

# KOLPING MALAWI

## GROWTH!!

Kolping extends to the Catholic Diocese of Dedza

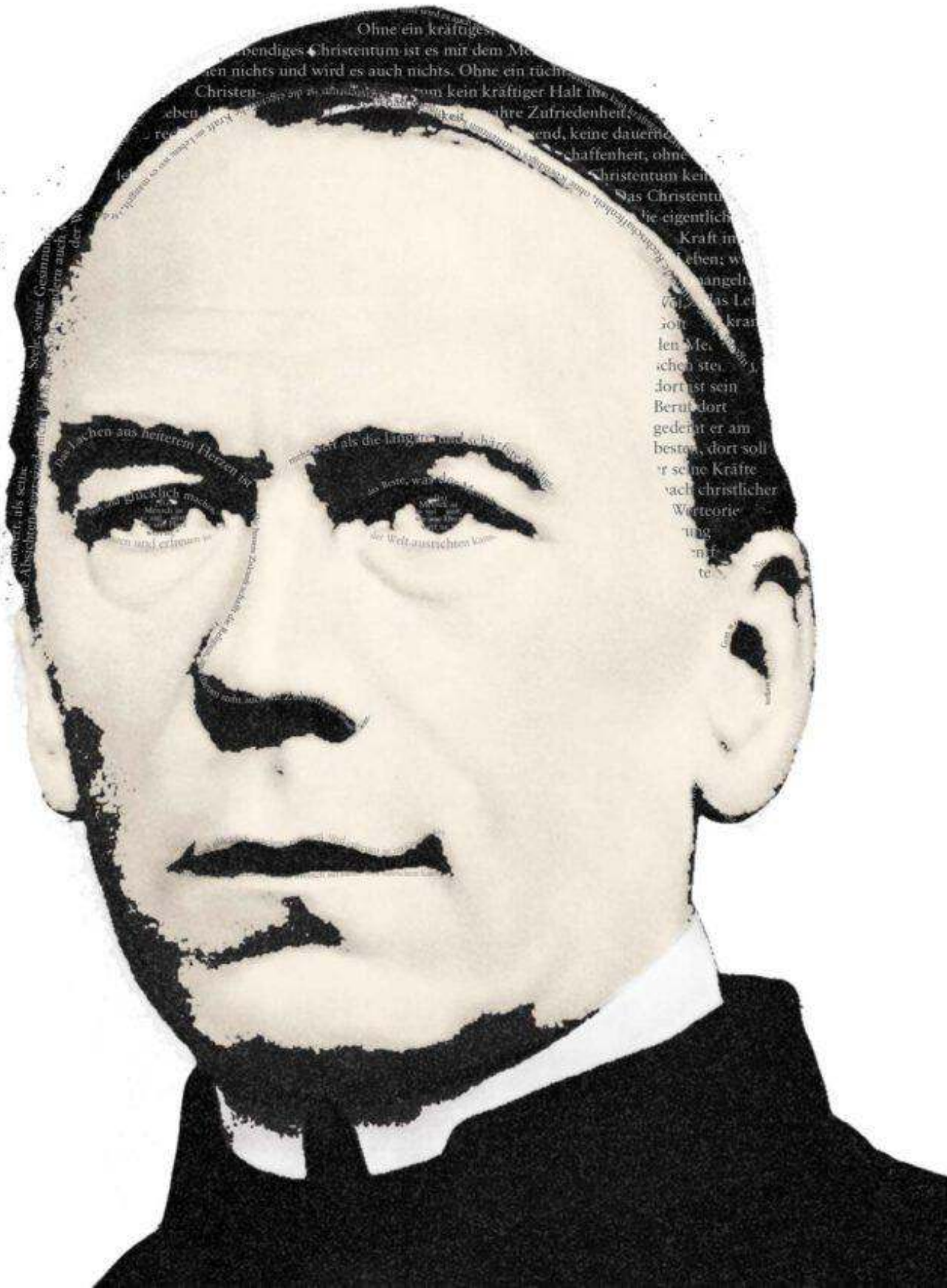
## THE TIME IS NOW

Village Savings and Loan Groups model for future savings.

## INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES FOR GROWTH

Newly established Kolping Family takes bold steps





**"Humans need to join forces with other humans as soon as they want something that simply exceeds the capacities of the individual.**

*- Adolph Kolping*

## FROM THE NATIONAL PRAESES

I am very grateful to report how Kolping Society of Malawi is progressing in improving the lives of the people both spiritually and materially. As one of the pioneers of Kolping Society here in Malawi, I am thrilled with its growth both here in Malawi and abroad. Our society was officially registered on 19th March 2023 and by the end of the year 2024, we were having 1,956 registered members and 302 unregistered members.

Kolping is currently in the Diocese's of Karonga, Mzuzu and Dedza. Apart from praying together, participating in bible sharing, learning the social teachings of the church and Kolping teachings, promoting sacramental life and supporting the church, Kolping members are empowered to practice organic farming and livestock management. The members also have Village Savings and Loans groups as a family.

Kolping Society in Malawi is producing entrepreneurs in sectors such as bee keeping, soap making and baking. Now we are working towards value addition to the various agricultural ventures we are into.

Gratitude goes to Kolping International for the livestock (goats and chicken) it gave to members of Kolping Malawi for the pass-on program which has been tremendously successful. My gratitude also extends to the Southern and Eastern coordinator for Afrika Volker Greulich for his steadfast support. He has done a quite good job in seeing the establishment of Kolping in Malawi.

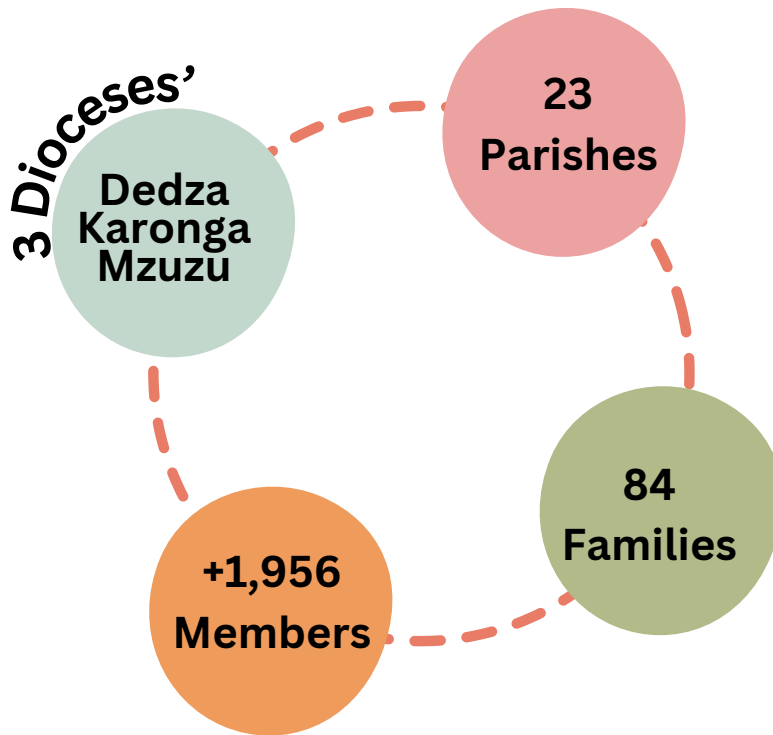
Many thanks also go to the Bishops of Malawi and in a special way to the Right Reverend Bishop Martin A. Mtumbuka for hosting us in the diocese of Karonga and embracing Kolping.

