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SWISS CATHOLICS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 4th April, 1948.

There was a fair attendance at the Special Easter Service on Sunday afternoon, April 4th, at St. Peter's Church. The Chaplain, Fr. Lanfranchi, in his sermon, first in English, dealt on the meaning of the Easter message of the risen Saviour "Pax vobis," and in a short sermon in German for the benefit of the many young Swiss present on the Holy Saturday's church ceremonies, and the words so often repeated on that day "Lumen Christi."

Fr. Hummel of M.H.B. was celebrant at the Benediction, which was as solemn as ever and accompanied by lovely songs from the choir.

The subsequent General Meeting at the Cathedral Hall was attended by about 300 compatriots, young and old. In the absence of Col. Bon, the president, owing to indisposition, Mr. C. Schumacher presided and read his interesting report of the year's activities of the Swiss Catholics and its Committee.

It was in April, 1942, that the initial steps to form the Committee and to appoint the Catholic Chaplain were taken, so that we could now look back on five years of useful work. As in previous years the Committee set for its task to find the necessary financial support needed for the Chaplain's work, and to assist him in the arrangements of social and welfare matters within the Colony.

The financial results of 1947, although showing a small deficit, could be considered satisfactory, but the Chairman pointed out that many more of the approximate 700 compatriots, representing approximately 2,000 Swiss Catholics in London, could be expected to send a yearly donation however small for this worthwhile and good cause.

The Chairman dealt with the various services, etc., arranged during the year, and in particular with the special service held on the occasion of the Canonisation of Niklaus von Flüe. He gave a report of the festivities in Sachseln in 1947 when he represented the London Swiss Catholics.

The Chaplain first thanked the President, Chairman, Committee and all donors for their help, which alone makes his work possible. As ever his first duty he considers the service for the sick, aged and poor, and working in close co-operation with the Swiss Benevolent Society he was able to give much spiritual, moral and material comfort where most deserved. But with the influx of so many young Swiss of both sexes he has found a further large field of work, because for these young people a Swiss Priest is needed who can and is willing to assist them in their manifold problems in a strange country.

During 1947 the Chaplain officiated at six Baptisms, six Weddings and ten Funerals, this is, of course, not a complete picture of the movements within the Swiss Catholics Colony because many of our children are baptised, marriage solemnised and funerals arranged by the local parish priest.

Although this winter illness was not so prevailing as last year, the Chaplain was almost daily called out on sick calls to homes and hospitals all over London, and appealed that he should be informed in good time when his services are required.

The Chaplain when in Switzerland was received

by his Bishop and there is a possibility of H.E. Bishop Caminada paying the Colony a visit this year.

Fr. Lanfranchi appealed for men and women for his mixed choir, and gave a hearty welcome to anyone wishing to join in the social evenings of the "Alpenrosen" Club.

Mr. E. Berti in thanking the Meeting for the re-election of the Committee appealed to all to come forward in larger numbers to the various services and socials arranged, and for the financial support needed to make the work a success.

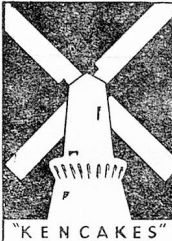
He paid a well deserved tribute to the memory of Mrs. Teresa Lunghi-Rezzonico, who died on April 1st, who had done so much for the Swiss Colony and in particular for those of her faith and the Ticino.

Mr. Boos, the Hon. Secretary, read the message sent to the Swiss Minister, Dr. Paul Ruegger, on his leaving London, and said that the Minister had asked him to convey to this meeting his best wishes and thanks.

A social evening followed when a film of Switzerland was shown, and the younger generation enjoyed a few Swiss dances played by a group of Swiss accordion players.

The Chairman's, and the Chaplain's reports will be printed and circulated, and anyone interested will please approach the Chaplain whose address is given on the last page of this paper.

J.J.B.



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