enough examples. Let us think big, even if this might seem utopian: all of those millions of Christians worldwide give their “five answers and contribute two ideas”, adding them to the large number of options we have. What would the world look like if we Christians shared things with others? I am sure that there would be fewer problems in this world. There would be fewer conflicts between rich and poor. Examples as a rich source of inspiration that we do not only feed five thousand people but that all people have enough to eat – and there would even be something left.

How much joy, how much euphoria could we send along all lines of latitude and longitude in this world? This abundance of joy, of harmony and of peace reminds us of the Kingdom of God. Jesus called upon all of us to help build it every single day, here and now. Let us try to make this attitude an integral and natural part of our daily routine, let us be selfless and willing to make a contribution that everyone will have enough to eat.

“Getting started is often the hardest, remaining loyal the best“ – another quote by Adolph Kolping that we should keep in mind. Serving as a role model for all of us, for

all Kolping sisters and Kolping brothers in the world, he will guide us in our efforts to take the necessary steps, to look ahead into the futures, full of courage and imagination and the determination to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ: to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Amen.

The Profession of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

Prayer of Intercession

C: Almighty God, we are aware of our responsibility for life and the future of this earth and that we have been called to take decisions. For this, we need your help.

Trusting in the intercession of Adolph Kolping, we ask you:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may acknowledge and cherish plural culture, language, and ethnicity to build up one human community, we pray to you O' Lord.

A: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Following the footsteps of Blessed Adolph Kolping, we may become sensitive to the needs of the poor and respond correspondingly, we pray to you O' Lord.

A: **Lord, hear our prayer**.

That the leaders of the Church stand up against the provisions that restrains freedom of speech and freedom of religion, we pray to you O' Lord.

A: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We specially pray for the Kolping International and Kolping National Associations that they may be guided by the spirit of the founder Blessed Adolph Kolping to accomplish the vision of life for all beyond territories and creed. Bless the International Kolping Team with good health, we pray to you O' Lord.

A: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

C: Merciful Father, we have submitted our petitions before you. Lord! You already know what we need and what we deserve. Shower your gifts upon us and grant us all what we need to build up a human society. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts (offering song)

C: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life

A: Blessed be God for ever.

C: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink

A: Blessed be God for ever.

C: Pray, brethren (brother and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

A: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings:

C: Let us Pray

Merciful Father, we have come around the table to commemorate the self- emptying sacrifice of Jesus Our Lord to redeem the humanity from all social injustices. As we have gathered as one family to offer ourselves to be an instrument of building human communities, we beseech you to accept our offering and sanctify all our efforts through the mighty power of the Eucharistic celebration. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer:

Preface

C: The Lord be with you

A: And with your spirit.

C: Lift up your hands.

A: We lift them up to the Lord.

C: Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God.

A: It is right and just.

C: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God … And so, with the

company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

Sanctus:

A: Holy, holy, hold Lord, God of Power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest

C: You are indeed Hold, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

C: Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and + Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night, he was betrayed he himself took bread, and giving you thanks he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT: FOR THIS IS MY BODY WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and giving you thanks he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT: FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

C: The Mystery of faith

A: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

C: In memory of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Father, this life-giving bread, this saving cup. We thank you for worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. May all of us who share in the body of Christ be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

Lord, remember your Church throughout the world; make us grow in love, together with N. our Pope, N. our bishop, and all the clergy.

Remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again; bring them and all the departed into the light of your presence.

Have mercy on us all: make us worthy to share eternal life, with Mary, the virgin mother of God, with the apostles, the Blessed Adolph Kolping and with all the saints who have done your will throughout the ages. May we praise you in union with them, and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Doxology

C: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

A: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Greeting of peace

Agnus Dei

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

A: have mercy on us.

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

A: have mercy on us.

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

A: grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Adolph Kolping

Dear God!

You gave us Blessed Adolph Kolping as an intercessor and a role model. His life found fulfilment in caring for young people in religious and social difficulties.

His concern was to understand work, family and society in the light of our faith. He considered helping one another within the community to be the expression of the Christian love for one's neighbour.

We beseech you: Help us work together in the International Kolping Society to overcome poverty, injustice and hopelessness. Help us to defend human life and protect marriage and family to be the salt of the earth and a light for the world.

Fulfil our hope of being able to honour Adolph Kolping as a Saint throughout the whole Church in all languages and nations. Let us, through faith, hope and love, work towards bringing to perfection Your kingdom in this world.

For this we pray through Christ, our Lord. Amen

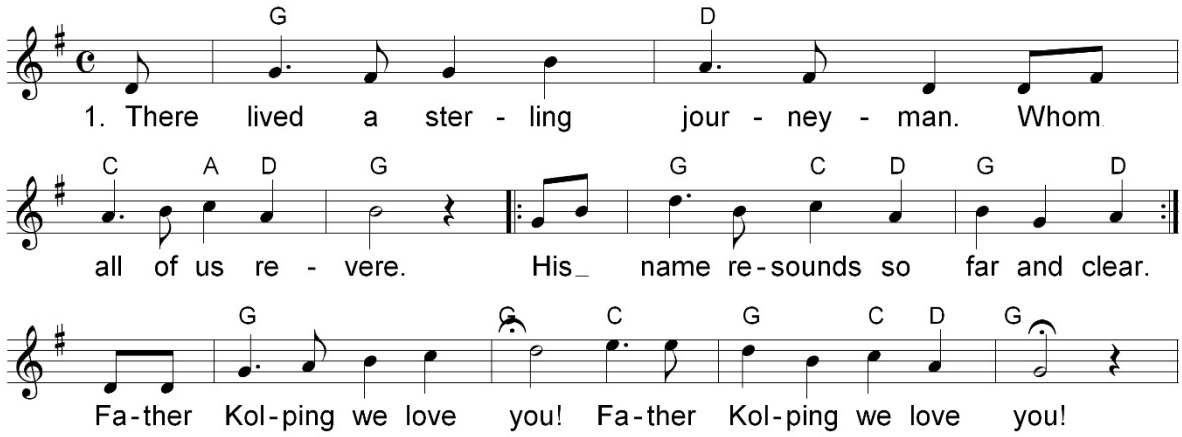
Final prayer

C: The God of all, you have given us the opportunity to share and experience your selfless love towards humanity. Lord. Grant us the Grace to be sensitive to the needs and concerns of people affected by social, economic, political and health crisis. Give us the strength to be united with the people who needs our solidarity. We ask this through Christ our lord.

Blessing

Final Song:

Kolping Song



2. A cobbler, going through the world,
   with heart sincere and true.
   /: He made new shoes repaired them too. :/
   /: Father Kolping, we love you! :/

3. The priesterhood was his heart's desire.
   God granted him this grace.
   /: See, what great work he set apace. :/
   /: Father Kolping, we love you! :/

4. A father to his journeymen,
   he wished so much to be.
   /: He took them for his family. :/
   /: Father Kolping, we love you! :/

5. Father Kolping, zealous priest of God,
   Be with your friends today.
   And joining hands, we brothers pray,
   And joining hands, we sisters pray:
   /: Father Kolping, we love you! :/