



# St Nicholas News

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

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April, 2nd 2011

From Fr. Gerardo Cioffari, o.p. director of the  
**CENTRO STUDI NICOLAIANI**  
Bari (Italy)

## THE PRAYER TO SAINT NICHOLAS BY SAINT ANSELM OF CANTERBURY

**Saint Anselm (1033-1109) of Aosta**, Archbishop of Canterbury, was the main thinker of his times. He has a place in the history of philosophy (the ontological argument to prove God's existence), the Investiture Conflict (with the King William the Rufus), and in.. the history of St Nicholas' cult (the prayer and his participation to the Council of Bari in the year 1098).



St Anselm and pope Urban II (on the right) at the Council of Bari (1098) discussing on the *Filioque* with the Greeks. Source: *The Life of St Anselm*, by his secretary Eadmer. Bari. Ceiling of St Nicholas Basilica by Carlo Rosa, 1661.

**Written before 1085**, related to several Saints (St Martin, St Nicholas), the prayer

became definitively addressed to St Nicholas after 1087, when the event of the translation of St Nicholas to Bari had a strong impact on the monastery of Le Bec, of which he was the abbot. He cared about it when, in the winter 1092-1093, moving to England, wrote to the prior Baldric to send to him the prayer to St Nicholas "that I wrote".

**In English it was published by the Anglican sister Benedicta Ward** for the Penguin Classics: *The Prayers and meditations of Saint Anselm* (1973). On her studies and publications is based the Italian translation contained in Anselmo d'Aosta, *Orazioni e Meditazioni*, a cura di Inos Biffi e Costante Marabelli, Jaca Book, Milano 1997:

### Prayer

**Sinful little man, in such great need**, you have grieved God very much, stir up your mind, look inwards at what really matters for you and call down pity upon your pitiable state. My soul, be watchful; my wretchedness, rouse yourself; my wickedness, call upon the God you have angered, that he may by chance soften his regard towards you. But he is Most High, and I am weak; how can my voice reach up to him ? [...] I will pray to one of the great friends of God and perhaps God will hear him on my behalf. I will call upon Nicholas, the great confessor, whose name is honoured throughout the world. Nicholas ! If only he will hear me! Great Nicholas! [...]

Good Lord, thank you. Truly you have sought out your lost one in the abyss, and brought out him whom you had driven there in fear because of his sin. By the merits of St Nicholas, your beloved, lead out from the abyss of sin your lost one whom you have sought and found. [...]

But, St Nicholas, why do I pray to God by your merits, when you are in his presence and can do this better ? [...]

God, in you have I trusted. St Nicholas, to you I entrust my prayers, upon you both I cast my care, even on you I throw my soul. This is what you exact from me, you by your commands, you by your counsels. Receive him who throws himself upon you both, have him who is prostrate before you. Keep me when I sleep, help me in whatever I do, inspire me in whatever I think, you, Lord, by your grace, you Nicholas, by your intercession; you, for the merits of your so loved confessor, you, according to the name of your and my Creator, who is blessed for evermore. Amen.



St.  
Anselm  
at the  
Council of  
Bari.  
Fresco  
by Cesare  
Maccari  
(Siena 1840 –  
Roma 1919).

Rome .  
Chiesa  
del S.  
Sudario

## EXHIBITIONS

### PECCIOLI (Pisa, Italy)

In the Museo di icone russe “F. Bigazzi” Palazzo Pretorio – Piazza del Popolo, 5 has been organized a beautiful exhibition of **St Nicholas’ Russian Icons.**

The Catalogue, edited by the Fondazione “Peccioli per l’Arte”, given to me by Daria Mal’ceva, an expert on restoration of icons, includes more than 50 icons exposed, and more than 30 not exhibited.

Before the technical commentary by Daria Mal’ceva, in the Catalogue you can find in Italian the ***Life and miracles of St Nicholas*** as written by **St Dmitrij Rostovskij** in his “Monthly Readings”.

### LUXEMBOURG:

#### “The Face of the Absolute”.

An exhibition of icons of the Holy Mount Athos is taking place in the Parish Hall of the Orthodox Church of St Nicholas, rue du Schlammeté L-5770 Weiler La Tour Luxembourg: 2-17 April 2011.  
News communicated by Jakobos from the Metoki St Nicholas on the Holy Mountain.

#### GREETINGS FROM BARI



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