



KOLPING BULLETIN

A Monthly Report from Catholic Kolping Society New York • www.kolpingny.org • APRIL 2008 • No. 40

note the date

april

- 5-6 KOH Cleanup**
Kolping-on-Hudson
- 12-13 KOH Cleanup**
Kolping-on-Hudson
- 15 Full Board Meeting**
Concourse
- 19-20 KOH Cleanup**
Kolping-on-Hudson
- 22 May Bulletin**
Last day to submit materials
- 26-27 KOH Cleanup**
Kolping-on-Hudson

may

- 1 National Day of Prayer**
For more info: www.ndptf.org
- 3-4 KOH Cleanup**
Kolping-on-Hudson
- 10 KOH Cleanup**
Kolping-on-Hudson
- 11 Mother's Day**
KOH Mass and dinner
- 20 Executive Board Meeting**
K-88th Street
- 26 Memorial Day Barbecue**
Kolping-on-Hudson

june

- 15 Father's Day**
KOH Mass and dinner
- 29 Full Board Meeting**
Kolping-on-Hudson



A Message from our President

Kolping on Hudson Clean-Up

Spring is coming and it's time for Spring Cleaning at Kolping on Hudson so we can open up for the summer. We are a society in which everyone needs to pitch in and help where they can. Clean-up weekends start the first weekend in April. Show up for a few hours of work, socializing, and lunch!

We've tried to put together a rough schedule:

The 1st weekend we will be concentrating on the outside work: raking, picking up twigs, trimming, weeding the beach area, etc. If it's convenient, you can bring your own rake or gardening tools.

The 2nd weekend will involve some inside work: moving the patio furniture outside, washing dishes, windows, dusting, sweeping.

The 3rd weekend: moving the picnic tables and benches outside.

The 4th weekend will be general weeding, spraying poison ivy (very important to prevent the kids from getting a rash!), and the dozens of final chores that need to be done before we are ready for company.

Remember, we are not a country club—if it needs to be done, our members are doing it!



MISSION STATEMENT: We, the members of the Catholic Kolping Society of America, extend the vision of our founder, Blessed Adolph Kolping, by promoting the development of the individual and family; we foster a sense of belonging and friendship through our program of spiritual, educational, charitable and social activities.

KOLPING BULLETIN

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Milestones & Passages



Everyone could use the power of prayer now and again. If you or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please let us know and we will be happy to include them within the "in our prayers" list. Please call Ann Horan (914-737-2026) when you know of a member who is ill, in the hospital, or has passed away. We want to be sure to remember them.

We were sorry to hear of the death of **Matilda Brosnan**. She was a long and devoted member of the Ladies' Auxiliary.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE BORN IN APRIL:

Linda Ahrens, Bob Bauer, Jr., Stanley Beckett, Nick Bellett, Willi Bittermann, Russell Borner, Karen Byrnes, Michelle Cervello, Romeo Cojocar, Claude Colombini, Erna Dengler, Katrina Dengler, Kurt Dengler, Veronica Dengler, Linda Doerr, Robert Doyle, Willi Dunz,

Theresa Farley, Agatha Frassman, Gregory Fuchek Jr., Jessica Lynn Funnell, Kevin Gaffney, Angelique Gallwitz, Bob Hemsing, Vincent Hierspiel, Robert Jaki, Elizabeth Jaki, Andrea Janny, Mark Janny, Johan Jung, Maria Jung, Christine Kern, Jerry Kern, Francis Kiernan, James Kiernan, Bret La Racque, Hans Lechner, Bill Leili, Amy Losonsky, Susanne Lounsbury, Joseph Mazzarella, Bridget McCusker, Judith Mersits, Natalie Minarik, Detmar Nieshalla, Luitgard Nieshalla, Tom Nieshalla, Reinhart Oelerking, Elfie Orłowski, Marcia Oscarson, Evan Ostroff, Cecilia Portilla, Joseph Preisser, Charlotte Rahm, Franz Recklingloh, Elizabeth Reitter, Nick Saladino, Dieter Schmitt, Maria Schubert, Frances Schulte, Patrick Schwarte, Lisa Specht, James Stang, Marlena Umland, John Vanzo, Barbara Weber, and Sharon Weigand.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Bob Doyle, Nick Saladino, and Francis Kiernan. Happy 90th to Agatha Frassman!