*Monsignor Lorent Dziko*

Kolping Society of Malawi National Praeses



# KOLPING SOCIETY OF MALAWI



## Our Activities

### **Spiritual**

Mass Celebration, Bible Sharing, Paying tithe and Vuna, Spiritual conferences

### **Livelihoods**

Sustainable Agricultural practices, Livestock pass-on, Environmental conservation, Village Savings and Loan groups training, Business management training, Seed bank

### **Charity works**

Visiting the sick, elderly, helping the poor



# CHIZUNGU KOLPING FAMILY INITIATES INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

By Noel Chatepa



The Chizungu Kolping family in Nkhamenya, part of the Mzuzu Diocese, has taken an inspiring step forward by initiating income-generating activities aimed at improving their family's financial stability. This initiative is a result of collective efforts from their Village Savings and Loan (VSL) group, which decided to pool resources to create sustainable income sources.

One of the key ventures they have embarked on is a small-scale butchery business. By utilizing funds accumulated through their VSL savings, the Kolping family has been able to establish this enterprise, which not only provides fresh meat to the community but also contributes significantly to their annual shares distribution. This approach not only fosters economic growth within the family but also strengthens their spiritual life.





In addition to the butchery, the group has successfully set up a “tea-room” that serves tea and snacks to local residents. This venture has proven popular among community members and has further enhanced their income-generating efforts. The progress made by the Chizungu Kolping family shows how collaborative financial efforts can lead to meaningful improvements in livelihoods while fostering a sense of community spirit and resilience.

## Mbeya Manure benefits farmers

By Noel Chatepa



Vincent Nkhata

Mbeya manure, which is made from animal waste and other organic materials offers small-holder farmers an affordable and effective alternative to increasingly costly chemical fertilizers. As chemical fertilizers continue to rise in price, many farmers are finding that chemical products can negatively impact soil composition over time. In contrast, Mbeya manure enriches the soil naturally, promoting healthier crops without the adverse effects associated with chemical inputs.

As part of a Kolping Society of Malawi intervention, members of Kolping families receive training on how to produce Mbeya manure. One such farmer is Vincent Nkhata, 42 years old, who has already begun to experience the benefits firsthand. His farm is already showing promising signs of a bumper harvest thanks to mbeya organic manure.

Nkhata shares his enthusiasm: “Mbeya manure is cheaper and I look forward to making more for years to come as it is a good substitute for chemical fertilizers and the effects are good. My maize plants look healthier; the growth rate is impressive. I feel very positive.”





# VOLKER IMPRESSED WITH GROWTH OF KOLPING SOCIETY IN MALAWI

By Wezzie Mwangonde



Kolping Family International Desk Officer for Eastern and Southern Africa Volker Greulich has expressed excitement over the growth of Kolping Families in Malawi since its introduction in the Catholic Diocese of Karonga in 2017.

He has said that the introduction of other Kolping Families in the Catholic Diocese of Mzuzu and Dedza, portrays a great milestone of the growth of the Society in Malawi thereby improving the Spiritual and livelihoods development of the members and their families.

Meanwhile he has urged the members in the country to embrace the teachings of the society by reaching out to other people through charity works.



"I am very excited with the growth of Kolping Family in Malawi, at first it was only introduced in the Catholic Diocese of Karonga but the membership has been extended in the Dedza and Mzuzu as well and I am happy to hear from the members themselves on the benefits of their Society", Said Greulich during a training session organized for representatives of Kolping families from different parishes.

In his remarks, Kolping Society of Malawi National Praeses, Monsignor Lorent Dziko said the growth is because of the collaboration and dedication of Kolping Family members who understand the teachings and their responsibility as Christians in the Catholic church. "We attribute the growth of the Society due to the unity, collaboration and dedication of the members and I urge those who would like to join to do so because the members are benefiting in their Spiritual and livelihoods development", Said Monsr. Dziko.

Dedza Diocese Kolping Family representative, Christina Chimeta has hailed the introduction of the families in their Diocese highlighting that it will bring a change in the life styles of Christians in the church, community and households.



