



St Nicholas News

A communication channel to get in touch with the Saint Nicholas' Friends around the World

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CENTRO STUDI NICOLAIANI

Bari (Italy)

THE LARGEST ST NICHOLAS' CITIES IN THE WORLD

SAN NICOLÁS DE LOS ARROYOS (ARGENTINA)

About 150.000 inhabitants

The largest city in the world named Saint Nicholas is in the Republic of Argentina, in the province of Buenos Aires, on the western shore of the Paraná River, 61 km from Rosario, and 240 from Buenos Aires, at the center of a growing industrial area, with an active Port to service especially large cargo ships.



Beautiful and imposing is the Church of St Nicholas.

The city was founded on 14 April 1748 by Rafael de Aguiar, who named it after the Saint of Bari to whom he was devoted. In this city was signed the Agreement known as "Acuerdo de San Nicolás de los Arroyos" (31 May 1852), from which issued the Federal Pact ratified by 13 provinces. It is sometimes called Ciudad de Maria (City of Mary) because of several apparitions recorded since the 1970s. Civil and religious authorities have recently visited our Basilica in Bari strengthening the good relationships already existing.

SINT NIKLAAS/ SAINT NICOLAS (BELGIUM)

About 70.000 inhabitants



“**G**arden of Flanders”, the city of Sint Niklaas is situated between Ghent and Antwerp.

A parish of St Nicholas was founded by the bishop of Tournai in 1217. Soon the village became the main trade center of Waasland, and in 1764, when cotton mills were set up, the second most industrialized town in East Flanders after Ghent.

Although St Nicholas is seen here rather as Santa Claus, the St Nicholas Society (Sint-Nicolaasgenootschap), directed by Lieven Dehandschutter, in its "Tijdingen" deal often with the real St Nicholas. Myself went to Sint Niklaas to speak about the historical St Nicholas, Herman Cole came to Bari to speak about St Nicholas in Flanders and, in general, very good are the relationships between Sint Niklaas and Bari.

SAN NICOLA LA STRADA (CE) ITALY

More than 21.000 inhabitants

Local historians link San Nicola la Strada with the Roman city of Calatia. Documents of XIV century seem already to refer the village to our Saint, as "*Sancti Nicolai ad Stratam*". Along with the *Via Appia*, the famous Roman Road, was the little chapel of St Nicholas. On this chapel the King of Naples Ferdinand II in 1851 ordered to build the Church of Santa Maria of the Graces. The town is located at only 4 km from the main city of Caserta. Well established industrial activities contributed to the demographic growing of these last years.



The Parish church is dedicated to St Mary of the Angels, but St Nicholas remains the

patron Saint and very active is the St Nicholas' Confraternity. The Parish Priest, don Pasquale Lunato, promotes not only religious, but also social and charitable activities.

AGHIOS NIKOLAOS CRETE (GREECE) **About 20.000 inhabitants**



Aghios Nikolaos rises near the ruins of the ancient Doric town of Lato (8th century B.C.). Afterwards the town developed around Kamara, the Port of Lato. Its strategic position attracted the Arabs, Genovese, Venetians and Ottoman Turks. The new city in recent times has become an international and cosmopolitan resort that welcomes thousands of visitors. It takes its name from the Church of Aghios Nikolaos that was built in the 8th century A.C. (during the iconoclastic persecution) to the north of the town on the nearby small peninsula. The little church of Saint Nicholas is very interesting from the artistic point of view because it represents one of the earliest and finest examples of the first Byzantine church architecture in the island of Crete.

GREETINGS FROM BARI



**TO ALL ST NICHOLAS'
(ORTHODOX, PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC)
FRIENDS**