

New construction in Engelberg

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NEW CONSTRUCTION IN ENGELBERG

For the first time in the more than 850-year history of the Engelberg Monastery, a press conference was recently held within its walls, the subject of which was a far-reaching "secular" project. The Benedictine monastery, located at an altitude of about 3,300 feet, is in financial difficulties. Until recently, its sources of income were agriculture, forestry and dairying on its own lands; but these are no longer sufficient to finance the major tasks which face the religious institution. In addition to various restoration projects, the monastery urgently needs to build a college. To raise the needed funds, it has been decided to sell some land to be used for "economically practical" purposes. The area of 100,000 square metres, on which private construction will be undertaken, is on the valley floor, on both sides of the new highway which sweeps around the perimeter of the village of Engelberg. Several building projects are planned, not all of them definitely set as yet. To carry out these extensive plans, a working group has been formed which consists of the monastery itself, a group of architects from Lucerne and a real estate company in Baden. Construction has already begun, on the part of the land known as the "sunnmatt", of two terraced buildings, each containing seventy-five owner-apartments. These include some twenty-six different types, ranging from the space-saving *Garçonnière* to spacious five-room units for families with children. Additional buildings, including at least one hotel, are being planned.

[S.N.T.O.]

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