





Dear Kolping sisters, dear Kolping brothers,

“Meanwhile, we are confident that we can meet in Rome in 2022.” This is what Ottmar Dillenburg wrote on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer in 2021. Since then, however, we have lost this confidence again. Unfortunately, under the given circumstances, it was impossible to do a reliable planning to the extent that would have been required for an international pilgrimage. That is why we decided to cancel the international pilgrimage and I am happy to know that individual groups are taking our concerns to Rome.

In the past year, some major events occurred that we all had not thought possible: the war in Ukraine, the impact of the war, of climate change and of other political constellations such as those in Colombia. All of these crises forcefully remind us once again that there is no alternative to our vision of a global family that stands firmly united and refuses to budge.

My heartfelt thanks go to all those who demonstrate this in the most diverse ways, like our Kolping sisters and brothers in Ukraine, who work tirelessly to alleviate hardship but also the National Associations in neighbouring countries including Germany, Austria, South Tyrol and Switzerland, who make solidarity visible through their help and commitment, as Vasyl puts it so aptly.

I am also grateful that our horizons are widening to include the consequences of war and the wider crisis of climate change and political transformations like those in Myanmar, in Africa, in Latin America. We stick together and prove to be a strong world community both in prayer and action, even if we do not meet in Rome.

Finally, let me thank the Kolping Society of South Tyrol for providing us with their suggestions to celebrate the World Day of Prayer. And I ask you all: let us unite in praying for peace in the world, for true progress of the peoples, for humanity and hope, for courage and confidence in faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and in looking forward to the 2023 International Convention, when hopefully many of us will have a chance to experience our fellowship in a concrete way.

Treu Kolping

Msgr. Christoph Huber
General Praeses

ITALY

This is what Italy looks like from outer space: Up north, part of the Alps belongs to Italy. From north to south a mountain range runs through the country: the Apennines.

It is very cold in the Alps, while Italy otherwise has a very warm to subtropical climate. Especially in summer it is hot and humid.

There are many earthquakes in Italy: Here the plates on which the continents of Europe and Africa lie collide.



What history does Italy have?

More than 200,000 years ago, Neanderthals already lived in what is now Italy. Later in ancient times, many peoples lived there, of whom some are still known today, such as the Etruscans and the Celts. It was in the south where also Greeks settled. Allegedly, in 753 BC the city of Rome was founded. Over the centuries, it was turned into the huge Roman Empire.

Around the year 400 AD, the empire fell apart. From the north came Germanic peoples who also conquered Italy. In the Middle Ages, especially the north of Italy was part of the Holy Roman Empire. In the south, Muslims, but also Vikings dominated areas such as the island of Sicily.

Even in modern times, Italy was not a country but consisted of many empires and cities. The centre of Italy with the city of Rome, for example, belonged to the Papal States, the dominion of the Pope. In 1861, Italy finally became a single kingdom.

In 1922, the kingdom was turned into a dictatorship: Benito Mussolini, the leader of the Fascist Party, became the head of the government. Mussolini led many wars in the Italian colonies in Africa. From 1940, Italy fought with National Socialist Germany in the Second World War.

After the war, the people voted that they no longer wanted a king. Since 1946, Italy has therefore been a republic. It was one of the first countries in Western Europe to want to cooperate more with others: Since 1957, Italy has been part of the community that is now the European Union.

SOUTH TYROL

In the north of Italy, on the border with Austria and Switzerland, is the province of South Tyrol. It is one of the 110 provinces of Italy. With its almost 534,000 inhabitants, it accounts for about 1% of Italy's population. Kolping Families exist only in South Tyrol.

South Tyrol in figures

Country and people

South Tyrol covers an area of 7,400.43km², 64.4% of which is at an altitude of over 1,500 meters. At 3,905 metres, the Ortler is the highest mountain in South Tyrol.

South Tyrol has 533,715 inhabitants. There are 116 communities in total.

