

Under the Patronage of His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool.

Liverpool Catholic Ramblers

Affiliated to
The Ramblers Fedn.

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MONTHLY NEWS - L E S T E R

Supplement

November, 1939

WE ARE CARRYING ON WITH CATHOLIC HOLIDAYS!

Our Policy - outlined by the Secretary.

Ever optimists, and convinced that soon peace and prosperity will return, we are pushing ahead with our scheme for Catholic Holiday Centres. Far too many movements have collapsed through the disorganization caused by the War, but we will persevere.

There are many organizations doing splendid work in the provision of Holidays for Youth both at home and abroad; some of them have their centres in every part of Europe. Their charges are reasonable, and their organization of walks and excursions is efficient to the very finest degree. Truly a marvellous holiday may be had by those to whom such institutions appeal.

But what of the spiritual aspect of these organizations? Certainly none of them is Catholic; some indeed are definitely anti-Catholic, their Godless outlook being evident to those of our Faith who have unfortunately given their patronage to them in the past. Others we find are directly or indirectly controlled by the 'Church of England', the 'Free Churches', and so on. Is it right then that Catholics should continue to support these bodies, when they could so easily have their own Holiday centres? In Great Britain there are sufficient Catholics to form an organization stronger and more attractive than all others combined. Let us all then, strive for Catholic Holidays for Catholics.

Soon this movement will attract our fellow Catholics not only in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland; not only in Europe, but in America too, and Africa, Australia, New Zealand. The Church is Universal: then let our cry ring out loudly round the whole world - "CATHOLIC HOLIDAYS FOR CATHOLICS!" A big task, admittedly, and one that will take years, generations, to fulfil. But then, did not far greater difficulties confront our forefathers in spreading the Faith? And, in our common bond of Faith are we not already united to all our brother and sister Catholics beyond the seas, though whose lands we have never seen? Here surely we have more claim to their support than any of the non-Catholic organizations that are so eagerly and so rapidly spreading their influence across the face of Europe. Let our Communion in Christ - our Catholic Action - our CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP, manifest itself; let us contact our Catholic friends in other countries through this great practical medium of Catholic Holidays. How greatly improved would international relations be if the Youth of the world to-day - the rulers of to-morrow - could meet in an atmosphere of Catholic goodwill and comradeship that can only be found within the edifice of God's Church?

What is the first step to be taken in this gigantic movement? It is the establishment of our Holiday Centres in the British Isles. That we will have at least the moral support of the Faithful of this country is evident by the hundreds of letters of encouragement received during the year 1939. That our's is the organization to which the task of providing Catholic Holidays should rightly fall is proved by the thirteen years of our existence - by the wide experience we have gained in that time - by the fact that we are the only body which has seriously tackled the provision of walking holidays for Catholics of both sexes.

Perhaps in the past we might have shown more ambition in drawing up holiday programmes, and we might have given more prominence to our scheme. That defect was to a great extent overcome this year, and now we are grasping the problem with both hands, as it were, and are 'getting down to business'. This year, it is well known, we rented four different centres in Ambleside, and had with us well over two hundred guests from every corner of Britain.

But a different and more progressive policy was to be adopted in 1940, and we seek to acquire our own centres. The type it is our aim to establish is that which can accommodate upwards of fifty people; which has gardens, pleasure grounds, tennis courts &c. The houses would be comfortably furnished on a set standard, and only the very best food would be served. In fact, we are setting ourselves out to provide something even better than a 'home from home', if that is possible.

Special attention will be paid to the management of the houses. It is our plan to retain a resident host and hostess at each one - perhaps a young married couple with experience in Hotels and social work, and with a bright outlook on things. The hostess in particular would supervise the household and internal organization, while it would be the duty of the host to lead walks in the vicinity and to acquaint the parties of any points of interest - historical or otherwise - which may be encountered on the way. Guests too would be invited to give informal chats on any appropriate subject with which they were conversant, some piece of archiology, for instance, or perhaps an unusual specimen of floral growth. Such talks are in fact indispensable if a walk is to be enjoyed to the full.

Certain days of the week would be set aside for excursions to some distant town or resort which had a special attraction. Every evening there would be a social gathering, with music, games, dancing and so on, and Friday evening would be devoted to a grand farewell party for those who were to leave for home that week-end. A Fancy Dress Ball would be appropriate heretoo. The ideal would be to open the houses all the year round, and reunion parties would be held at Christmas and Easter.

Country Houses first, and one in London.

We look forward to the day when our Catholic Holiday Centres will be found in every corner of the British Isles. All the beautiful country resorts would have our first attention - the Derbyshire Dales; lovely Lakeland, the rugged coast of Western Scotland, the mountains of Wales; Devon; Cornwall, Ireland, and by no means least, the Isle of Man. The desirability of a Catholic Holiday Centre in London itself is well known to us; this too will have our early attention. In no case and at no time would the charge at a Catholic Holiday Centre be more than £2/15/- or £3 per week.

Every House to be a Mass Centre?