If you do not see your name, spouse's name, or child's name listed, it means we don't have that information in our files. Please call, email or write Ann Horan (annth@optonline.net / 914-737-2026) with these important dates so we can include them in the appropriate month.

THANKS

Lenten Project: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Slidell, Louisiana

John & Betty Reitter, Marg Cirincione, Cecilia & Sixto Portilla, Katrina Dengler, Alfonse Preisser, Erna & Ted Dengler, Ann Horan, Mary McKeon, and Barbara Grimm.

Thanks to Bob Hemsing for donation to KOH in the memory of Lucille Capriotti.

Congratulations!

Bob and Janet Reinisch called to tell us of the birth of their first grandchild! William Arnaldo Reinisch was born to Aisha and Robert, Jr. on March 13. Needless to say, Bob and Janet are on cloud 9! Our best to the whole family.

OUR HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR APRIL 2008

*The Holy father gives us two intentions each month—
one a general intention, the other an intention for world missions.*

*Proclamation of the Resurrection. That Christians may not tire of proclaiming
with their lives that Christ's resurrection is the source of hope and peace.*

*Future Priests. That the future priests of the young Churches may be formed
to evangelize their nations and the whole world.*

2008 DUES

Please send in your dues as soon as possible. These funds are needed for the Society to meet its financial obligations.

Family: \$105
Individual: \$90
Student: \$40

Please make check payable to:
The Catholic Kolping Society.

Mail to: The Catholic Kolping Society,
Attention: Ann Horan, 165 East 88th
St., New York, NY 10128 and mark
"Dues" in the left-hand corner.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Careers with Roy Sokol Realty. Discover the benefits of associating with a positive kind of Real Estate Agency, one with caring and friendly people, new and a real vision for the future and client satisfaction the priority goal.

Our fresh approach to Real Estate makes being a part of Roy Sokol Realty a truly uplifting experience. Our goal at Roy Sokol Realty is to offer friendly and efficient service in every aspect of our business, including our recruiting system.

To apply, visit RoySokolRealty.com and click on the Careers page. Our recruitment team will only consider one profile per candidate, therefore, please make sure to create only one profile. Phone 888.227.8916 / www.roysokolreality.com.

Disney Condo for Rent. Kolping Member has 3 BR / 2 Bath condo for rent in 5-star community only 3 miles outside of Disney's Main Gate. Affordable and convenient. Visit our web site at www.bestdisneycondo.com or call Gary & Terri Ostroff at 516-837-3804.

All members are invited to submit advertisements for items that they want to sell, give away or own. The ads will expire after one month unless other arrangements are made. We reserve the right to charge a fee in the future, if needed, to cover expenses. Email your classified ads (or any questions) to: classifieds@kolpingny.org or mail them to: Ingrid Reslmaier, Kolping Classifieds, 6 Green Ave., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Ads can be posted directly on www.kolpingny.org. Please include a description, contact name, phone number, and/or email address.

News & Notes

Kolping-on-Hudson: Think Spring!

We have rooms to rent for the season. Call Heidi Umland (718-805-0552). Don't forget us when you need to rent a beautiful place for your graduation, First Communion, birthday, or any kind of parties. We do weddings! Our house on 88th Street is also available for rentals. Call our manager, Ernst Endrich at 212-369-6647 for those dates.

Mother's Day: May 11

Official opening of 2008 summer season. Please join us for a roast beef dinner. Mass follows at 4:00pm. More details in May Bulletin. Please call Heidi Umland for information and reservations: 718-805-0552.

