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SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, 24th April, 1966 at the Westminster Ballroom, Stratton Ground, London S.W.1. After opening prayers, the Chairman Mr. O. Grob extended a warm welcome to all present.

He recalled the death on the 7th May 1965 of Mr. Etienne R. Cottet and on the 1st April 1966 of Mr. Jean Jordan in Neuchâtel. Both these gentlemen had been great friends and benefactors of our Mission and Youth Club. We shall treasure their memory very highly indeed. Prayers were said for the repose of their souls.

The Chairman stated in his report that 1965 could be recorded 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.

In appreciation of the great services rendered to our Mission and Youth Club, a Memorial Service for the late Mr. Etienne R. Cottet was held at the St. Ann's Church on Sunday, 27th June 1965. Our Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Béat de Fischer was unavoidably prevented from attending this Service but was represented by Monsieur Marcel Heimo, Counsellor of Embassy.

On 1st March 1965, our Chairman had the honour and privilege of being the representative of the Swiss Catholic Community of London at the Solemn Reception of His Eminence Cardinal John Carmel Heenan into His Cathedral.

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. Father Joseph Scherer, said in his report that the year 1965 was a year without outstanding events. Each Sunday young Swiss boys and girls gathered at St. Ann's Church for the regular Service: Holy Mass and Sermon in German and French and on special occasions in Italian. The attendance was very satisfactory (120 to 180 people). Many received the Holy Sacraments frequently. Opportunity for Confessions were given on Sundays before and after Holy Mass, on Saturdays and once weekly in the afternoon and by appointment.

Frequently, Swiss people called at the presbytery for advice and assistance in temporal (accommodation, schools, etc.) and spiritual needs. Several visits were paid to sick compatriots in Hospitals or at their homes. The chaplain is very thankful if he is called to assist the sick or dying and so to fulfil one of his most important duties. In 1965 he was able to visit more Swiss families than in the past but he would like to be able to do it still more.

As soon as we receive the addresses of the many newcomers, we send out our letter of welcome and information. Some hundred letters were sent out in 1965. This correspondence and answering enquiries from Switzerland makes a great deal of work. As the Chaplain is in charge of the Church of St. Ann, he has to spend quite a lot of time in dealing with builders, workmen, church suppliers, paying bills and establishing the yearly account.

Our Swiss Catholic Youth Club is open every Sunday after our Service. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. MacGuigan, we are able to welcome our young people to the Westminster Ball Room at 30 Stratton Ground S.W.1 only a few hundred yards from St. Ann's Church.

Conferences, Slide Shows, Films, Dances and other Entertainment give our young people some hours of

pleasant relaxation. For the Chaplain these evenings are a good opportunity to get acquainted with the young compatriots, to give advice and to initiate more personal contacts. The attendance varied in the past year between 80 to 250 Swiss girls and boys. Needless to say that there always are non-catholic compatriots with us. Our rule, "Swiss only", prevents the entry of undesirable elements to our Club. During the summer months, the Club organised excursions to places of interest. We started with a Surprise Country Walk in May along the Thames, visited Cambridge and Ely, Salisbury and Stonehenge, the Isle of Wight and finished our excursions with a Rivertrip to Greenwich. The number of participants varied from 65 to 160. Special Events such as First-of-August Celebration, *Kilbi-Kermess* and St. Nicholas Day attracted 250 people. A special mention should be made of our Christmas Eve Celebration, which was carried out in our beloved Swiss traditional way. Thanks to the great kindness of Mr. Ronus and Mr. Kaufeler of the Dorchester Hotel and of Mr. G. Bartholdi we were able to offer our compatriots an excellent meal, which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all. The traditional Christmas and New Year tea party for children was held on January 2nd 1966.

We have to thank our Lord for all the graces He has bestowed on our Mission in so many ways. We are very much obliged to His Eminence Cardinal John C. Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster and his Curia for the accommodation and assistance given to us.

We wish to thank their Excellencies the Swiss Bishops, especially their Dean Mgr. Angelo Jelmini, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Lugano, who is greatly interested in our work, and our own generous Bishop Mgr. Franciscus von Streng, Bishop of Basle and Lugano, for their magnificent support; also the *Sekretariat für Auslandsseelsorge*: The Right Rev. Mgr. K. Boxler, Chairman, and the Right Rev. Mgr. Dr. J. Bannwart, Honorary Treasurer, whose energetic intervention in our favour greatly consolidates our financial position.

We are also greatly indebted to His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador Monsieur Béat de Fischer and Madame de Fischer, Monsieur M. Heimo, First Counsellor of the Swiss Embassy now in Rewanda, Monsieur E. Tosio, Consul, Monsieur F. Burgunder, Vice-Consul now in Los Angeles and all the Staff of the Embassy for their continuous kind support given to our work. We wish to thank them most sincerely.

Let me thank also the Members of the Committee of Swiss Catholics in London and its ever ready Chairman, Mr. O. Grob, for their most valuable co-operation to our cause. Let me not forget the friends of our Swiss Catholic Youth Club: Messrs. E. Bonvin, A. Ronus, E. Käufeler, G. Bartholdi, L. W. Krucker and last but not least Miss L. Huber.