Only the provincial capital of Bolzano, with 107,760 inhabitants, may call itself a major city. In contrast, the other seven South Tyrolean cities of Merano, Bressanone, Laives, Brunico, Vipiteno, Chiusa and Glorenza are home to fewer than 100,000 people (as of 2020).

69.64% of the population declare themselves to belong to the German language group, 25.84% to the Italian and 4.52% to the Ladin (as of 2011). Ladin is a Rhaeto-Romanic language still spoken in the Dolomite valleys of Val Gardena and Alta Badia.

Nature and culture

There are 8 large nature reserves in South Tyrol: 7 nature parks and 1 national park cover almost a quarter of the total area of South Tyrol and aim, among other things, to preserve biodiversity.

Most of the 176 natural lakes (with an area of more than half a hectare) in South Tyrol are located at an altitude of above 2,000 metres.



Kolping is a major (essential) building block of the foundation of the Church of God, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

History of South Tyrol

Before the First World War

For many centuries, bishops, the Counts of Tyrol, together with other noblemen, ruled over what is now Tyrol/South Tyrol/Trentino. In 1363, large parts of what later became the Crown Land of Tyrol became part of the Habsburg territories, and around 1500, further dominions were added. The area that roughly comprised today's Trentino, South Tyrol and the Austrian state of Tyrol was then part of the Habsburg monarchy until its end after the First World War.

The new state and experiences with totalitarianism

After the First World War, South Tyrol, which was 97% German-speaking, along with the Italian-speaking Trentino, became part of Italy as a result of power politics. This happened against the declared will of the South Tyrolean population. Initially, the hope was at least for autonomy, but nothing came of it. On the contrary. As early as 1922, when the fascists came to power in Italy, totalitarian oppression started in general, but the language and culture of South Tyrol and the settlement areas of the Slovenians were particularly suppressed. In South Tyrol, the German language was banned from schools, administration, courts and the wider public. Cultural, social and economic associations, sports clubs were dissolved or placed under Fascist-Italian control, German civil servants and teachers were dismissed and replaced by Italians who were loyal to the regime, and expropriations were enforced. Systematic immigration, which had the purpose of changing the linguistic-cultural majority relations, was perceived as particularly harsh. Industrial zones with corresponding housing zones, established from 1935 onwards, primarily served this purpose.

The Option – an inhuman either – or

But when all of this was not enough for those in power, fascist Italy, together with National Socialist Germany, invented the so-called Option, an either-or that forced people to choose between two values that belonged together: Homeland on the one hand, folklore, language and culture on the other hand. The conflict divided families and communities. At around 86%, the decision to emigrate to the territory of the German Reich was very high. There are various explanations for this: on the one hand, many people had experienced being deprived of their rights, oppressed and without prospects for a future in their own homeland; on the other hand, propaganda with improbable promises such as a coherent settlement area also played a role, of course. Finally, the so-called Sicilian legend had a decisive effect on the outcome. It said that even those who chose to stay would be resettled: to the colonies, to Sicily or to areas south of the river Po. In fact, about 75,000 people left, from these only 25,000 returned after the war.

South Tyrol after the Second World War

After the Second World War, people in South Tyrol hoped to finally achieve the right to self-determination and to thus become part of Austria again. All efforts were made to achieve this: protest rallies, collections of signatures, letters of petition to the victorious powers. Ultimately, however, power politics prevailed once again. South Tyrol remained with Italy. This time, however, at least a treaty was signed granting South Tyrol the right to autonomy: the Paris Treaty or the Gruber-Degasperi Agreement. Only this too was watered down. Instead of an autonomy for South Tyrol, there was one for Trentino-South Tyrol and thus the South Tyroleans were again hopelessly in the minority. The essential decisions were made in Trentino by an Italian majority, and the promised minority rights for the South Tyroleans went unheeded in many respects.