Donations Still Needed

Our Mass furniture at Kolping on Hudson needs an upgrade, so that each one of our Masses look as nice as possible. The prices are:

Lectern (\$500): *Joan & Ted Dengler in memory of Dina & Charlie Kennedy and Hilda & Jack McGlew*

Priest's Chair (\$459): *John & Betty Reitter in memory of Reitter/Beck families*

Blessed Mary Grotto (\$750): *Bert & Heidi Brugger (\$200); Mallon Family (\$260)*. Still needed: \$290

Address Plaque: \$750

Altar Table: *Catherine Hickey in memory of Steve Hickey*

If you and your family would like to donate one of these items, it would be most appreciated. If you donate them in memory of a loved one, we could put their name on a plaque. Please let Ann Horan know if you are interested in this project (914-737-2026).

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES *submitted by Jack McGee*

Brooklyn Kolping requests the honor of your presence at their 2008 Dinner-Dance. It will be held on Sunday, May 4th at their Kolping Center, 65-04 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY (telephone 718-456-7727). Doors open at 1:30pm. Dinner served at 2pm. What's on the menu? Your \$30 ticket includes a roast pork dinner, soda, beer, coffee, dessert, entertainment, which includes a creative mock skit entitled "The Very Last Bridesmaid", and dancing. You may BYOB for extra "refreshments".

Philadelphia Kolping has mailed out the invitations to their Labor Day Weekend Kolping Convention. It starts out with a Friday evening informal arrival get-together. There's so much to discuss since we've been together that an informal get-together seems appropriate. As we read, the hotel room price is per room, whether occupied by a single or a double. Should you be interested in arriving a day beforehand, or staying for an extra day after, the hotel has agreed on the same fee per room as with the convention. The Convention Committee has reminded us when making reservations, don't forget to mention that we are with The Catholic Kolping Society Convention.

Cincinnati Kolping, as always, has plenty going on. There is an awards banquet (for a mere \$410 per ticket) to honor those members who have been with the Kolping Society for 25, 50 and 60 years. They'll also be sponsoring a charity Golf Outing in June and have organized a Kolping Golf League which has Sunday afternoon meetings.

Ted Tegenkamp has asked in the February BANNER that members send in their opinions on "Ways to improve Kolping...new thinking...new ideas...new activities, etc.". If you have any suggestions for Ted, please write to him!

March General Meeting

photos and story by Ann Horan

Our thanks to all who attended the General Meeting on March 2. We were treated to a delicious sauerbraten dinner prepared by Wolfgang Hahn and assisted by Elfie Waschitz.

Many of us attended Mass at St. Joseph's, our neighboring parish. It is a German Mass and Larry Dengler always makes us proud with his German readings. Fr. Bretone was on the altar with St. Joseph's new pastor, Msgr. John Sullivan. It was a pleasure to welcome Msgr. Sullivan to our Kolping House for dinner after Mass. Julia Winter always makes us feel welcome at her parish and the coffee & danish are a treat.

Gerhard Schmitt, our Board Chairman, ran the elections and the meeting.

The results of the election were:

Senior Board

Richard Brunhuber, Ted Dengler X, Albert Sartorius, James Stang

Junior Board

Cecilia Portilla and Edward Specht

Our President, Katrina Dengler and Vice President, Bob Hemsing were elected to a second term.

We congratulate all of them and thank them for giving of their time for Kolping.

The following were initiated as new members:

Stephen & Alina Lovasz
Steven Petrillo
Jeff & Teresa Bernert
Mary Clancy
Therese Tretter

We are so happy to welcome them into our Kolping family.

Finally, we thank Albert Sartorius and John Noonan for all the preparations they did to make our day run so smoothly.



More News & Notes

Thank-you Letter from Mary Galeone, RSM

Dear Ms. Horan:

I write to express the gratitude of the women and families of Mercy Center for your recent gift of \$500. We appreciate your support of our work here in the South Bronx.

As you know, the needs are great in our neighborhood—we are still in the poorest Congressional district in the country. Two-thirds of our families survive on less than \$15,000 a year.

When confronted with this reality, the work can sometimes seem overwhelming. We might wonder how much of a difference one agency—or one person—can make. But to each person who comes to Mercy Center, it all makes a difference. We are able to provide women and their families with life changing services, thanks to the generosity of supporters like you who partner with us in our work.

