

Swiss Catholics in London

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FÊTE SUISSE

A trip down the River Thames

ON M.V. "ROYAL SOVEREIGN" (1500 PERSONS)

MUSIC — DANCING — ENTERTAINMENT — REFRESHMENTS ON BOARD

Friday, 12th June 1964

EMBARKATION FROM 5.45 p.m. - DEPARTURE 6.30 p.m. SHARP

FROM TOWER PIER, ADJACENT TO TOWER OF LONDON

Nearest Underground Station: Tower Hill

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

Fête Suisse Committee, 35 Fitzroy Square, London W.1 — Swiss National Tourist Office
Swissair — Swiss Embassy — Swiss Bank Corporation — Swiss Mercantile College
or at Tower Pier before departure

Adults 15/- — Persons under Twenty-five 7/6 — Children under Twelve free

SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1963 was held on Sunday, 12th April 1964, at Westminster Ballroom, Stratton Ground, London, S.W.1. After opening prayers, the Chairman, Mr. O. Grob, extended a warm welcome to those present. He recalled the death of His Holiness, Pope John XXIII on 3rd June 1963, and prayers were said for the repose of his soul.

The Chairman stated in his report that the year 1963 can be recorded as one of steady progress in the activity of the Swiss Catholic Community, in which both permanent and temporary Swiss residents in the Colony took an active part.

He said that he had had the honour and privilege to represent the Swiss Catholic Community of London on 12th June 1963, at the Solemn Pontifical Requiem for His Holiness, Pope John XXIII, and also on 24th September 1963, at the Solemn Enthronement of The Most Reverend John Carmel Heenan, D.D., Ph.D., Eighth Archbishop of Westminster, followed by Pontifical High Mass.

His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. Armin Daeniker, retired at the end of 1963. During his term of office, he and Madame Daeniker have always shown keen interest in all our activities. We express to them our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their valuable support so readily given to us over the last nine years. We wish them both a very happy retirement, and the best of good health.

We wish to thank the Editor of the "Swiss Observer", Mrs. Mariann Meier, and the publishers for accepting our appeals and reports on our social activities during the year.

The Chaplain, the Rev. Father Joseph Scherer, in his report said that the death of His Eminence, Cardinal William Godfrey, on 22nd January 1963, had already been mentioned in grateful memory in last year's report. On 24th September 1963, the Solemn Enthronement took place in the Westminster Cathedral of His Grace, Mgr. John Carmel Heenan, D.D., Ph.D., as our new Archbishop of Westminster. We are convinced that we have found in him also a kind friend and supporter of our Mission.

Father Scherer said that in the past year, with the Grace of God, he was able to carry on his work very smoothly. The good attendance of our young compatriots at the Sunday evening Mass, with sermon in German and French and on special occasions in Italian, is still maintained. The aged and sick people have had priority and no sick call has gone unanswered. He asked it to be brought to his notice in good time whenever any of our compatriots are ill or in need of spiritual, charitable or social help.

The ever increasing number of young Swiss people coming to this country for studies, training or domestic work demanded a large share of his time giving them advice and help in their spiritual and domestic problems.

As in previous years special services for the Swiss Catholics were held at St. Ann's — at Easter, for the Swiss National Day in August, for the Swiss National Day of Prayer in September and at Christmas.

During 1963 Father Scherer was able to visit a greater number of Swiss families permanently resident in this country, but he pointed out that the work is almost too much for one priest to cope with adequately.

As mentioned in last year's report the Youth Club had to leave last July their meeting place at the School at 48 Great Peter Street, but thanks to Mr. Charles MacGuigan they now enjoy much better accommodation in his Westminster Ball Room, 30 Stratton Ground, S.W.1, where every Sunday after the Evening Service the members meet. These social evenings with a varied programme of film shows, talks, dances and sing-songs are regularly attended by between 100 – 180 young compatriots. On special occasions, such as "Kilbi" and St. Nicolas Day celebrations, about 240 people were present. Each quarter a programme is issued of the Youth Club activities, which is printed by courtesy of the Swiss National Tourist Office and Swiss Federal Railways, W.C.2. We are always pleased to send a copy of this programme on request.

As the meeting place of the Youth Club is in close proximity to St. Ann's Church and their regular Sunday evening programme begins only after our Evening Service, it gives Father Scherer the opportunity to make close contact with our young people which has proved itself on many occasions to be of great spiritual and social value.