Moreover, immigration continued, which made Canon Michael Gamper speak of the South Tyroleans' "death march" in the daily newspaper "Dolomiten". This was also because only the immigrants found work in the large industries and in the civil service; young South Tyroleans who were looking for work had to leave the country. This feeling of being deprived of their homeland eventually led to a large rally at Sigmundskron Castle with 35,000 people calling for the "lot of Trent". They finally wanted to get what had been promised in the Paris Treaty, namely an autonomous South Tyrol. However, since Italy refused to change its attitude, there were also bomb attacks and the South Tyrol issue was submitted to the UN. The UN resolutions that the Austrian Foreign Minister Bruno Kreisky was able to achieve for South Tyrol called on Italy and Austria, the signatory powers of the Paris Treaty, to continue their negotiations.

Towards a solution to the South Tyrol problem

All of this and many other initiatives finally contributed to a resolution of the conflict. In September 1961, a commission was set up to negotiate the issues raised by the South Tyroleans. This so-called "Commission of 19" worked until 1964. Since the South Tyroleans were not yet satisfied with the results, negotiations continued between Austria, the protecting power of the South Tyroleans, and Italy, and finally the South Tyrolean provincial governor and leader of the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP), Silvius Magnago, also negotiated with Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro. The latter in particular showed great understanding for the concerns of the South Tyroleans and so a package was finally agreed upon that included 137 measures to improve the situation in South Tyrol. After stormy debates at a national SVP meeting on 22/23 November 1969, the package was approved with a narrow majority of 52.8%. The reason for this narrow vote was that the package did not contain a number of desired measures and that many people did not trust the government because of the experience they had had in the past. This time, however, it kept its word.

Implementing the package – autonomy becomes the guiding principle and the basis for success

Originally, all measures of the agreed package should have been implemented by 1974. However, it took until 1992, which was not necessarily a disadvantage, but rather an advantage, also because the saying "take the time to do it right" turned out to be

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Kolping South Tyrol

7

true. On the one hand, the issues to be regulated were very complex, on the other hand, it also led to Italy changing its legal position in our favour regarding the question of international protection of the second Autonomy Statute by 1992. This strengthened our autonomy significantly once again. With the adoption of the second Autonomy Statute, many properties/monuments/buildings originally expropriated by the government became the property of the province, and at the same time, essential pillars of autonomy, which eliminated great injustices, were clearly anchored: the allocation of jobs in the public service according to the strength of the respective ethnic groups, and in a somewhat more moderate way with regard to funds for housing and other areas. Most importantly, however, the province was now primarily, i.e. almost exclusively, responsible for 29 areas; in 11 areas the province now had secondary responsibilities, i.e. here it must also observe the principles of state laws. Moreover, the competences were now real and did not only exist on paper, as was often the case with the first Autonomy Statute, and at the same time they had increased from 17 to a total of 40.

Finally, after the 1992 Dispute Settlement Declaration, i.e. the notification to the UN Secretary General that the dispute of 1960/1961 had been settled, autonomy has been further strengthened with additional competences and measures.

Martha Stocker 2022

Our Association Kolping South Tyrol EO

Kolping South Tyrol/Italy is the required union (National Association) of all Kolping Families of a country, in our case South Tyrol, as stipulated by the International Kolping Society.

But why does Kolping only exist in South Tyrol? The answer to this question can be found in the person of Don Bosco. He lived in Italy at the time of Adolph Kolping and developed similar thoughts and initiatives as Kolping. His area of activity was very much concentrated on Italy and finally the southern European region. People in Italy venerate this man as the saviour of the socially disadvantaged and the workers.

Because of these simultaneously developing but still quite similar concepts and structures, Adolph Kolping's work remained a "German thing" (for the Italian population) and thus only people in South Tyrol were enthusiastic about the ideas of this man.