Many, many thanks for being a part of this, and for helping to make it happen!

Easter 2008

A once in a lifetime experience!

submitted by Karen Byrnes

Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

Here's the interesting info. This year's Easter was the earliest any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above!). And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier!

Here are the facts:

1) The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).

2) The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285

(277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

Celebrate with praise!

See it Before It's Too Late

submitted by Jack McGee

The Flower Show. Take your choice of running down to Macy's or taking in the Orchid Show in the Bronx Botanical Gardens. Last chance to catch the Circus at Madison Square Garden. Both wrap up April 6.

Thanks to Jack McGee

submitted by Jerry and Elizabeth T. G. Schwebke via email

We want to thank Jack McGee for his column (What's Happening in NY) because now we have the Metropolitan Opera Schedule. Consequently, we can receive the Sat. matinee broadcast through our home computer.

Words Worth Noting

submitted by Jack McGee

"It is necessary to pray for priests because they are often forgotten by the living, since Christians often consider that priests do not need prayers."
— St. Joseph Moscati

"The difference between the reason of man and the instinct of the beast is this, that the beast does but know, but the man knows that he knows."
— John Donne

"Anger is like a stone thrown into a wasp's nest."
— Pope Paul VI

"Make yourself an honest man and then you may be sure there is one less rascal in the world."
— Thomas Carlyle

Liederkrantz Opera Theatre

Franz Lehar's

The Merry Widow

Sung in English

Elizabeth Hastings –
Musical Director

Corin Hollifield - Choreographer
Costume Designer – Alan Smith



Lighting Designer – Melanie Smock

Nelson Sheeley –
Stage Director

The Cast

Jacqueline Noparstak
Rebecca Spence ~ John Bernard ~ David Kravitz ~ Nathan Bahny
Erin Brittain Elspeth Davis Gary Dimon Jacob Feldman Robin Flynn
Daniel Hoy Miri Levi Colin McNamara James Mills
Meghan Picerno Michal Salonia Kristin K. Vogel
featuring Kirsten Davis - Violinist

The Performances

Friday, April 4th, 2008 at 8:00 PM Saturday, April 5th, 2008 at 8:00 PM
at The Liederkrantz 6 East 87th Street (off Fifth Avenue)

General Admission - Reservations Recommended
Adults: \$25 Seniors and Students with ID: \$20
Call (212) 534-0880 or e-mail us at contactus@liederkrantzcity.org.

Have dinner at the Liederkrantz before the show - not included in the price of admission.
You must make your dinner reservation no later than Wednesday, April 2nd.
-Check or cash only at the door-
www.liederkrantzcity.org

Photo Gallery: Kolping Ski Trip 2008

Photos submitted by Kathy Weinborg, Gary Ostroff, and Alex Schmitt



Stories of Interest

Victor Hensen

submitted by Martin A. Kelly



Seafood is one of the most delectable treats that mankind can enjoy. There is hardly a nation that does not have its own specialty using fish or other undersea creatures as its base. Even some aquatic plants serve to satisfy the appetite, as: water cress, dulce, seaweed, etc..

These succulent morsels which embellish the human diet do not come out of thin air. They are the end product of an intricate food chain starting with minute plant-like cells called plankton. This microscopic substance serves as food for small fish

which in turn are used by larger fish for their diet. Successively, this cycle is repeated by even larger fish so that a large variety of fish can be harvested to provide a substantial part of human nourishment.

The discovery of this vital plankton was made by Victor Hensen. He was born in Schleswig, Germany in 1835. In 1867, as a member of the Prussian House of Representatives, he pushed through ocean study surveys. His five ventures in marine biological research spread from the Baltic and North Seas to the Atlantic. Hensen identified plankton and established its essential role in human survival. With the ever-increasing world population, the cultivation of plankton for human consumption is being considered.

Hensen explored the human body's sense organs as well as the mysteries of the deep. As a physiologist, he named the cells of Hensen and Canal of Hensen found in the inner ear. Hensen has also been honored by having an ocean's research vessel named after him.



