

Adolph Kolping – An image of life

Adolph Kolping was born in Kerpen, Germany, on December 8, 1813 as a child of a shepherd, raised in humble circumstances. He apprenticed as a shoemaker and worked in this profession for ten years. During this time, he struggles with the question of whether to enter the priesthood and leave his old life behind. At the age of 23, he courageously decides to embark on a new life, which turns out to be a remarkable journey. After completing high school and his theology studies at university, he is ordained on April 13, 1845 at the Minoritenkirche in Cologne.

While serving as a chaplain in Elberfeld, he joins a Catholic youth association founded by Johann Gregor Breuer. He becomes its presiding officer in 1847. Working among like-minded people within the association, Kolping finds effective ways to overcome personal difficulties and social problems. He arranges a transfer to Cologne, where he founds the Catholic Journeymen's Association on May 6, 1849. This is where Kolping finds his true calling in life. The aim of Kolping's journeymen's associations was to provide support to young people in difficult circumstances. Kolping wants them to be places where they can experience a sense of community, feel safe, enjoy social interaction, and receive education.

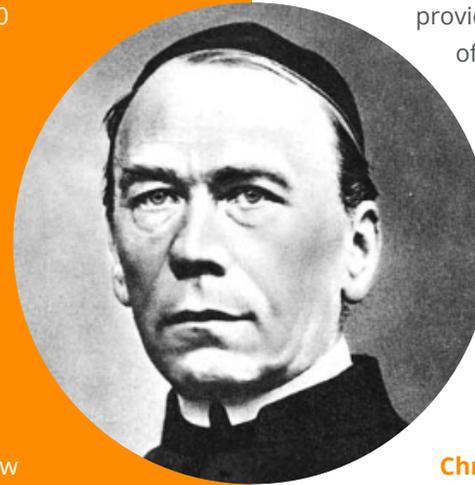
Kolping believed that changes in society can be brought about by changing people. In 1850, the first associations joined together to form the Rheinischer Gesellenbund (Rhenish Association of Journeymen). This was the foundation of the association. By his death on December 4, 1865, more than 400 journeymen's associations had been founded in Germany and many other European countries. Adolph Kolping was beatified by Pope John Paul II on October 27, 1991 in recognition of his lifelong dedication to social reform and his role as a pioneer of Catholic social doctrine.

„Kolping is sacred to me!“

On October 27, 2021, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the beatification of Adolph Kolping. This is a momentous event—and good reason for the many Kolping brothers and sisters around the world to pray for the canonization of our association's founder!

As a global community with over 400,000 members in more than 60 countries, we are committed to spreading the word: Kolping is sacred to me! To convey this message to people around the world, we launched a petition for the canonization of our association's founder. Each signature represents a life that has been positively touched by Adolph Kolping.

Join our campaign today! With your signature and your prayers, you can show your support for the recognition of the life and work of Adolph Kolping.



Adolph Kolping stands for

Solidarity

Adolph Kolping witnessed the social issues and hardships of his time and took action. As a social reformer, he was one of the pioneers of Catholic social teaching.

Community

Adolph Kolping's Catholic journeymen's associations provided a "home away from home" in a spirit of ecumenical openness. They were places where people learned, prayed, laughed, and celebrated.

Personal responsibility

Adolph Kolping firmly believed that every human being can take responsibility for shaping their own life and can therefore play a part in creating a peaceful and just society.

Christian convictions

Adolph Kolping was a devout priest and pastor who cared about his flock. He was an openhearted man of God and a man of the people.

Education

Adolph Kolping dedicated himself to helping young people. He believed that providing guidance, support, and a holistic education was the key to improving social conditions.

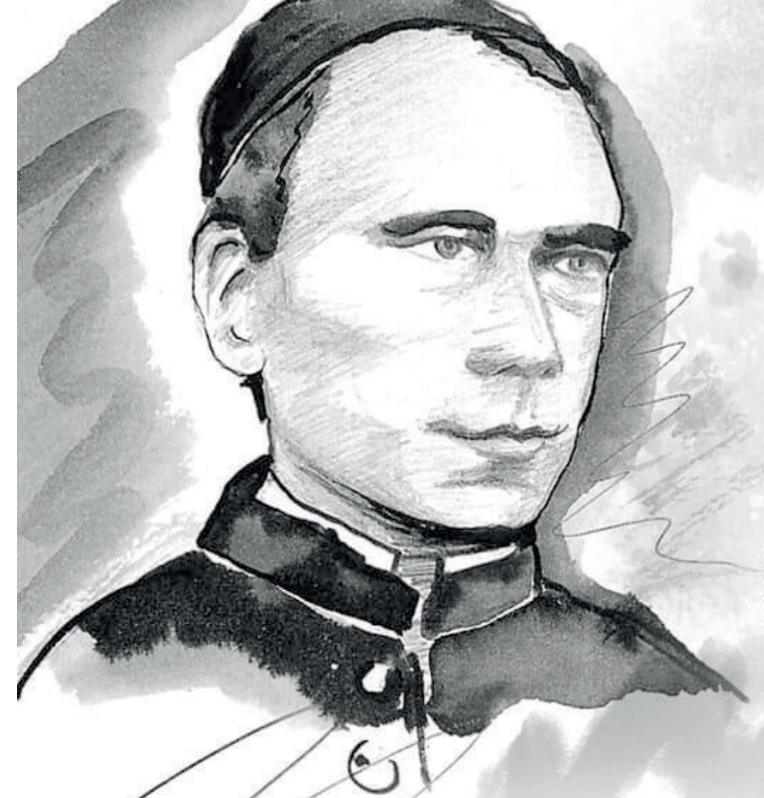


How you can support us

1. Sign the online petition at **WWW.PETITION-KOLPING.COM**. You can also download and print the signatures list here. Please only sign the petition once – either online or on paper.
2. Spread our message and encourage your friends and acquaintances to sign the petition.
3. Share your good deed on social media or visit the petition's Twitter account (@PetitionKolping).

Kolping is an international, catholic social organization based in Cologne (Germany). The worldwide community includes more than 400,000 members in more than 60 countries.

In accordance with the ideals advocated by Adolph Kolping, the association aims to promote a stronger awareness toward living responsibly and acting in solidarity. In doing so, the Kolping Society sees itself as a fellowship that “walks through life together” and acts, practices faith, and learns as one. We primarily focus on working with and for young people, getting involved in the world of work, collaborating with families and others to provide support to families. Our overarching aim is to create one united world.



Worldwide Petition for the Canonization of Adolph Kolping

Contact us:

Would you like to get in touch with us? Do you have any questions about the petition, our areas of activity, projects, events, or about membership in the Kolping Society? Here are our contact details:

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**Your signature counts.
Please lend your support!**

„Kolping is sacred to me!“