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SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1962 was held on Sunday, 28th April 1963, in Westminster School Hall, 48 Great Peter Street, London S.W.1. After opening prayers the Chairman, Mr. O. Grob, extended a warm welcome to those present. He reported that he had the privilege to attend, as the Committee's representative, the Solemn Pontifical Requiem at the Westminster Cathedral on 29th January 1963, for his Eminence the late Cardinal William Godfrey.

The Chairman stated in his report that 1962 can be recorded as having been one of steady progress in the Swiss Catholic community life, in which both permanent and temporary Swiss residents in the Colony took an active part.

He recalled the death on the 27th March 1962, whilst on a visit to London, of Mr. Henry de Torrenté, late Swiss Minister in London and Swiss Ambassador to the United States. During his seven years in London (1948/54) he was a great friend and supporter of the Mission. It was through his personal efforts that a Chaplain was installed at St. Ann's Church. A Memorial Service, arranged by the Swiss Embassy, was held at Farm Street Church on 29th March 1962.

In June the two performances, under the patronage of H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. Armin Daeniker, at the French Institute Theatre, of "European Rendez-Vous" by Voli Geiler and Walter Morath in aid of Swiss Charities in London were a great success in every respect, and produced a most satisfactory financial result.

Our funds received the very welcome amount of £150. We would like to express to the Organising Committee, in particular its President, Madame M. Daeniker, and the artists, who did not ask for a fee, our great appreciation and warmest thanks for their great help.

We are also grateful to the Editor of the "Swiss Observer", Mrs. Mariann Meier, and its 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 only a few weeks after the closing of 1962, the year under review, we learned with the greatest sorrow of the sad loss we all sustained through the sudden death of His Eminence, Cardinal William Godfrey. He was always a great supporter of our Mission, and we are deeply grateful for the many favours granted to us.

During 1962 it has been possible to visit a little more the families of permanently resident compatriots, but it must be realised that the great amount of work involved in looking after such a large and widespread Swiss Catholic community, together with the many duties attached to St. Ann's Church, restricted his activity in this direction. It must, however, be emphasized that the aged and sick people always had priority during the past year and every sick call had his immediate attention.

Father Scherer asked that he should be informed in good time whenever anyone was ill or in need of spiritual, charitable and social assistance.

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

Every Sunday, after the Evening Service, the members of the very flourishing Swiss Catholic Youth Club met in the large dining-room of the Catholic School at 48 Great

Peter Street, S.W.1. These social evenings, with a varied programme such as dances, films and colour slide shows, talks, etc., are regularly attended by 120 to 150 people.

During the summer months the Club organised excursions to the Isle of Wight (140 people), Oxford (100), Windsor (80), Salisbury, Old Sarum and Stonehenge (75), and St. Albans (70). Further, the following visits were made — four to the Westminster Abbey, three to the Port of London, two to the Tower of London and two to the Houses of Parliament in session (when on each occasion 70 young Swiss had the opportunity to watch the House of Lords and the House of Commons at work).

After the Christmas Service, the traditional children's tea-party was held at the Great Peter Street School. Owing to the bad travelling conditions, caused by snow and ice, the number of children was fewer than on previous years. We are indebted to Mrs. E. Bonvin for her great work in arranging the Christmas parcels.

The school at 48 Great Peter Street, where the Youth Club hold their regular weekly meetings, is to be rebuilt, and will close down this summer. It will therefore be necessary to find other accommodation. Negotiations are proceeding for another room for which a greatly increased rent will have to be paid, the present charge being purely nominal.

Our Youth Club will have to depend in the future on greater financial help from us. As the solution of this problem is a most vital one for our young Swiss, it is hoped that it will be fully appreciated by all our friends here and in Switzerland, and that the necessary financial support will be received.

The Chaplain paid tribute to the devoted and valued assistance of the Revd. Father J. Stocker from the Bethlehem Missionary Society in Switzerland, who left in June, and who is now working as a missionary in Southern Rhodesia.

Father Scherer expressed his sincere thanks to the Ecclesiastical Authorities of the Dioceses of Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood, in particular to the Vicar Capitular of the Archdiocese of Westminster, His Lordship Bishop George L. Craven, M.C., V.G., and to Their Excellencies, the Swiss Bishops, especially to their Dean, Monsignor Angelo Jelmini, and the "Sekretariat für Ausland-Seelsorge", under the direction of Mgr. K. Boxler, for their support.