Humorous Story

submitted by Martin A. Kelly

A husband and wife went to a seafood restaurant. They were seated and surveyed the menu. The lady ordered boiled lobster. When the waiter returned with her meal, she noticed the lobster had only one claw, and made a complaint. He explained that lobsters often fight amongst themselves and loss of a claw is not uncommon. On hearing this explanation, she looked the waiter in the eye, and demanded, "So bring me the winner!"

A Little Humor

submitted by Katherine and Walter Weigand

Durch all diese neuen Technologien im Bereich der weiblichen Fruchtbarkeit war es einer 77-jährigen Frau möglich noch einmal Mutter zu werden. Nachdem sie aus dem Spital entlassen wurde und wieder zu Hause war, kam die Verwandtschaft zu Besuch.

"Können wir das Baby sehen?" fragte eine Tante "Nicht jetzt" sagte die späte Mutter, "ich mache jetzt erst einmal einen Kaffee und wir plaudern ein bisschen."

Dreissig Minuten vergehen und eine andere Verwandte fragte: "Können wir jetzt dein neues Baby sehen?"

"Nicht jetzt" sagte die Mutter.

Nachdem eine weitere halbe Stunde vergangen war, fragten die verwandten wieder: "Können wir das Baby jetzt sehen?"

"Nein jetzt noch nicht!" antwortete die Mutter ungehalten.

Die Verwandten wurden jetzt schon sehr ungeduldig: "Also wann können wir denn das Baby endlich sehen?"

"Wenn es schreit" sagte sie ihnen.

"Warum um Gottes willen müssen wir warten, bis es schreit?" fragten sie.

"Weil ich vergessen habe wo ich es hingelegt habe."

[translated]

With all the new technologies in female fertility, a 77 year-old woman was able to give birth. After coming home from the hospital, the relatives came to visit.

"Can we see the baby?" an aunt asked.

"Not yet," said the mother.

"I'll make a pot of coffee and we can chat a bit".

After 30 minutes had passed another relative asked "May we see your new baby now?"

"Not now", the mother said. After another half hour had passed, the relatives asked again: "Can we see the baby now?"

"No, not yet!" answered the mother. At this point, the relatives became very impatient.

"When can we finally see the baby?"

"When he cries," she said.

"For God's sake, why must we wait until the baby cries?" they asked.

"Because I forgot where I put him," said the mother.

What's Happening in New York This Month

By Jack McGee (718-478-0573)



LINCOLN CENTER

METROPOLITAN OPERA (TICKETS FROM \$15.00)

Friday & Saturday evening at 8:00pm; Saturday matinees at 1:30

The Gambler	April 4, 12 (matinee)
La Boheme	April 5 (matinee), 12, 18
Ernani	April 5
Satyagraha	April 11, 19 (matinee), 25
The Masked Ball	April 19
La Fille Du Regiment	April 26 (matinee), May 2
The Abduction from the Seraglio	April 26, May 3 (matinee)
La Clemenza Di Tito	May 3

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ON RADIO - WQXR 96.3FM

Saturdays at 1:30pm. Confirm for time and station at www.operainfo.org

La Boheme	April 5
Satyagraha	April 19
La Fille Du Regiment	April 26
The Abduction from the Seraglio	May 3

(In German – by Mozart)

NEW YORK CITY OPERA (TICKETS FROM \$20)

Madama Butterfly	April 4, 6 (matinee)
Tosca	April 5 (matinee)
Falstaff	April 5
Candida	April 11 to 20

AT THE CHURCHES

ST. JOSEPH'S IN YORKVILLE 404 East 87th Street

Every first Sunday of the month, the Holy sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated in German at 9:45. Confessions before Mass. For information call Julia Winter at 212-534-5625. For information regarding counseling and sacraments in German, please contact Rev. Emmanuel Nartey at 212-289-6030.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

135 West 31st Street

Adult Education Classes. Our Journey Toward Healing. Tuesdays, April 1 to 22 (12 noon to 1pm)

St. Francis of Assisi. Wednesdays, April 23, 30 and May (6pm to 7:30pm)

Mysteries of the Rosary. Wednesdays, April 30 to May 28.