During the summer months the Club organised excursions to the Isle of Wight (130 people), Cambridge and Ely (80) and Windsor Castle (80). Further several visits were made to the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and twice to the Houses of Parliament in session (70 and 90).

The usual Christmas Service was followed by the traditional Christmas and New Year's teaparty for children at the gaily decorated Westminster Ball Room, S.W.1.

We are still making strenuous efforts to find a suitable room in the West End of London where our Swiss youth, especially the girls, can meet in their free time in a little homely corner away from our beloved Switzerland. Twice we had hoped that we had found a suitable place, but in both cases we had to abandon our plans for one reason or another.

Father Scherer expressed his sincere thanks to the Ecclesiastical Authorities of the Dioceses of Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood, in particular to His Grace, Archbishop Heenan, for their great support, and also to Their Excellencies, the Swiss Bishops, especially to their Dean, Monsignor Angelo Jelmini, Apostolic Administrator of the Canton Tessin, and Monsignor Franciskus von Streng, D.D., Bishop of Basle and Lugano, his Finance Director Mgr. Joseph Bannwart, D.D., and the "Sekretariat für Ausland-Seelsorge" under the direction of Mgr. K. Boxler.

The Chaplain associated himself with the Chairman's remarks on the retirement of His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador at the end of 1963, and expressed to him and Madame Daeniker his personal thanks and good wishes for the future. He also thanked the Members of the Embassy for their constant valuable help.

Finally he thanked the Committee, headed by its untiring Chairman, Mr. O. Grob, for their friendship and assistance, and all who have helped during the past year.

A special word of praise and thanks must be given to the energetic young leaders of the Club.

He expressed his gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. E. Bonvin, Mr. E. Kaeufeler, Mr. G. Bartholdi and Miss L. Huber for their most generous support of the Youth Club.

The Chairman and the Chaplain were thanked for their reports.

The Chairman then gave the Finance Report (in the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Frey). The Christmas Draw, 1963, thanks to the generosity of all our friends, produced an income of £355.1.11. With this amount, the contributions from 66 Donors, Income Tax recovered on Covenants and the Church collections, we had a total income of £851.16.6 against our expenditure of £818.18.3, leaving a surplus for the year of £32.18.3.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr. Stalder, seconded by Mrs. Clarke and unanimously passed by the Meeting with thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

The Chairman thanked the Chaplain, the Officers and the Members of the Committee for their loyal support during the past year. He especially mentioned the good work rendered by our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. Frey, who acted as the Promoter of our very successful Christmas Draw.

All the retiring Members of the Committee offered themselves for re-election and were duly elected.

The composition of the Committee for 1964 is as follows:

Chaplain: The Reverend Father Joseph Scherer;
Chairman: Mr. O. Grob; *Vice-Chairman:* Mr. E. Bonvin;
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E. Frey; *Hon. Secretary:* Mr. E. P. Siegfried; *Members:* Miss C. Affentranger, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. O. Grob, Mrs. F. McKenna, Messrs. G. Bartholdi, J. J. Boos, K.S.G., E. R. Cottet, F. De Maria, E. Eha, C. Gallo, R. E. Gut, M. Heimo, P. Jacometti, E. Kaeufeler, L. W. Krucker, R. Schweizer, K.C.S.S., and R. Voegtli.

The Ladies Committee consists of Mrs. E. Bonvin, *Chairman;* Miss C. Affentranger, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. C. T. O. Clarke, Mrs. G. Gallo, Mrs. O. Grob, Mrs. H. Heimo, Mrs. E. Kaeufeler and Mrs. F. McKenna.

It was decided to hold again a Christmas Draw in 1964, instead of a Bazaar.

Finally the Chaplain thanked Mr. Grob for conducting the meeting, which was followed by the Easter Service at St. Ann's Church and a social gathering afterwards in the Westminster Ball Room.

E.S.

HOW TO JOIN A SWISS SOCIETY

The Editor is occasionally asked by newcomers to the Swiss Community in Great Britain why the "Swiss Observer" does not carry a list of all the Swiss Societies and their activities. Seeing that there are two score and more, it is not possible to include such a list in the limited space available. Anybody interested should apply to the Editor who will be happy to give the necessary information.

**MAKE SURE YOU JOIN
THE SOLIDARITY FUND
OF THE SWISS ABROAD.**

Better Safe than Sorry