

Swiss Catholics in London

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SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

The Annual General Meeting to cover 1968, was held on Sunday, 20th April, at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, London S.W.1.

After opening prayers, the Chairman, Mr. Oscar Grob, K.S.G., extended a warm welcome to all present. He thanked Monsieur Franz Muheim, First Secretary of Embassy for having honoured us with his presence representing the Ambassador and Madame René Keller.

We mourn the loss of our committee member, Mr. Leo Werner Krucker, who, on a trip to Eire, suffered a severe heart attack and died on 30th March 1969. As he had wished, he was buried there.

Leo Krucker was a great friend and benefactor of our Mission and Youth Club. We shall treasure his memory very highly indeed. R.I.P. Prayers were said for the repose of his soul and for all the members who have died during the last year. Our Chaplain celebrated a Memorial Mass for Leo Krucker at St. Ann's Church after the meeting.

The Chairman stated in his report that 1968 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 in the Colony took an active part.

Monsieur Jean-Denis Grandjean was appointed Swiss Ambassador to Algeria. We tender Monsieur Grandjean our heartiest congratulations on his promotion to Ambassadorial rank and wish him and Madame Grandjean every success in their new sphere of activity. We are very grateful to them for their assistance given to us as members of our Committee during their stay in London.

We 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. Father Paul Bossard said the following in his report:

"Throughout the last year one thought has been kept in mind, that the Swiss Catholic Mission in London exists in order to represent the Universal Church in its service to all the people in all spiritual and human aspects.

"There was not much time for visiting, for being alone, it was considered more important to be present when people call, than roaming around, perhaps in vain. But for occasional sick visits and calls for help, the main bulk of work was done in the office of the Mission, which at times showed a steady coming and going of people.

"Students and au-pair girls were greeted with a letter as soon as their

address was known. They were informed of the activities and services the Mission offered them, as well as the name of the parish and the church where they are going to live. Well over 600 letters have been sent and every three months a circular, containing the programme of the Youth Club with other useful information was addressed and distributed to the members of the community, about 800 to 1,000 copies each time.

"In order to introduce our young Swiss students into the English community, negotiations with the Westminster Cathedral Youth Club have been started in order to find a satisfactory way of linking both clubs. The progress has been slow but steady.

"Lack of information is still one of the main difficulties for the Chaplain in getting in touch with the newcomers. Without close co-operation with the priests at home, he will fight a lonely battle. So every parish priest in Switzerland received a letter (there were about 1,200) asking him to publish the address of the Mission in the parish magazine and offering him the information and assistance in all pastoral matters.

"The Sunday Service, with the club activities afterwards, still enjoy great support as in previous years and they cover a real need. Although the community changes much more rapidly — many stay only 4 to 6 months instead of the usual one to two years — the attendance of the meetings has not dropped and the church is often filled to the last place with many standing at the back.

"The new **Photolabor**, which was installed in a spare sideroom of the church, is in constant use and provides a good hobby for many a young man as well as precious documentation of our activities for publication in Swiss newspapers.

"The ecumenical co-operation among the Pastors of the Swiss Churches was probably the most gratifying feature of last year, fostered by regular pastoral meetings, joint-planning and a well-meaning friendship. This I think will eventually be the greatest service the Churches can offer to the Swiss Community in England when religion begins to play the rôle of uniting people instead of separating them. Let us all work and pray that the coming year will continue to bring us more and more together towards a unity which Christ desired and prayed for so much.

"Finally I wish to thank all who have through their work or benevolence supported and assisted our cause.

"The Hierarchy of the Church, His Eminence Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, His Lordship Bishop Ellis of Nottingham, the Swiss Bishops with their Dean, Bishop Johannes Vonderach who have con-

stantly given their support and sympathy to our pastoral work.

"His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur René Keller and Madame Keller and the members of the Swiss Embassy, who have always given us their most appreciated assistance.

"Our friends and benefactors in the U.K. and Switzerland, especially the Committee of the Swiss Lenten Action, who have given us their financial and spiritual support.

"A word of special thanks I owe to the 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, Bruno Frei and the Misses L. Huber and A. Schmid, who are always at hand with their generosity and great interest in the well-being 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, in particular the Members of our Swiss Catholic Youth Club, it produced a net income of £393. 10. 8. With this amount, the contributions from 75 donors, the church collections, income tax recovered on covenants and the most welcome donation from the City Swiss Club of £50. 0. 0., we had a total income of £947. 8. 2. against our expenditure of £851. 8. 8, resulting in a surplus of £95. 19. 6. for the year.

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

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

The Meeting noted regretfully the following resignations:

Mrs. Irma N. Gallo, having returned to San Vittore (Switzerland). The Chairman thanked her for the services rendered to us over so many years, in particular to our Chaplains.

Mr. Rainer E. Gut, New York, a Committee Member since 1960. The Chairman stated that Mr. Gut was a great friend and benefactor to our Mission and expressed to him our great appreciation and best thanks for all he has rendered to us.

As all other retiring members of the Committee had offered themselves for re-election, the meeting elected them unanimously for the ensuing year. Furthermore, Mr. Bruno Frei and Mr. Pirmin R. Gut were unanimously elected as additional Members of the Committee.

The final composition of the Committee for 1969/70 is as follows:

Chaplain: The Rev. Father Paul Bossard; Chairman: Mr. Oscar Grob, K.S.G.; Vice-Chairman: Mr. E. Bonvin; Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. K. A. Grob; Hon. Secretary: Mr. E. P. Siegfried; Members: Miss C. Affentranger, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. E. Bonvin, Mrs. C. T. O. Clarke, Mrs. E. Käufeler and Mrs. F. McKenna; Messrs. L. F. Ackermann, G. Bartholdi, G. Bazzani, J. J. Boos, K.S.G., I. R. Daetwiler, F. de Maria, E. Eha, B. Frei, E. Frey, J. R. Gächter, C. Gallo, P. R. Gut, P. Jacomelli, E. Käufeler, M. Schneebeli and R. Voegtli.