Preparing For The Year of St. Paul. Tuesdays, May 6 to 27 (6pm to 7pm)

Fee for each course \$20. For info call 212-736-8500, ext. 311.

Courses held at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, 31st Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

MUSIC AT THE CHURCHES

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

65th St. & Central Park West

April 5 at 8pm – Music of the German Baroque (tickets from \$20)

Free Performances at 5pm:

April 6 – Bach Cantatas and Organ Works

April 13 – Bach/Schutz/Organ Works

April 20 – Bach Motets

April 27 – Bach Cantatas and Organ Works

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

51st Street and Park Avenue

Wednesdays at 1:15pm. No admission charge. April 2 through April 30

CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

53rd Street and Fifth Avenue

April 11 at 7:30 pm. Tickets from \$25.

A visit by the King's College Choir from Cambridge, England. Various religious and secular vocal selections.

ZION ST. MARK'S 339 East 84th St. NYC

Saturday, April 5 from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

SPRING Luncheon. Enjoy wonderful food, fun music and great company. Our chef, our own Wolfgang, will prepare a special Hawaiian Style luncheon: sweet and sour pork with the trimmings, cake, coffee, tea. Various beverages available. Contribution: \$15.

Saturday, April 12 at 3 p.m. "Ohne Krimi geht die Mimi nie ins Bett" 1962. On a tiny island somewhere in the Mediterranean, an oil engineer and his girlfriend are ready for some serious...

Saturday, April 26 at 3 p.m. "Der Schinderhannes" 1958. In 1802, farmers in the rural Hunsrueck area suffer under Napoleon's occupation as well as suppression by the feudal local aristocracy...

Doors open at 2:30 p.m. for coffee and cake. All films in German—no subtitles. Programs subject to change. Contribution \$5.

Info: 212-479-7808 / website: zionstmarks.org

New York City alternate side of the street parking regulations suspended April 20-21 and April 26-27 (Passover); April 24-25 (Orthodox Holy Week); May 1 (Ascension Thursday).

Awaiting Pope Benedict XVI

Germans Have Left Mark On Church in New York

[By Beth Griffin]

German Catholics are such a modest presence in New York that Pope Benedict XVI may leave the Big Apple without meeting a single one. He will, however, see evidence of their mark on Manhattan's history, when he hosts an ecumenical prayer service April 18 at St. Joseph's Church.

St. Joseph's Church on East 87th St., in the city's Yorkville neighborhood, was established in 1873 to serve the needs of German immigrants. The church, built in 1895 in the Romanesque revival style, and its stained-glass windows bear inscriptions from the German-American parishioners whose donations financed the building.

St. Joseph's is the only parish in the Archdiocese of New York with a regularly scheduled German-language Mass, according to Julia Winter, a longtime parishioner. She said the monthly Mass draws as many as 100 people, many of whom come from outside the parish.

"We are the only German Catholic presence in the archdiocese," Winter said. "We have a German ministry. It's not just a Mass."

The ministry includes occasional concerts, baptisms, funerals or commemorative Masses celebrated in German, as well as an informal housing referral service for young Germans coming to New York as interns.

The Yorkville neighborhood, once a center of all things German in Manhattan, is German mostly in memory now.

Msgr. Lawrence Connaughton, pastor of St. Joseph's from 1995 to 2007, said: "Most of the commercial German establishments are gone now, but the richness of the German community is real, as far as continuity and linking to prior generations. They are the roots of the (St. Joseph's) church and all the things that we have here are thanks to them."

Father Boniface Ramsey, a priest of the Archdiocese of New York who occasionally celebrates the German-language Mass at St. Joseph's, traced the history of the Germans in New York.

"The German immigrants were always fractured; they were Lutheran, Catholic and Jewish. And they assimilated pretty well to begin with," he said.

Nonetheless, Father Ramsey said that New York was the third-largest German-speaking city in the world at the turn of the 20th century, after Berlin and Vienna, Austria.

And today, he said, "More people in the United States claim German heritage than any other. It will be a long time before people of Hispanic heritage outnumber those of German heritage."