Adolph Kolping himself travelled to South Tyrol in 1841 and 1855 where he witnessed and enjoyed the founding of the first Catholic Journeymen's associations. He founded the Kolping Families of Bolzano (visit on 13 May 1855), Merano and Bressanone. In his travel report about the country of South Tyrol and its people, Kolping was always in raptures: "You would think you were in paradise" (Diary, 1841).

Focus areas

Kolping in South Tyrol focuses on:

- Enabling its members to prove themselves as Christians in the world and thus in work and profession, in marriage and family, in Church and state;
- Offering its members, but also non-members, help in life;
- Promoting the welfare through the activities of its members and groups in a Christian sense and working for the constant renewal of Church and society.

Fields of practice

The following fields of practice are therefore of particular importance in the work of Kolping South Tyrol:

- Commitment for the family as the most important place of all developments for society (seminars, political campaigns, media work);
- Support of Kolping Families as a place of community of all generations;
- Commitment for working people and the socially disadvantaged (Kolping Houses: accommodation, food, educational opportunities);
- Assistance and support measures for people in other countries, in particular for our partner countries Tanzania and Rwanda and in Eastern Europe (Albania, Hungary, Romania);
- Strengthening of youth work as a chance for a Christian-oriented future of our society and important target group of our association (local youth groups, bands, vocational training and further training, experiential education events, international encounters, projects for a sustainable South Tyrol);
- Participation in the discussions about all important societal issues and topics also through participation in church and political bodies (conferences, political activities)

The main objective of Kolping South Tyrol/Italy is the positive change of society from within. This is accomplished best by changing the individual who is empowered by his active knowledge to work for a better social order himself. Social change through education is therefore always the first priority. Adolph Kolping himself, through the Journeymen's Association and the Kolping Families, wanted to educate diligent citizens who can actively participate on a Christian basis in work, marriage and family, in Church, society and state. Kolping today thus offers concrete help in life to all social groups.

These tasks are performed by:

- the approximately 1,500 Kolping members in the 14 Kolping Families;
- the 5 Kolping Houses with its facilities for accommodation, education and recreation;
- the educational offers in seminars, courses and training courses;
- the KolpingBlatt ("magazine") of South Tyrol with a circulation of 1,500 copies;
- the development aid with revenues from collections and campaigns.

Our Kolping Families in South Tyrol

Algund, Auer, Bolzano, Bolzano/Haslach, Bressanone, Brunico, Graun in the Unterland, Kurtatsch, Merano, Ritten, St. Jakob, St. Michael/Eppan, Vipiteno and Vinschgau/Schlanders.

The founding of the first Kolping Families in South Tyrol took place as of 1854 under the designation Catholic journeymen's associations. In the course of this century, other larger and smaller journeymen's associations were created and the idea of Adolph Kolping enjoyed great popularity.

After the end of the First World War, a difficult time dawned for Kolping in South Tyrol. All the journeymen's associations had almost had to give up their activities under the Fascist rule and the Kolping Houses had to be placed under the protection of the Church. Fascism prohibited all Germanism and thus also forced German Kolping Families to dissolve. Only after the end of the Second World War, the journeymen's associations were able to restart working. In the 1960s, these were transformed into Kolping Families and through the Kolping Association South Tyrol/Italy they belong to the International Kolping Society which has its headquarters in Cologne.

Under the direction and the constant commitment of Central Praeses August Außerer the Kolping Families in South Tyrol experienced a reinforced upswing again from 1977 on and the ideas of Adolph Kolping bore increased fruits among members and new followers.

After the Beatification in 1991, it was possible to develop some smaller groups of sympathizers in Northern and Central Italy. In Rome there was already a Kolping House in former times.

Our Kolping Houses in South Tyrol

Bolzano, Bressanone, Brunico, Merano, Vipiteno

The Kolping Houses are above all meeting point of the Kolping Family and the youth with varied events and activities.

The Kolping Houses are institutions with many functions: whether hotel, home, canteen, restaurant, meeting places, courses and seminars, as well as theater and celebrations.