### **Meet Gabriel Kaminyoghe.**

At just 31 years old and the eldest of six, Gabriel has turned challenges into opportunities. He started his grocery shop in Karonga district's main market in 2013. Despite facing challenges with business capital, joining the St Peters Outstation Kolping Family has been a game-changer for him. Through the families Village Loans and Savings group, he found the financial support he needed to grow his business. "Kolping Society of Malawi is my sigh of relief whenever I want money to top up my business," Gabriel shares.

Not only has he overcome personal setbacks, like dropping out of school due to fees but he's also using his success to support his younger brothers in boarding school. With profits from his grocery store, he has plans of acquiring land for rice and maize farming and is planning to build a house this year!

**-Wezzie Mwangonde**



# VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOAN GROUPS BOOST ECONOMIC LIVELIHOODS OF WOMEN

By Noel Chatepa



Jovita

Small loans have proven to be a transformative tool for Kolping family members like Jovita Soko, a 37-year-old mother of three. In November 2024, Jovita collected MK100,000 from her Kolping family, which enabled her to start a small business. This financial support has significantly changed her life, allowing her to generate income for her household while responsibly repaying the loan.

Jovita shares, "I can see a change in my life as a woman. I am now able to contribute shares for my group and buy necessities for my home such as soap, salt, and sugar without having to wait for my husband." Her experience highlights the empowerment that comes with financial independence. Before joining Kolping, many women felt confined to traditional roles as housewives without any means of generating their own income. However, the introduction of small loans has opened new opportunities for self-reliance.



**Mercy Sichali**, Kolping Society of Malawi President

Mercy Sichali, the president of the Kolping Society of Malawi, emphasizes the importance of women engaging in small businesses as a means to foster financial independence and contribute to their households. In her discussions with members of the Kolping Society, she constantly highlights how they support one another in entrepreneurial efforts after receiving loans from Village Savings and Loan Groups. "As women, we have to be able to contribute to our households; we should not only rely on our husbands," Mercy stated.



Today, women in Jovita's Kolping Family are establishing various small businesses, some sell fritters while others resell vegetables and tomatoes sourced from local farmers at a profit. The impact of these small loans extends far beyond financial assistance; they are paving the way for women's empowerment and economic independence in their communities.



# SEED MULTIPLICATION PROGRAM IMPROVES ST. JOHN PAUL II KOLPING FAMILY MEMBERS LIVES



**Kolping Members from St. John Paul II working in their sweet potato vine field**

The Kolping family from the St. John Paul 2 outstation in Chitipa has made progress in the seed multiplication of sweet potato vines, showcasing an inspiring model of agricultural entrepreneurship. Trained by the Kolping Society of Malawi, this family has embarked on a venture that not only enhances their livelihood but also supports local farmers by providing them with quality sweet potato vines.

Recognizing the potential for economic growth, the Kolping family transitioned from solely selling harvested sweet potatoes to focusing on seed multiplication. This strategic shift has proven to be more lucrative, allowing them to generate substantial income while helping fellow farmers access essential planting material. The demand for sweet potato vines continues to rise, making their business increasingly viable and impactful within the community.

Looking ahead, the Kolping family plans to expand their land dedicated to seed multiplication and is exploring opportunities for value addition to their produce. Additionally, they utilize Mbeya manure in their farming practices and maintain a maize garden that they anticipate will yield a fruitful harvest soon.





# KOLPING ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES



**Farm Mechanization**



**Goat Pass-On**



**Business Management Trainings**



**Village Savings and Loan Group**



**Charity Works**



**St. Bernadette Outstation Bible Sharing**



**Rice Farming with Mbeya Manure**



**Bee-Keeping**



**Kolping Members**



**Charity Works**



**Backyard Gardeens**



**Baking**



**Goat Pass-On**





## **PUBLISHERS**

Kolping Society of Malawi

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

Wezzie Mwangonde

Noel Chatepa

## **DESIGN**

Noel Chatepa

## **PRINTING**

**Tim Paint Signs** (+265 999 944 611)

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