Father Ramsey said, "The German heritage was devastated by World War I, World War II, the General Slocum disaster and demographic changes."

In 1904, more than 1,000 German-Americans were killed when the General Slocum, a steamship carrying them on an annual outing from St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church on the Lower East Side, caught fire and burned to the water line in the East River.

Prior to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York, the General Slocum fire caused the largest single loss of life in New York City.

Father Ramsey said the tragedy "wrecked the German community in the United States." And in New York, the center of German activity moved from Alphabet City on the Lower East Side of Manhattan to Yorkville and later to the Ridgewood section of Queens.

A Mass in German is still celebrated every Sunday at 8:45 a.m. in the lower church of St. Matthias, Ridgewood. It may be the last German language Mass in the diocese.

Msgr. Edward Scharfenberger, pastor of St. Matthias, held that position when Pope Benedict was elected pope in 2005. Msgr. Scharfenberger, of German heritage himself, said at the time that he had seen the area of Ridgewood and Glendale, once a strong German enclave, turn into a diverse neighborhood, which is now predominantly Polish.

Germans in Glendale

Sister Joseph Maureen, O.P., who was at the time principal of St. Pancras School, Glendale, was the child of German immigrants and felt a great deal of pride at the election of a German pope.

That pride was echoed at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church. Until 10 years ago, a German Mass was celebrated at OLMM, according to Msgr. Edward Ryan, the current pastor, but it was mostly attended by the people from the Gottschee region on the border of Austria and Hungary.

At the time of Pope Benedict's election, Father Vincent Gallo, pastor of St. Pancras, Glendale, said "We still have Germans in the parish. We as a parish will join with the new pope in praying for peace in the world, something everyone wants." Today there is still a German presence in the Glendale area, a church secretary said, but there is no German language Mass and she cannot recall there being one in her lifetime.

Winter, the chair of St. Joseph's German Committee since 1971, migrated from Bavaria as a child. She said that, until the mid-1940s, the priests assigned to the parish spoke German. She said the Yorkville neighborhood began to change in the 1950s and 1960s, as small buildings were replaced by high-rise apartment buildings.

In an only-in-New-York scenario that reflects the changes in the neighborhood and the universality of the Church, the monthly German-language Mass at St. Joseph's is celebrated by a rotating group of priests that includes:

- The current pastor, Msgr. John Sullivan, an Irish-American who studied German in a Jesuit high school in Manhattan.
- Parochial vicar Father Emmanuel Narthey, a Ghanaian who speaks German as one of four languages.
- And Father Ramsey, the son of a German immigrant who attended the same school in Aschau am Inn as the pope and immigrated to the United States by herself as a 16-year-old.

Father Ramsey said his mother is a proud American who married a Scottish-American and did not teach her son German while he was growing up in Yorkville. He learned to speak German in school.

Father Ramsey said, "Julia Winter is the Teutonic spirit of St. Joseph's." Msgr. Sullivan said that she will likely be among the 10 parishioners from St. Joseph's who have been invited to observe the pope's prayer service with ecumenical leaders.

Winter is hopeful that there will be an opportunity for the pope to meet them.

"It's important for the pope to see that there are German Catholics in the city and they have a place to come to worship," she said, adding, "The pope isn't coming to look at stained-glass windows with German names. He expects to talk to a few people."

More on the U.S. visit by Pope Benedict XVI

Yorkville German Catholics Prepare For Special Papal Event

submitted by Bernard Dengler

The last German-language parish in the New York Archdiocese is preparing for a private event with Pope Benedict XVI during his upcoming New York City visit. NY1's Shazia Khan filed the following story, as NY1 reports on the pope's visit to New York City.

Catholic mass in New York City is typically held in English or Spanish, but one Yorkville parish in the Upper East Side continues their traditional services in German.

St. Joseph's Church, founded by German immigrants in 1873, holds a monthly Sunday mass in German, attended by more than 100 people from the neighborhood and beyond.

Located in a once-thriving German immigrant neighborhood, today it is the only German parish in the New York Archdiocese.