Every Kolping House is different, but everything has its place: associations, organizations, pupils and students, apprentices and workers.

Especially the Kolping House Bolzano has to be mentioned here. It is not only an educational house and offers accommodation for many but is also a place of international hospitality. The central office of Kolping in South Tyrol is also located here.

What is the Kolping Youth?

The Kolping Youth is a community of children, teenagers and young adults. Our members come from all kinds of occupations and life situations. They include pupils, apprentices and students, as well as already employed people and families.

As a Catholic youth association, we constitute the Kolping Association South Tyrol together with the adults. The Kolping Association is represented in about 60 countries worldwide.

Every young person who participates with his/her individual skills and talents marks the colorful face of the Kolping Youth.

What can be reported about the activities?

Various activities take place all over the year. However, in summer not that often, because also the members take a well-deserved summer break.

A 'Kolping Youth on Tour trip' is held every year and is very well received, as is the soccer competition that has been organized for many years now and in which several teams from abroad have already participated.

How is the Kolping Youth spread in South Tyrol?

Active members of the Kolping Youth are currently "merely" scattered all over the country, since the association is in the process of reconstruction. The various Kolping Families, i.e. the adult members, support the Youth.

Currently, about 40 youths and young adults are members.

Kolping activities in South Tyrol

The activities of Kolping South Tyrol are as diverse as the 14 Kolping Families are, small and large ones, Kolping Families in urban and rural areas, new and old ones, etc.

Kolping has been active in South Tyrol for more than 160 years, making it one of the well-known Catholic organisations in South Tyrol. Activities such as sports and theatre groups, which were initially targeted at supporting journeymen, have changed over the years. Kolping activities initiated today are very wide-ranging. They are about showing solidarity with our fellow human beings, such as visits to old people's homes, carnival celebrations with young people from the sheltered flats in Merano, to name just two examples. There are a number of events for families and children, such as the Kinderwald project on the Kolping campsite in Graun, where small children can live in harmony with nature together with their parents, the Kolping summer holiday programme in Merano, the St. Martin's procession and Saint Nicholas celebrations. For our older members, many leisure activities such as excursions, summer holidays at the seaside, but also lectures and other cultural activities are organised that help to

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build a community spirit and overcome loneliness. As a Catholic association, we naturally include many religious celebrations in our programme, such as pilgrimages, May devotions and Holy Masses. Through development cooperation projects, our solidarity reaches beyond the borders of our country. Kolping South Tyrol has a long tradition here as well. Thanks to our partnership with Kolping Albania, we do not only support Kolping brothers and sisters in the poorest country in Europe but we specifically promote special projects for women in the north of Albania. In Africa, Kolping South Tyrol supports Kolping Tanzania with its KOLcafé project. Smallholder coffee farmers sustainably improve their living conditions thanks to targeted measures. In addition, at least two fundraising campaigns are organised each year, with numerous donors helping to finance various projects of Kolping International Cooperation e.V. .



Celebrating Easter in the retirement home



Kolping children summer in Merano



Finally enjoying summer, sun, beach and the sea again



Hiking and barbecuing in our beautiful mountains

“In all beginnings dwells a magic force...”

Last year, some courageous families launched the "**Kinderwald**" project with the support and tireless commitment of the Kolping Family Graun. It was particularly valuable to have wonderful interactions with the village community, to experience the openness of many people who welcomed us to their farms and shared their knowledge with us, the local inns that prepared lovely meals for our little ones, and nature that was our daily teacher and sometimes pushed us to our limits.



Marveling at each other, forming friendships...

Coffee growing secures family income

The KOLcafé project supports smallholder farmers in northwestern Tanzania

With the financial support of the Office for External Relations of the Province of Bolzano and in cooperation with "Brother and Sister in Need" from Tyrol, Kolping South Tyrol has financed the KOLcafé project in the past few years.