The Chairman and the Chaplain were thanked for their reports.

The Finance Report showed that fifty-six donors subscribed £230.7.0 during the year; the Christmas Draw 1965, thanks to the generosity of all our friends, produced an income of £291.2.2. With these amounts, the Church Collections, Income Tax recovered on Covenants and the very welcome donation of the City Swiss Club of £75.0.0 being part of the proceeds of the Tombola held at their 100th Annual Banquet and Ball in November, we had a total income of £832.18.2 against our expenditure of £831.12.4, giving us a surplus of £1.5.10 for the year.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr. I. R. Daetwiler and seconded by Mr. E. Käufeler and unanimously passed by the Meeting with thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

The Chairman said that our Hon. Treasurer Mr. E. Frey had informed him, that due to various personal commitments he would, very much to his regret, be unable to carry out his duties as Treasurer and Promoter of the Christmas Draw but would accept nomination as a Committee Member. His resignation was regretfully accepted by the Meeting. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman expressed sincerest thanks and appreciation to Mr. Frey for the great amount of work he has rendered us since his election in 1960 as Hon. Treasurer and Christmas Draw Promoter.

On the proposal of the Committee Mrs. K. A. Grob was unanimously elected as our new Hon. Treasurer and Promoter of the Christmas Draw.

The Chairman said that in Monsieur M. Heimo, Counsellor of the Swiss Embassy and Madame Heimo, our Committee had lost two good friends and he thanked them for their help and assistance rendered to us during their stay in London.

As all the retiring members of the Committee had offered themselves for re-election, the Meeting elected them unanimously for the ensuing year. Furthermore, Monsieur Jean-Denis Grandjean, Counsellor of Embassy (the successor of Monsieur Heimo), Monsieur J. R. Gaechter, Secretary of Embassy, and Mr. I. R. Daetwiler were proposed as additional Committee members and duly elected.

The final composition of the Committee for 1966 is as follows: Chaplain: The Rev. Father Joseph Scherer; Chairman: Mr. O. 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. F. McKenna, Messrs. L. F. Ackermann, G. Bartholdi, J. J. Boos, K.S.G., I. R. Daetwiler, F. de Maria, E. Eha, E. Frey, J. R. Gaechter, C. Gallo, J. D. Grandjean, R. E. Gut, P. Jacomelli, E. Käufeler, L. W. Krucker, M. Schneebeli, R. Schweizer, K.C.S.S., R. Voegtli.

The Ladies Committee consists of Mrs. E. Bonvin, Chairman; Miss C. Affentranger, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. C. T. O. Clarke, Mrs. G. Gallo, Mrs. K. A. Grob, Mrs. E. Käufeler and Mrs. F. McKenna.

Our Chaplain, the Rev. Father Joseph Scherer, congratulated our Chairman, Mr. O. Grob on his appointment by His Holiness Pope Paul VI as a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great in recognition of his services to the Church for the work he has done for Swiss Catholics and other organisations in this country.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Patrick Casey, Bishop-Auxiliary in Westminster will present the Brief of appointment and Insignia to our Chairman at an informal dinner party on Tuesday, 12th July 1966 at the Dorchester Hotel.

The proposal by the old Committee to join The Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom and to offer an annual subscription of £5.0.0 and to nominate Mr. O. Grob as a permanent delegate to the Federation, was unanimously passed by the Meeting.

It was further decided to hold again a Christmas Draw in 1966, instead of a Bazaar.

Finally, the Chaplain thanked Mr. Grob for conducting the Meeting, which was followed by the Easter-tide Service at St. Ann's Church and a Social Evening afterwards at the Westminster Ball Room. E.S.

CARONA — NEW HOLIDAY CENTRE ABOVE LAKE LUGANO

The new gondola-type cablecar between Melide and Carona which was inaugurated at Easter, provides another touristic attraction in the Lugano region. At the same time, the widened causeway across the lake is becoming a key junction in the steadily-growing North-South motor traffic through the Ticino. The main attraction up to now has been the "Swissminiature", a display of faithful miniature reproductions of famous Swiss buildings, but the new cablecar makes possible easier access to the plateau on the South side of Lugano's famous landmark, Monte San Salvatore, which up to now has been reached only by postal coach from the town of Lugano. Carona is known primarily as an artists' village with genuine Ticinese character. It has been given new impetus towards becoming a resort and study centre by the opening of a "holiday astronomical observatory" some years ago and the announcement of extensive plans for an university-level institution for inter-European studies.

[S.N.T.O.]

SWISS HUMOUR

Un pasteur lausannois faillit, l'autre jour, attraper une contravention. Il l'aurait méritée, d'ailleurs; il avait brûlé par mégarde un feu rouge. Mais l'agent de police, l'ayant reconnu, fit un large geste de la main: "Allez! . . . Et ne péchez plus!"

("Semeur Vaudois".)

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