"It's nice to find your roots again. And reconnect with them," said attendant Karen Staub.

Pope Benedict XVI, the first German-born pope since the 11th century, is scheduled to address ecumenical representatives at St. Joseph's during his upcoming April visit to New York City.

Julia Winter, who chairs the church's German-American committee, says it is a great blessing for the pope to grace her parish.

"For me personally and for all of us of German descent, it's important because he represents a part of us," said Winter.

The church bares many remembrances of its original ethnic identity, including German-inscribed stained glass windows.

"Everything was German, the sermons and everything were given in German in those days," said Monsignor John B. Sullivan of St. Joseph's Parish.

In Yorkville's heyday from the 1930s to the 1960s, the neighborhood was known as "Kleindeutschland," or "Little Germany."

"People flocked from all over the world and all over the city and the ships came in and everybody came to enjoy the dance halls and the beer gardens," said historian Kathy Jolowicz.

Today, less than a handful of German establishments remain in Yorkville, but the church remains a prominent presence for longtime parishioners.

"This parish means very, very much to me. I went to school here in St. Joseph's, received all my sacraments here, and also was married here," said parishioner Rita Berge.

To the disappointment of many in the parish, the papal event at the church is not open to the public. Ten people including Winter were given invitations, but Winter decided to give her ticket to a member of the School Sisters Of Notre Dame, the German religious order that established St. Joseph's School in 1880.

"I want to prove to the pope that we are not just having a German mass, but that we are a base founded in German tradition," said Winter.

This German cultural base will become close again with the source.

Pope Benedict XVI to Visit

submitted by Jack McGee



His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI will make his first visit as Pontiff to the United States April 15-20, 2008.

Visiting Washington, D.C., New York City, and the United Nations, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is privileged to be among the Holy Father's first stops of his Apostolic Journey.

Arriving at Andrews Air Force Base late afternoon on April 15, the Pope's first full day in the United States will be April 16, his 81st birthday. The morning will be spent at the White House, where President Bush will host the Holy Father in what will be only the second time in history that a pontiff has visited the White House.

The afternoon of April 16, Pope Benedict XVI will travel to the National Shrine where he will meet with the Bishops of the United States for solemn vespers and an address.

Of the Holy Father's visit, Monsignor Walter R. Rossi, Shrine Rector, notes, "The Shrine was established by the Bishops of the United States as our nation's tribute to Mary Immaculate and so it is appropriate that the Bishops of our country meet with the successor of Peter in the house they established to honor the Mother of God."

For security reasons and space limitations, the Holy Father's meeting with the Bishops at the National Shrine will be closed to the public. However, the faithful will have opportunities to see the Pope outside the Shrine as he arrives. Please check the National Shrine's website at www.nationalshrine.com for more information.

On April 17, Pope Benedict will celebrate Mass at Nationals Park, the new baseball stadium in Washington. Later that afternoon he will deliver an address to Catholic educators at The Catholic University of America, adjacent to the Shrine, followed by an inter-religious prayer service at the neighboring John Paul II Cultural Center. The Pope will travel from Catholic University to the JPII Cultural Center, again affording the faithful an additional opportunity to cheer the Holy Father on. The National Shrine will be open to accommodate visiting pilgrims who wish to catch a glimpse of the Pope in his travels.

April 18, the Pope departs Washington, D.C. for New York City where he will address the United Nations, then attend an ecumenical prayer service with leaders from other Christian denominations at St. Joseph's Church, founded by German Catholics in Manhattan.

On April 19, the Holy Father will celebrate Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral with priests, deacons and members of religious orders. Later that day he will attend a Youth Rally at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers.

On his final day, April 20, Pope Benedict will visit Ground Zero, the site of the disaster at the World Trade Center. In the afternoon, he will end his historic visit with Mass at Yankee Stadium. That evening, the Holy Father will depart JFK Airport on Shepherd One, his aptly named plane, for his return to the Vatican.

For more information on Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Journey to the United States, you may visit the USCCB's official website of the Holy Father's visit at www.uspavalvisit.org or visit www.nationalshrine.com for links to the USCCB site and more.