“When it rains, it’s a blessing” – this is what people in northwestern Tanzania like to say. Especially for smallholder farmers, the constant change of rain and sunshine plays a decisive role: because apart from agriculture, people in the Kagera region have hardly any alternative to generate an income.

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Together we are stronger

For the marketing and sale of the coffee beans, the project communities in the Kagera region have founded a cooperative with its own savings and credit scheme. This allows all members financial stability and greater certainty in planning.



Kolping's Women Initiative to strengthen women in northern Albania

Since the beginning of the partnership between Kolping South Tyrol/Italy and Kolping Albania we have recognised that one issue stands above all others when it comes to the development of the country: **the support and empowerment of women**. All over the world, it is women who can achieve and change a lot for the benefit of the whole society with little means. The role of women in the patriarchal country of Albania is still very difficult. Besides many problems, there is a lot of violence against women, also within families. Women rarely have a regular job and are therefore economically dependent on their husbands most of the time. The fact that a woman is allowed to decide for herself what she "wants to become in life" is seldom an option. In the capital of Albania's predominantly Christian north, Shkodra, there are besides our partner Kolping Albania, other women's organisations such as the association "Hapa te Lehte", which means as much as "Easy Steps", and COSPE Albania that support Albania's women on their way to a better life. In collaboration with the above-mentioned associations, Kolping South Tyrol submitted a project proposal last year to the Office for External Relations and Volunteering of the Province of South Tyrol in order to finance the Women Initiative project. Thanks to the approval of the grant, the project started last autumn. In many communities, women were invited to attend meetings where they were asked to reflect on what their most urgent needs were.

The first part of the project showed that it is particularly important to support young women. Strengthening self-esteem, promoting education, providing vocational training and further education are central concepts of many initiatives of the Women Initiative project. The first part of the project showed that it is particularly important to support young women. Strengthening self-esteem, promoting education, providing vocational training and further education are central concepts of many initiatives of the Women Initiative project. Meanwhile, the handicraft course has also started, which teaches old and new handicraft skills, but also offers valuable discussions and many shared experiences.



Mentoring apprentices and Kolping Youth

The Kolping Youth is mostly made up of people who come and go. They all leave their mark. To ensure that it does not remain an interim period only, but that the whole becomes visible and stable, structures, activities and opportunities are needed to create new experiences and new relationships.

Here is a quote from the book "Hector and the Search for Happiness": *"Happiness is when you do something you love."* Every individual knows that there is something that will make him/her happy. One only has to search for it. And it is precisely this search and eternal dreaming that gives young people the strength to encourage others, to identify with difficult situations of others and to live compassion.

Kolping is therefore meant to connect people and generations and the time has come when thinking outside the box has become essential so that living together in community is the better option.

- Visiting companies and trades in Gröden -



Maria's wish to visit a woodcarving workshop finally came true!

20 years of “Spitzmausturnen” with the Eppan Kolping Family

The "Spitzmausturnen" (mother-child gymnastics) originated from an idea of Renate Bicciato. She explains: "When my son Davide was 1.5 years old and able to walk, I invited mothers and their children to meet us in the gym of the middle school in autumn. There we had the opportunity to balance on the beam, set up a slide, climb up the wall bars. At the beginning and end of the class we made a circle and sang the song "Ringa, ringa reiha/ Giro, giro tondo". Not only mothers, but also grandmas, grandpas or aunts came regularly to the play sessions.

A little shrew (in German “Spitzmaus”) ran around the town hall, wanted to buy something and got lost, sat down in the wet grass and wet her panties. BI BA BU WHAT'S YOUR NAME?



HOLY MASS

THEME: Kolping is a major (essential) building block of the foundation of the Church of God, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

Two sayings from Adolph Kolping

"If you want to win people over you must pledge your heart."

"When sharing joys and sorrows with one another, one grows together."