Permission would be sought to have daily Mass said on the premises for our Guests and other Catholics living in the District, if no Catholic Church was near at hand. We hope that the Clergy will support our Centres as guests, and arrangements will be made for them to act as Celebrants.

We have been negotiating for a beautiful house in most glorious surroundings 'twixt Ambleside and Grasmere. The outbreak of War unfortunately called a temporary halt to these negotiations, but now we are reopening them, and we ask all your Prayers that the outcome will be the establishment of the first permanent Catholic Holiday Centre.

Before the matter is completed, we will be called upon to lay out a large sum of money, and it is here especially that we ask for the support, not only of our own loyal members, but of all those who went to Ambleside under our auspices this year. No matter how much can be spared, all donations will be very gratefully received, and they will form the foundation on which the whole structure of Catholic Holidays will stand.

Many will be anxious to know whether we will carry out our plans for Holidays in the Isle of Man and Scotland next year, as well as in the Lakes. Well, we would like to do so, and we are in touch with our Catholic friends there, and they are making enquiries for suitable accommodation. It will be appreciated that at present many establishments have been requisitioned, and consequently there are not quite so many houses to approach for renting as would normally be the case. There may be other centres at which our friends would like holidays to be held. They have only to let us know, and if we think the suggested area would be an attraction, then certainly we will be only too pleased to take the matter up. Our Holiday Programme for 1940 will be issued in February.

How we can help:

There are many ways in which readers can help us in our campaign. Chief amongst them are:

1. By subscribing to our fund, no matter how small the amount.
2. By telling their Parish Priests our plans, and by asking them to exhibit our posters and booklets which will be published early next spring.
3. By spreading the news of Catholic Holidays to their Catholic friends. There is a leaflet enclosed, and readers are asked to fill in the names and addresses of four or five of their Catholic friends who would like to receive our 1940 Holiday Programme. There will be no obligation on them whatever for this, but their names will be of special value to us.
4. By becoming subscribers to this News-Letter. For the low sum of 1/3 it will be sent post free one a month for twelve months. Readers will do us a great service by passing on this News-Letter to a Catholic friend. All information regarding Catholic Holidays will be found in our bulletin.

Articles for Publication in the News-Letter are always welcome, and those who took part in our Holidays this year are specially invited to send their contributions. We will be pleased to act as a medium for the exchange of their letters or addresses either by publication or privately.



.. There is need for a Catholic Holiday Centre in London

CATHOLIC HOLIDAYS ABROAD

And now may we turn again to the question of Catholic Holidays abroad. This problem cannot of course be seriously dealt with for several years to come, but we are determined to do something about it now! Copies of this News-Letter, and an outline of our campaign, are being sent to Catholic Youth leaders in every English speaking country in the world - Canada, United States, Parts of Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and so on, and they are being invited to carry on the campaign in their countries. We are collating all information on existing facilities for Catholic Holidays abroad, so that when the time for action arrives we will know exactly how our 'foreign policy' should be shaped. Later we will communicate with Catholic bodies in all European countries, and then gradually there will be built up one of the greatest movements for Catholic Youth that the world has ever seen.

Intercommunication between Catholics of the different nations has always been sadly lacking. This is not as it should be, and it will be our aim to cultivate international Catholic friendship. The exchange of holiday parties with European countries will be an important plank in our activities. Full prominence, therefore, will be given to all replies received from abroad, and the News-Letter will in future be sent each month to all our foreign correspondents, and they too are invited to send us articles for publication.

Language Classes?

We hope to assist in the establishment of a Catholic Rambling Club which organizes weekly Rambles and Socials (similar to our own Club) in all towns and Cities in the United Kingdom. And then, how easy it would be to form a small language class in these Clubs to pick up at least a smattering of French, or German, or Spanish, or Italian, to enable us to converse with our fellow Catholics from other countries whom perhaps we would meet the following year! The return of peace may well bring with it a prosperity that will permit of much shorter hours and longer holidays for workers - for such was the trend of industrial England before the war commenced. This will mean probably a reduction of travelling fares by sea and rail, and thus holidays abroad would soon become possible for everyone even of the most modest means; certainly it would be a possibility for the thrifty, who provide for their holidays out of their weekly salaries.

And so we think the establishment of Catholic Holidays abroad too is only a question of time. We want our foreign centres to be substantially of the same standard as those at home. The quality of food, the comforts, the attention, these must certainly be maintained at a very high level.

There must be many countries which we have all longed to visit at some time or other - Switzerland, Italy, Holland, France, Spain, and even America. It is up to us to make Holidays abroad possible. It can be done - through God and His Church; through Catholic Action; through Catholic Fellowship.

Publicity

We have in mind many methods by which Catholic Holidays are to be advertised, but most important of these is our Film Campaign. Actual moving pictures will be taken of parties at our centres, and with shots of the surrounding countryside we will make up quite an interesting show. This film will be exhibited in Church Halls up and down the country, and one of our officials will be at hand to give a running commentary.

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A Christmas Reunion in the Lakes.

It is proposed to hold a reunion in Ambleside at Christmas. The period will extend from Saturday 23rd December to Boxing Day. Those who would like to join are asked to communicate with us by the 16th Decr.