

Swiss Catholics in London

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FAREWELL

Towards the end of November, a farewell letter was received by the **Rev. Father Joseph Scherer**. Roman Catholics and others who had grown to respect and love him, were sad to learn that he was leaving London after more than nine years of fruitful activities. He arrived in this country on 4th September 1958, and his task has not been an easy one. His Bishop has offered him a chaplaincy in the largest farming village in the Canton of Lucerne, Ruswil, and Father Scherer will be able to look after his parishioners with a little more ease than in the wearying hustle of the metropolis. He said that he left with mixed feelings, for he had enjoyed his work and life in London, even though it began to be a strain on his health.

Father Scherer leaves behind many friends of all ages, creeds and social stations. His unending patience, his subtle sense of humour, great understanding and tolerance, wisdom and a rare warm humanity, all have endeared him to many. And though his departure is our loss, we know his prayers will be with us, and we wish him God's rich blessings and many years of fruitful work, the best of health and contentment in his new parish.

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COMMITTEE OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

Farewell and Birthday Luncheon

In appreciation of the Rev. Father Joseph Scherer's outstanding services to the Swiss Colony in general and the Swiss Roman Catholic community in particular, the Committee wished to make a presentation on his retirement to Switzerland. This was done at a Farewell Luncheon at the Montana Hotel on Saturday, 18th November. At the same time, the latest octogenarian amongst the Swiss, Mr. J. J. Boos, K.S.G., was honoured.

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. O. Grob, K.S.G., welcomed the guests. He regretted the absence of the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Long who were in Malta, but expressed pleasure at the presence of the *Chargé d'Affaires*, Monsieur J. D. Grandjean, whose wife, however, was prevented by sickness.

The company was privileged to have as guests His Lordship the Right Rev. Patrick Casey, Vicar General, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster and the Right Rev. Mgr. Canon Arthur Rivers who, as former Financial Secretary to the Archdiocese of Westminster had proved a good friend on many occasions. The Very Rev. Canon F. J. Bartlett, Administrator of Westminster Cathedral, the immediate superior to the Swiss Chaplain, was another guest.

The Chairman introduced the successor to Father Scherer, the Rev. Father Paul Bossard from Zug. He welcomed him warmly on behalf of the Committee and the Swiss Catholic community and wished him success in his work.

Mr. Grob also welcomed the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" and expressed gratitude to her for making the work of the Committee and the Chaplain known to a wider circle.

After the presentation of a book and a cheque to Father Scherer, the Chairman honoured Mr. Boos, congratulating him on his recent birthday. He presented him with a duly illuminated copy of the New Roman Missal, pointing out the valuable work Mr. Boos had done as former Chairman of the Swiss Catholics in London.

The British guests warmly supported the Chairman in his praise of the hard work Father Scherer had done during the past nine years and paid tribute to Mr. Boos, as well as the present Chairman, for their untiring efforts. Mrs. W. Meier, the only non-R.C. guest, reminisced about the days when she, as President of the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls, learned to respect Father Scherer and his work amongst the young compatriots, and about the time Mr. Boos, as President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, did sterling work for the Swiss community.

The two Guests of Honour next spoke about their activities, and their musings about the past and the present were taken up about the future by Father Bossard.

It was a warm thank you to Father Scherer, many happy returns of the day to Mr. Boos and good Luck for the future to Father Bossard. And incidentally, also a thank you to the host, Mr. Edgar Bonvin who had provided an excellent repast.

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OUTSTANDING HONOUR TO ONE OF OUR READERS

Dr. theol. h.c. William Preiswerk, C.B.E.

The last Friday in November is *Dies Academicus* in Basle. Amongst the new honorary degrees bestowed, is a Doctor of Theology on our old friend and S.O. subscriber Mr. William Preiswerk. This was in recognition of his great help and support to the Faculty of Theology in particular and Basle University in general, as well as of his devotion and active help to the work of the Basle Mission.

Dr. Preiswerk, born in 1893, began his career in the "Basler Lagerhausgesellschaft", having finished his schooling with matriculation at the "Humanistisches Gymnasium" in Basle. He came to London in 1919, and soon afterwards was entrusted with the duties of Economic Attaché at the Swiss Legation. When his father died in 1938, he became President of the "Basler Handelsgesellschaft" and one important office after another followed. In 1939, he returned to London and was put in charge of the Special Division of the Swiss Legation, looking after the interests of belligerent nations. For six years, Mr. Preiswerk held this office with great distinction, and he was awarded a C.B.E. in 1952.

Dr. Preiswerk is the brother of Miss Rosie Preiswerk, former Warden of the Swiss Hostel for Girls in Hampstead. His many friends will be pleased to learn of the honour bestowed on him and send warm congratulations.

BIRTHDAYS

The following subscribers are celebrating their birthdays within the next few weeks, and we wish them and any others whose birthdays we don't know, many happy returns:

On 2nd January: Mr. Willy Renz (69), on 3rd: Mr. Josef (Joe) Christen, at Oberwil-Zug (79), on 4th: Mr. E. P. Locher (74), on 7th: Mr. Armin Baenziger (73) and on 10th January: Mrs. Lucie Meyer (*née* Tissot).

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We send congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. E. Meyer of 32 Canons Drive, Edgware, Middlesex, who are celebrating their 30th Wedding Anniversary on 23rd December.

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We regret a mistake which crept into the last issue: Mr. J. L. Guggenheim is 88 (not 78). Sincere apologies!