Procession from the entrance

Start:

A Power Point presentation with quiet music in the background displays the following items:

A house (of God) gradually emerges from bricks or wooden blocks. A large stone with the symbol of Jesus Christ is placed under the house (of God). Stones inscribed with the name of the Kolping Families of the diocese or country are placed inside the bricks or wooden blocks.

alternative: **Entrance Song**

Liturgical Greeting

Let us begin this Kolping World Day of Prayer:

In the name of God, who gives us life and has called us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who is our cornerstone.

In the name of the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength to form a community as living stones.

Description of the situation of Kolping Families in the diocese or the country by the Diocesan (National) chairperson.

Kyrie

C: Lord, Jesus Christ, you are our cornerstone and you call upon people from all nations, languages and cultures to follow you.

A: Lord have Mercy

C: Lord, Jesus Christ, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and you want us to be living stones who continue to build in our church.

A: Christ have Mercy

- C: Lord, Jesus Christ, you make no distinction between rich and poor, slave and master, man or woman, white or coloured. We all, who strive to follow your message, are sisters and brothers.
- A: Lord have Mercy

Gloria

Opening Prayer

God of mercy, you have placed us in your creation and given us many talents. Grant us your holy divine power to be stewards of your creation and to be committed to the well-being of our fellow brothers and sisters. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading: 1 Peter 2, 4-10

Reading from the 1st Letter of saint peter

Brothers and sisters!

⁴ The Lord is the living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him ⁵ so that you, too, may be living stones making a spiritual house as a holy priesthood to offer the spiritual sacrifices made acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.⁶ As scripture says: Now I am laying a stone in Zion, a chosen, precious cornerstone and no one who relies on this will be brought to disgrace.⁷ To you believers it brings honour. But for unbelievers, it is rather a stone which the builders rejected that became a cornerstone,⁸ a stumbling stone, a rock to trip people up. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the Word; it was the fate in store for them.⁹ But you are a chosen race, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation, a people to be a personal possession to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.¹⁰ Once you were a non-people and now you are the People of God; once you were outside his pity; now you have received pity.

The word of the Lord

A: Thanks to be God

Intermediate song

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Mt 7, 24-27

C: The Lord be with you

A: And with your spirit.

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

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

²⁴ Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock. ²⁶ But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!

C: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Adress: (alternative sermon)

Conversation between a woman and a man; happy and disappointing experiences in the family, Kolping and the Church; reference to our Kolping houses, which give people a home both physically and mentally and are thus living building blocks. This is followed by a short meditation: "**Stone**".

Meditation (after Father Theophil Gauss OSB, St. Ottilien)

Participants are invited to close their eyes. Then they are given a (painted) stone. Soft instrumental music is playing in the background.

Stimulus: How often are we given something in life that we could not choose ourselves:

< talents

< fortunate circumstances and coincidences

< but also some things we don't want, things that are cold, rough and edgy.

This stone that you are now holding was simply placed in your hand. I did not choose this stone. It was given to me. It weighs on my hands, it seems cold, perhaps repulsive.

What shall I do with it?

I cannot change it for the time being. I want to examine it more closely. I try to explore its surface with my hands. I feel its edges and hollows, its hills and indentations. The stone could certainly tell a lot about its history. What made it turn out like it looks now?

- < Which weather conditions shaped it?
- < Was it lying in a river bed and was it ground?
- < Was it part of a large mountain face?
- < Who or what cut off its corners?

When I look at my life, there are also edges, ruptures and corners, rough and smooth places.

- < What has shaped and ground me?
- < What made me become rough or smooth?

Silence

If I press the stone firmly with my hands and then let one hand go, I notice that it leaves an impression, just as I leave impressions because of my existence and behaviour. Little by little I feel that the stone is no longer cold and strange, but that it slowly becomes familiar to me. It becomes my stone. And so I accept the stone and I accept myself.