He also thanked His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, Madame Daeniker and the Members of the Embassy for their valuable assistance, and expressed his appreciation for the friendship and assistance received from the members of the Swiss Catholic Committee, foremost from its very active Chairman, Mr. O. Grob.

Special thanks are due to Mr. E. Bonvin, Mr. E. Kaeufeler and Mr. G. Bartholdi for their most generous and constant support of the Youth Club.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. Frey, gave his Finance Report for 1962. The Grand Christmas Draw, 1962, thanks to the generosity of all friends, produced an income of £308 7s. 7d. With this amount, the contributions from donors, income tax recovered on Covenants and the Church collections, there was a total income of £719 11s. 10d., just enabling the expenses of £713 3s. 6d. to be met and leaving a surplus for the year of £6 8s. 4d.

The accounts were unanimously passed by the Meeting.

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 Committee for 1963 is as follows:

Chaplain: The Reverend 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. Jacomelli, 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 1963, 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 Great Peter Street School Hall.

E.S.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les *dimanches* à 11h00 et 18h30. L'Eglise est ouverte le dimanche: pour le lunch, l'après-midi et le soir; le *lundi* soir: dès 18h30; le *jeudi*: dès 15h00 et le soir.

PASTEUR: Ph. Nicole, 7 Park View Road, N.3; téléphone FINchley 5281.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: At St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Lombard Street, Bank, E.C.3, every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

PFARRER: P. K. Wipf, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone: MOU 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION

CHURCH and SERVICE: St. ANN's Catholic Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SUNDAYS: Holy Masses at 8, 9 and 11 a.m. with sermon in English 6 p.m. with sermon in German and French.

HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION: Holy Masses at 7.30 and 9 a.m. and 5.45 p.m.

WEEKDAYS: Holy Mass at 7.30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS in German, French and Italian:

EVERY SUNDAY 1 hour before Evening Mass.

EVERY SATURDAY from 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m.

Every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m.

Every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m.

At any other time by appointment.

CHAPLAIN: Rev. Joseph Scherer, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: ABBey 2895.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Sunday 7 to 11 p.m. — The Swiss Catholic Youth Club — Social at Westminster Cathedral School, 48 Great Peter Street, S.W.1.

Every Thursday, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., London Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Every Thursday from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Unione Ticinese — meets at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. All Ticinesi welcome. The "Corale" rehearses from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Every 1st Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. — Swiss Get-Together at 2 Sussex Place, Widcombe, Bath.

Every 1st Wednesday in the month — Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres — meeting at Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1, at 7 p.m.

Every last Thursday of the Month — Swiss Club Manchester — Ordinary Monthly Meeting from 6 p.m. at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

Sunday, 12th May — Swiss Rifle Association — SHOOTING at Bisley (Siberia Range).

Wednesday, 15th May, 7 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — MONTHLY MEETING — Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Thursday, 16th May, 7.30 p.m. sharp — Swiss Club Manchester — SHOW OF MEMBERS' HOLIDAY SLIDES AND OF LANDSGEMEINDE 1962 — Midland Hotel, Manchester.

Thursday, 23rd May, at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — OPEN MEETING — Swiss Hostel for Girls — Dr. F. Hummler, "Wirtschaftspolitische Probleme der Schweiz" (see advertisement).

Sunday, 26th May — Swiss Club Manchester — RAMBLE from Whaley Bridge to Buxton via Goyt Valley. Take 11.30 a.m. train from Piccadilly Station Book day return to Buxton.

Sunday, 26th May — Swiss Rifle Association — SHOOTING at Bisley (Siberia Range).

Sunday, 16th June — LANDSGEMEINDE — Annual Gathering of the Swiss of Lancashire and Yorkshire at Hardcastle Crag — Meeting at Memorial Park, Hebden Bridge, at 10.30 a.m.

Tuesday, 18th June, at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — OPEN MEETING — Swiss Hostel for Girls — Mr. Jean Perrin, "Au delà des Frontières".

Friday, 5th July — City Swiss Club — INFORMAL DINNER AND DANCE — Great Fosters, Egham, Surrey.

16th-18th August — ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD — St. Moritz.

Saturday, 19th October — Swiss Mercantile Society — 75th ANNIVERSARY DINNER — Dorchester Hotel. (Particulars to follow.)