



# St Nicholas News

A communication channel to keep in touch with St Nicholas' Friends  
around the world

From Fr Gerardo Cioffari, o.p.,  
director of the  
**St Nicholas Research Center in Bari**

December 5th , 2011

## **KLAUSJAGEN. THE SANTA CLAUS FEAST IN KÜSSNACHT AM RIGI (SWITZERLAND)**

# 25

**ST NICHOLAS NEWS**  
**GENERAL INDEX OF THE FIRST 25 ISSUES**



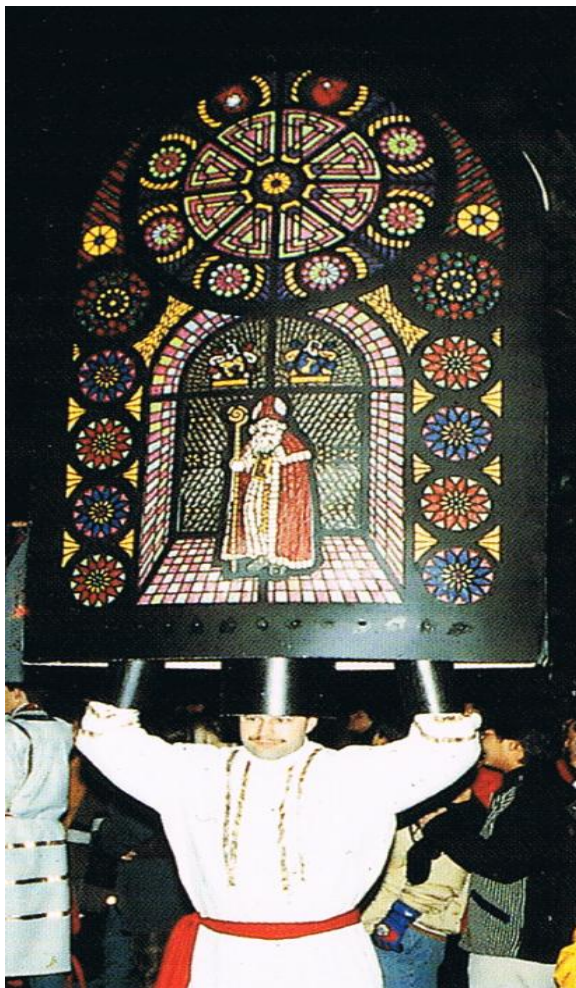
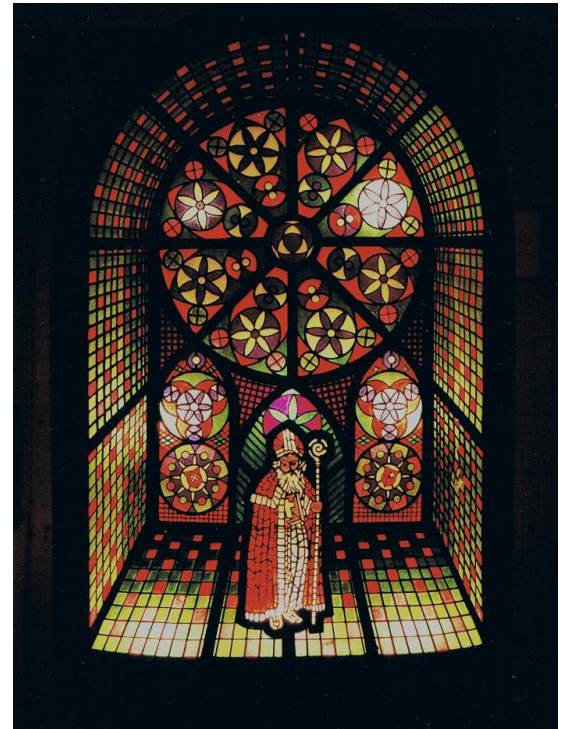
**In these days in many countries, like Holland, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, France, Poland, Switzerland and others, is going on the Santa Claus Feast, the folkloric version of the Saint Bishop of Myra. I seize this opportunity to show to the *St Nicholas News* readers the images of the feast that is**

**set the 5th of December in Küssnacht am Rigi in the German speaking Switzerland. These images were sent by our friend Hans Peter Rust, who participates in the Klausjagen (it is 35 years by now). Several years ago he started coming to Bari and formed a friendship with me, as well as with**

other members of the Association “Centro Studi Nicolaiani”, especially with Mirella Tempone and Francesco Innamorato.

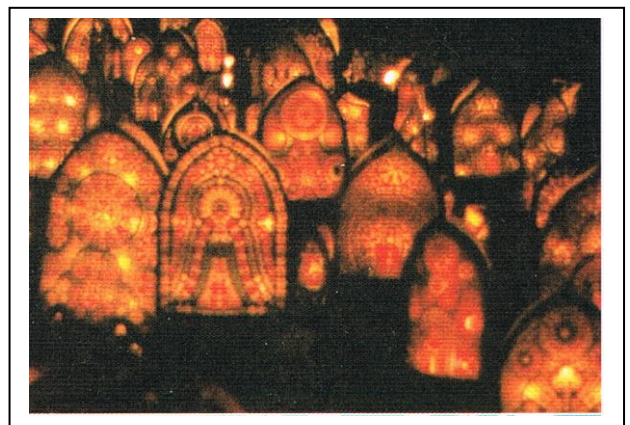
The latter, as his family name indicates, is truly fond of all the Santa Clauses around the World. Often he dresses himself like a Santa, trying to spread in Bari this little known tradition.

Like Hans Peter Rust has done, every Santa Claus wherever he lives, if is wishing to let us know the traditions and customs of his country, can write to me or to my two collaborators, Francesco Innamorato ([peppino51f@libero.it](mailto:peppino51f@libero.it)) or, Mirella Tempone ([mirellatempone@alice.it](mailto:mirellatempone@alice.it)), who reads fluently the German language.



Bearer of St Nicholas large mitres (even beyond two metres high, weighing 10 kilo) decorated with a very patient work.

These large mitres of St Nicholas are inside reinforced with cardboards and outside decorated in a way that the lights reflect on them, creating this way a thousand lights magic atmosphere. The bearers move forward in the parade with a light dance step. In the parade walk 200 people bearing the huge Episcopal mitres, followed by 50 cracking the whip, then 65 musicians playing and singing Santa’s motives. At this point walk joyfully 20 groups of Schmutzli (the famous black Peters of the Dutch tradition) and mixed with them many torch bearers. An unbelievable noise is made by 1000 people shaking and playing cowbells, and by 200 horn players.



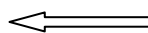


First Samichlaus Synod. The first “St Nicholas Council” has been held November 12th 2011 in the ancient Benedictine monastery of Propstei Wislikofen (today training house and hotel for seminarians), belonging to the catholic church of Kanton Aargau ([www.kathaargau.ch/propstei-wislikofen/](http://www.kathaargau.ch/propstei-wislikofen/)). Out of the many St Nicholas “Bishops” arrived and gathered there only 80 could take part to the “liturgy” of the Council. The “Fathers” discussed their common problems, like St Nicholas history, the training of Samichlaus according the different places, the visits to the families and to nursery schools.

For more news, please write to Hans Peter (Buda) Rust, Reuss-Strasse 4 - CH-6038 GISIKON (Switzerland): [hp.rust@sunrise.ch](mailto:hp.rust@sunrise.ch)



Swiss stamp of the year 1984. It is inspired exactly to the well known Klausjagen of Küssnacht am Rigi.



**December 6th**  
**A pleasant St Nicholas Day**  
**to all the Saint's friends**

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