Short Silence

- The participants now open their eyes, look at their stone, then bring it to the front and place it around the house (of God) on a **black - orange cloth** (Kolping colour: seriousness and joy in life).
- **Speaker:** Stones are often seen as a symbol for sorrows and problems. However, we have also discovered other sides to our stone. I need stones to build a good foundation for my house. Adolph Kolping had many houses built for his journeymen and thereby gave them a shelter, a home and a feeling of security. He built his life on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ and invites us today to do the same.

Woman and man conclude:

W: Jesus Christ - cornerstone and foundation stone, but also stumbling stone and rock of offence.

M: Church - spiritual house made of living stones and not just a stone building.

W: Following Jesus - means helping to shape the world and not piously retreating into one's own "idyllic" world.

M: Kolping - that means: Being committed to each other and not only thinking about one's own well-being.

Creed

alternative: Creed recited at the World Council of Churches in Canberra in 1991 - slightly modified.

One person: We believe in God, the Creator, who loves us and who wants us to preserve his creation.

A: This is our God.

One person: We believe in Jesus Christ, who was devoted to all people, who died for us and who was raised from the dead.

A: This is Jesus Christ.

One person: We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit working in us and with us until all is good and true.

A: This is the Holy Spirit, the power of the Holy Spirit.

One person: We are all, as the people of God, the one church that reminds people of God and strives to live in the world according to the message of Jesus.

A: This we believe and confess. Amen.

Bidding Prayers

(Show several stones painted with one word and then bring them to the altar).

- Jesus, you are our cornerstone. Strengthen in us the trust that, despite disappointments, we will bear witness to your joyful and liberating message through our lives. **(Stone with word trust)**.
- Jesus, you are our cornerstone. Fill us with joy that helps us and others to see more of what is good and to be grateful for it. **(Stone with word joy)**.
- Jesus, you are our cornerstone. Give us faithfulness and perseverance when doubts and uncertainties beset us. **(Stone with word faithfulness)**.
- Jesus, you are our cornerstone. Give us peace and let us be open to reconciliation and dialogue with one another. **(Stone with word peace)**.
- Jesus, you are our cornerstone. Let us grow in our love for you and for one another, and not just talk about love. **(Stone with word love)**.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory

Offering song

Some participants bring offerings to the altar: bread, wine, water, chalice, flowers, candles, leather or shoes (A.Kolping) or symbols of other occupations and say a short sentence about each of them.

Prayer over the gifts

Lord, our God. We have symbolically represented our everyday actions. As Jesus Christ changed bread and wine into his body and blood, so change our hearts and make us one with you. This we ask through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit today and forever, Amen.

Preface:

- C: The Lord be with you.
 A: And with your spirit
 C: Lift up your hearts.
 A: We lift them up to the Lord.
 C: Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God.
 A: It's right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all-powerful and everliving God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ you bring us to the knowledge of our truth, that we may be united by one faith and one baptism to become his body. Through Christ you have given the Holy Spirit to all peoples. How wonderful are the works of the Spirit, revealed in so many

gifts! Yet how marvellous is the unity the Spirit creates from their diversity, as he dwells in the hearts of your children, filling the whole Church with his presence and guiding it with his wisdom! In our joy, we sing to your glory with all choirs of angels:

Sanctus

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.

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

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

Lord's Prayer

Greeting of peace

Agnus Dei

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

Lord, our God. We were allowed to be guests at the table of Jesus, our cornerstone. Through the intercession of Blessed Adolph Kolping, the father of journeymen, let us be living building blocks for one another and for your kingdom, to renew the face of our earth through the help of the Holy Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of thanks

Blessing

Final Song:

Kolping Song

1. There lived a ster - ling jour - ney - man. Whom
all of us re - vere. His name re-sounds so far and clear.
Fa-ther Kol-ping we love you! Fa-ther Kol-ping we love you!

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 priesthood 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! :/

Kolping is a major (essential) building block of the foundation of the Church of God, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

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! :/

Note: Small gems are distributed among the participants, rolled up in the saying: "You are a valuable building block in the Kolping Society (South Tyrol) NN."