

Swiss Catholics in London

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SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON.

In 1941 a Committee was founded in London to organise the Swiss Catholics in London and the Country and we were fortunate to have the services of the Rev. Fr. A. Lanfranchi as Chaplain.

He was stationed in various parishes from where he administered to the spiritual needs of the members, and special services were held occasionally at St. Edward's Church, Westminster.

The fact however that the Swiss Chaplain had no permanent Church or address, made the work very difficult and endeavours by the Committee were made for years to obtain the use of a Church where the Swiss Catholics could at all times approach their Chaplain and where particularly the young Swiss and old people could find a Swiss priest to assist them in their spiritual duties and ministrations.

Just about a year ago H.E. Cardinal Griffin through the support of H.E. the Swiss Minister appointed Fr. Lanfranchi as Rector of St. Anne's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1., and whilst the Church remains a "Chapel of Ease" to the Westminster Cathedral the Swiss Catholics have the privilege to have their special services at this Church and the Chaplain could have his residence there.

The Committee and Chaplain are well pleased with the first year's working at the Church but it has also brought heavy responsibilities. The Church was badly damaged during the war years, urgent repair work and alterations to living quarters were needed

and nearly £250 have already been donated by the Swiss Catholics in 1952/1953 for immediate work. However much more repair work awaits to be done, the heating system needs renewing (cost about £300), the organ needs renovating and new vestments are needed.

To obtain such funds the Committee in conjunction with the parishioners of St. Anne's Church have therefore arranged a special bazaar on November 6th and 7th at St. Peters Hall, Westminster Cathedral Grounds, S.W.1., and we would refer you to the advertisement in today's issue giving full particulars.

It is the first time that the Swiss Catholics have undertaken such a venture and we appeal to all compatriots to support the Bazaar, first by sending in useful gifts and articles which can be sold on the stalls and secondly by coming in large number to the Bazaar itself.

Madame de Torrenté and the Swiss Minister will be present at the first day of opening November 6th and His Grace Archbishop Myers, Co-adjutor of Westminster will open the Bazaar of Saturday November 7th.

In addition special attractions have been arranged for both Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings and you will be assured of a special welcome and happy times.

Fr. Lanfranchi, the Chaplain, will be pleased to give any further information and will gladly receive gifts etc. at the Church.

J.B.



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