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SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, 28th April, at the Westminster Ballroom, 30 Stratton Ground, London S.W.1. After opening prayers, the Chairman, Mr. Oscar Grob, K.S.G., extended a warm welcome to all present.

He recalled the death on the 29th December 1967 of the Right Reverend Mgr. K. Boxler, Secretary of the *Sekretariat für Auslandseelsorge*. It is safe to say that without his initiative and energy there would be no Swiss Catholic Mission in London. We are greatly indebted to him. R.I.P. Prayers were said for the repose of his soul and of all the Members who have died since our last Meeting.

The Chairman stated that 1967 could be recorded again as one of steady progress in the activity of the Swiss Catholic Community, in which both permanent and temporary Swiss residents took an active part.

An outstanding function took place when the Committee gave our former Chaplain the Rev. Fr. Jos. Scherer a Farewell Luncheon at the Montana Hotel, S.W.7, on the 18th November. Our new Chaplain, the Rev. Fr. Paul Bossard from Zug, who spent ten years as a missionary in Rhodesia, was very warmly welcomed by the Chairman as the successor to Rev. Fr. Scherer.

On the same occasion we celebrated the 80th Birthday of our former Chairman Jean Jacques Boos, K.S.G.

Full details of these events have already been reported in the "Swiss Observer".

Since that function, in recognition of Fr. Scherer's distinguished service for the diocese of Basle and his work for the Swiss Catholic Mission in London, His Holiness Pope Paul VI has made him a Privy Chamberlain. We offer the Very Reverend Monsignor Jos. Scherer our sincerest congratulations for this high honour.

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. Fr. Paul Bossard said the following in his report:

"It is a difficult task for the chaplain to make a report after only one month's work. He simply admires what has been achieved by his predecessor and will try his best to go ahead in the direction of the same path, which has been trodden so well and continue the work in the same spirit.

"It was obvious from the beginning that his task would be for the young Swiss, who come to London in such large numbers every year to study or work and the elderly permanent Swiss residents.

"The best way to approach the young Swiss is through our Youth Club.

"Every Sunday there are about 100 to 150 or even more young people together in church for the divine service at St. Ann's, which is conducted by the chaplain, trying to do justice to the different language groups. Afterwards they come together in the Westminster Ballroom, only a few hundred yards away from St. Ann's, and are joined by many more friends and comrades especially when there is a dance, *Kilbi* or a fancy-dress ball, which attracted this year well over 300 compatriots. But it is not only amusements that interest our youth. Speakers like Mr. Theodor Haller, the two Inspectors from Scotland Yard and Fr. Matthew who has been in China for 25 years, spoke to audiences of between 150 and 200.

"Sightseeing tours to Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, the Planetarium, the Houses of Parliament, etc., which were conducted on Wednesdays or Thursdays, gave especially the girls who had an afternoon off, an opportunity to meet and spend a few hours together. Sunday Excursions into the English countryside, during the warmer weather to Oxford, Cambridge, Salisbury and especially the Isle of Wight provided unforgettable memories.

"There is not much spectacular activity, nothing that will make headlines but a slow and steady growth, a source of strength and mutual support for our youth who spend some months or years in London.

"The pastoral work for the permanent Swiss residents, who are scattered all over London and are to a great part already integrated into their local parishes confined itself to occasional home visits, sick calls and visits in hospitals, whenever the chaplain was informed; and the holding of the Special Swiss Services at Easter, for the 1st August Celebration, the Swiss National Day of Prayer and at Christmas.

"There is also the work with the welfare organisations and other Swiss Societies.

"When it comes to express the thanks of all who have through their work or benevolence supported and assisted our cause, one faces the difficulty of not knowing where to start.

"Rev. Fr. Joseph Scherer would certainly be the first on the list but the Chairman has done that already and there remains nothing relevant to be added but to join in his good wishes and congratulations.

"His Eminence Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, His Lordship Bishop Ellis of Nottingham, under whose authority the chaplain works, the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Canon A. Rivers, Secretary of the Council of Migration, have constantly given their support and sympathy to our cause.

"Their Lordships, the Swiss Bishops, especially their Dean, Bishop Johannes Vonderach and the now retired Bishop Dr. Franciscus von Streng; his successor as Bishop of Basle Dr. Antonius Hänggi; the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Dr. J. Bannwart, his financial secretary and the Committee of the Swiss Lenten Action, who have given us their substantial support without which we could hardly keep above water.

"His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Long, who are leaving us to our great regret, Monsieur Long having been appointed Director-General of GATT, and the members of the Swiss Embassy who have always given us their most appreciated assistance.

"Last but not least, there is our faithful Committee with its untiring Chairman, Mr. O. Grob, K.S.G., and the friends of the Swiss Catholic Youth Club, Messrs. Ronus, Käufeler, Bartholdi, Bazzani and Misses L. Huber and A. Schmid, who are always at hand with their generosity and great interest in the wellbeing and healthy development of the Club."

The Chairman and the Chaplain were thanked for their reports.

The Finance Report was given by our Hon. Treasurer Mrs. K. A. Grob. Thanks to the generosity of all our friends, the sale of tickets and donations received for our Christmas Draw produced an income of £289.7.10. With this amount, the contributions from 82 Donors, the Church Collections, Income Tax recovered on Covenants and the most welcome donation from the City Swiss Club of £50 and a very generous legacy from Mr. Léon Jobin, La

Tour-de-Peilz of £50 we had a total income of £898.19.11 against expenditures of £884.9.2, resulting in a surplus of £14.10.9 for the year.

The accounts were unanimously passed by the Meeting with thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

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

As all the retiring members of the Committee had offered themselves for re-election, the Meeting elected them *en bloc* for the ensuing year.

It was decided to hold again a Christmas Draw 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 Ballroom.

E.S.

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A SWISS HERO OF WORLD WAR II

This is the title Dr. Geoffrey Tier has chosen for his talk on a brave humanitarian action by the Swiss Consul in Budapest who helped a great many Jewish refugees to escape. A street there is named after him in recognition of his bravery.

The lecturer is a friend of Consul Lutz and will talk about his personal experiences. He is a senior master at the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

All Swiss and their personal friends are invited to come to hear this fascinating story at the OPEN MEETING of the NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE on Thursday, 20th June, 7.45 p.m. at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9/11 Belsize Grove, N.W.3.

NEGOTIABLE U.S. DOLLAR CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

As from the 20th May, 1968, the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation will issue negotiable U.S. dollar certificates of deposit. These certificates will be issued with a minimum denomination of U.S.\$25.000.— and in amounts exceeding this sum by \$5,000.— or multiples thereof and will presently be available covering periods from three months up to five years.

Messrs. White, Weld & Co., have agreed to maintain a secondary market.

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