

Chaplain for Swiss catholics in England

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THE BUNDESFEIER AT PRESTATYN.

The arrangements for this year's celebration had to be on a modest scale, moreover they had to be elastic, as the number of those who could come, could not be estimated and no arrangements with a catering firm were possible under these circumstances. Train or bus journeys were full of perplexities. You might be able to start and travel hopefully and yet never arrive. English people have a great longing for the sea and are not easily deterred from attempting the journey to the seaside — their one great breakaway from the shackles of their workaday existence during the year. So the trains and buses were overcrowded, but good humour prevailed.

Our problem here was solved by Mr. Montag putting the use of his Bungalow and Garden at our disposal and providing tea. Mrs. L. J. Faivre, wife of the Chancellor of the Consulate acted as hostess, assisted by her daughter Maryse, now fast growing into a young lady.

The point was who would get through. At lunch time Mrs. Macquarie and four girls from Liverpool arrived and reported not too bad a journey. Then the people coming by bus gradually struggled through. Mrs. Steffen, our senior lady (82), was signalled as willing to board the bus at Meliden and Maryse, our junior member, duly met her at the bus stop. She was in good spirits and none the worse for her exciting adventure. Mrs. Cheetham, her daughter, came later with two Swiss visitors from Manchester, young ladies touring North Wales on bicycles. Altogether we were a gathering of 16. We had a good talk, sang a few of our songs and read some of Alfred Hugenberg's dialect poetry such as "Maitlisorge" dealing with the important and intriguing problem "Chum ich ächt au eine über."

Our friend Troxler of the Swiss Café, Bold Street, Liverpool sent us a handsome cake with the Swiss Cross which was highly appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed. We are indebted to Mr. Troxler also in other ways. His Café is often the meeting place of our girls and they always receive from him a most cordial welcome.

Everybody appreciated this chance of meeting together out in the open air with a few mountains around us, and the meeting though small was voted a success.

The break-up had to be somewhat earlier than usual and everybody reached home safely.

We missed some of our friends such as Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Schedler, but we hope for better luck next year. *E. M.*

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The next Meeting of the City Swiss Club will take place on Tuesday, 1st September, 1942. This being the first meeting of our Winter Season, we feel sure that all Members will be delighted to hear that we have been fortunate enough to secure a promise from Mr. Maurice Thiery that he would attend as Guest of Honour. Mr. Thiery will speak on "Les Salons du XVIIIe Siècle."

We need not enlarge here on Mr. Thiery's great popularity in the Club, but feel that all members who possibly can do so will make a point of attending so as to enjoy for a few minutes Mr. Thiery's inimitable wit. *The COMMITTEE.*

SERVICE AT ST. PETER'S AND ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH, AUGUST 2nd, 1942.

A congregation of just over 300 attended the Catholic Church at Palace Street, Westminster, S.W.1, for the religious Celebration of our National Day.

In the presence of the Swiss Minister and Madame Thurnheer, Father Lanfranchi celebrated High Mass, assisted by a mixed choir at the organ, directed by Fr. Longstaff of the Cathedral.

At the beginning of the mass the congregation sang the Swiss National Hymn, during the offertory the choir sang Elgar's "Ave Verum" and the ceremony concluded with the "Grosser Gott wir loben Dich."

In his address Fr. Lanfranchi first spoke of his appointment as Chaplain to the Swiss Catholics in London promising to do all in his power to carry out the apostolic work entrusted to him and appealed for co-operation by his compatriots.

His religious-patriotic sermon dealt with the Christian ideals and work of our forefathers, ideals that Switzerland is still trying to uphold to the fullest in spite of difficulties all round.

The sanctuary of the Church was beautifully decorated with flowers by the Swiss florist Mr. Scheuermeier and the Papal, Swiss and British flags were displayed. *J. J. B.*

CHAPLAIN FOR SWISS CATHOLICS IN ENGLAND.

It has already been stated that Fr. A. Lanfranchi was acting as part time Chaplain to the Catholics in the Swiss Colony. Experience, however, has shown that a Chaplain's work is a full time occupation and H. E. the Cardinal and the Bishop of Chur were asked by the Prov. Committee to release Fr. Lanfranchi for this work.

The following letter has been received by Colonel A. Bon, President of the Committee, from the Bishop of Chur:

"Nachdem der Unterzeichnete von der Notwendigkeit sich überzeugt hat, dass H. H. Lanfranchi Kaplan der Schweizer-Kolonie in dortiger Stadt weiter verbleibe, erklären wir uns damit einverstanden, obwohl es uns gelegen gewesen war ihn als Professor des Englischen anstellen zu können.

Entbiete den lieben Schweizern, Ihnen Herrn Präsident und Hochw. Herrn Kaplan Lanfranchi per Flugpost den Bischöflichen Segen. Gott schütze Sie!
Sign. Dr. Christian Caminada,
Bischof."

H. E. the Cardinal having already consented to the appointment, Fr. Lanfranchi is now entirely free for work amongst the Swiss. His address is:

"Church of Our Lady of Victories,"
16, Abingdon Road, High Street, Kensington, W.8.
Phone: Western 4778.

to which address all communications should be sent.

It is intended to call a General Meeting of the Swiss Catholics on the afternoon of the "Bettag" September 20th, at Westminster Cathedral Hall, at 3.30 p.m., followed by Solemn Benediction in the presence of a high church dignitary at the Church of St. Peter's in Palace Street, Westminster; full particulars will be given later. *J. J. Boos.*