It was decided to hold again a Christmas Draw in 1969 instead of a Bazaar.

Finally the Chaplain thanked Mr. Grob for conducting the Meeting.

E.S.

BIRTHDAYS

Among readers who will be celebrating their birthdays within the next three weeks, are Mrs. F. G. Sommer and Mr. G. Friberg (78), to whom we wish many happy returns of 15th May. Mr. W. Schedler will be 65 on 24th May; he is shortly retiring from his responsible position with the Swiss Bank Corporation, and we wish him and his wife many happy years of peace and good health.

We have just heard that Mr. Walter Zuber of "The Grove", Grove Road, Ventnor, I. of W., celebrated his 70th birthday on 29th April in the best of health. He is well known on the island as a charming and conciliatory personality. We wish him many more years of good health and happy retirement.

RACLETTE COCKTAIL PARTY?

What a strange time, to have raclette at 5 p.m.! That is what I thought when I received an invitation to a Raclette Party at the Swiss Centre in London where the Lausanne Hotel Keepers Association and the Lausanne Tourist Office entertained travel writers and agents on 14th and 15th April. But when I was comfortably settled at one of the tables in the "Taverne" and began to dig into the lovely meal (dried meats and "Raclette", followed by "Kirschtorte"), I changed my mind. I had to agree with my English companions that it was a far better way of meeting than having to stand around precariously balancing glass and plate, clutching handbag and gloves and trying not to upset the lot when expected to shake hands as well, not even men-

THE REV. FATHER

A. LANFRANCHI †

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on Monday, 28th April, of the former Chaplain to the Swiss Catholics in London, the Rev. Father A. Lanfranchi.

In 1936, Father Lanfranchi was attached to the Clergy of Westminster Cathedral at the request of His Grace, the Archbishop of Westminster and with the permission of the Bishop of Chur. He looked after refugees from Fascist Italy and Nazi Austria and Germany and founded an international circle for Catholics from many countries. He also cared for Italian prisoners during the war. As the war progressed, a small committee was formed by the late Col. Bon, then President of the Swiss Benevolent Society in London, and Mr. J. Boos, K.S.G., and they asked H.E. Cardinal Hinsley to release Father Lanfranchi to look after the many Swiss Roman Catholics. The request was graciously granted, and in 1941, he was placed at the service of the Swiss community.

It was no easy task, but Father Lanfranchi did well and undertook much-valued spiritual and social work. He started the youth club "Alpenrosen", the forerunner of today's R.C. Youth Club.

It was not until 1952, however, that services could be held at St. Ann's Church, and Father Lanfranchi was appointed by H. E. Cardinal Griffin as Parish Priest to the Swiss community. Father Lanfranchi took a keen interest in other activities, too, and he was greatly missed when, at the end of 1958, he returned to Switzerland.

The funeral service was held at Poschiavo on 1st May and a Memorial Mass was celebrated at St. Ann's in London. R.I.P.

tioning the impossibility of a smoke and the discomfort of standing for two hours.

No, give me a "Raclette" served at a table: hot, lovely melted cheese, helped down with a drop of excellent white Swiss wine from the Léman region. But then, the Vaudois know how to present things: They already announce "Lausanne new Super Economy Package Tours" for 1970 (information for agents only so far). Incidentally, Lausanne is the only Swiss City where visits by British holiday-makers went up by 11% in 1968 — the average in Switzerland was down over the previous year. Not surprising if the well-organised "Raclette" Party is anything to go by! Good luck to the enterprising Vaudois!

MM

CITY SWISS CLUB

The City Swiss Club held its Annual General Meeting on 29th April and we have been asked to publish the names of the new Officers and Committee members. Mr. A. Kuhn was elected President for 1969/70 and Mr. W. E. Bion Vice-President. The Hon. Treasurer is Mr. H. J. Keller, the Assistant Hon. Treasurer is Mr. G. Ronus. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. F. Ackermann and the Assistant Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. F. Jobin are supported by an additional member, Mr. H. Jauslin.

The Committee would like to draw readers' attention to the Informal Dinner Dance at Great Forsters on Friday, 27th June. Final details will be announced later.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions and/or for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners:

Miss G. Barnes, Mrs. H. Blessley, Miss I. Buff (Herisau), Mrs. E. Burgazzi (Belgrade), Mrs. R. A. Crabbe, Miss B. Deutsch, Mrs. M. T. Gilson, Mrs. W. Gyger, Mrs. A. Harding, Mrs. L. L. Jaggard, Miss L. Keller, Mrs. E. L. Ryf, Miss C. J. Schweizer, Mrs. A. C. Stahelin, Miss J. Stelger, Miss I. L. White, Monsieur J. Iselin, Monsieur G. Franel (Berne), Monsieur le Consul F. Adams and Messrs. E. Berner, F. Blaser, S. J. Lane Blumlein, A. Blunier, F. E. Brunner, A. Bruschi, E. Bryner, L. J. Faivre, C. A. Fuchs, A. J. Gomiero, W. Graf, C. Hagenbach, F. Heller, V. Hendel, H. Kriesi, T. D. Richardson, O.B.E., A. A. Rohrer, G. N. Ross, J. Schmid, R. R. Schmid, E. Schwenter, J. Steiner, H. Tanner (Thalwil), E. Tobler, P. R. Vallotton, C. Voegeli (Winterthur).

We are most grateful for their kind and generous support.

WELFARE OFFICE

for

SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

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