



St Nicholas News

Communications to the Saint Nicholas' Friends

8

January 7th 2011

From Fr. Gerardo Cioffari, o.p. director of the

CENTRO STUDI NICOLAIANI

Bari (Italy)

Our friend Rev. James Rosenthal wrote (and I am pleased to publish) these good news

ST NICHOLAS MAKES GREAT ADVANCES IN UK

The UK/USA St Nicholas Society has grown much this past season in influence. The three most prominent Anglican (Episcopal) establishments have welcomed St Nicholas for a service or festival. These are Canterbury Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and the famed St Paul's Cathedral in London.

St Nicholas, in the person of Dr James Rosenthal, founder of the society and frequent visitor to Bari and Myra, also appeared at some 15 other locations including the Society's first official Solemn Mass (Haydn: Mass of St Nicholas) and Ceremonies at the great shrine church of All Saints Margaret Street in the busy heart of London. Dr Rosenthal preached the homily.

Dr Rosenthal can be seen on Episcopal News Service in a video clip on the St Nicholas tradition.

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/80056_ENG_HTM.htm - the top item in the MULTIMEDIA section. The Society has a website: www.stnicholassociety.com and grew out of the Society in Flanders in 2000. At St Pauls Cathedral some 2000 people attended the event and at Canterbury over 3000. He also makes smaller visits including a private time with the

famed choristers of Westminster Abbey and a small inter-racial congregation in Wembly Park. The annual fund-raising event was a performance of St Nicolas Cantata by Benjamin Britten in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams in November. Dr Rosenthal attended the arrival of Sint Nicolaas in Hardewijk Netherlands as well in November.



Dr Rosenthal has a new book called St Nicholas Icon of Gentleness in english available from nicholasmrbari@gmail.com for €5. In England there are over 450 churches dedicated to St Nicholas including the renowned chapel at King's College Cambridge.

"There is a bit of St Nicholas in all of us," says Dr Rosenthal. The Society maintains a USA National Shrine where St Nicholas visited on December 5th at St Luke's Episcopal Church, Germantown PA, USA.

LA GARGOUILLE

“La Gargouille” is the French Revue issued by the Association “Connaissance et Renaissance de la Basilique de St Nicolas de Port” (Knowledge and Revival of the Basilica of St Nicolas de Port).

Its name derives from the zoomorphs peculiar to the Romanesque Basilicas. In the last issue contributors deal with the restored paintings of the Chapel of the Relics, as well as with the theme of the “Walk of St Nicholas” (Chemin de St Nicolas). This second subject covers the same grounds of December Meeting in Bari (Italian-French encounter), although viewed from the pilgrim sanctuary of Saint Nicholas de Port. Olivier Hein outlines here the German itinerary of St Nicholas’ pilgrimages throughout Europe with a particular attention to the area Rhine-Moselle (Nimegen, Aix-la-Chapelle, Brauweiler, Trier).

It is to be noted that this article of Olivier Hein coincides with the last part of Fr. Cioffari’s conference in Bari.



Gilles AUBERT, président de l'Académie, remet le prix au Professeur Karlheinz BLASCHKE (photo J.M. DIDELOT)

In the same issue of “La Gargouille” there is also a brief account of the “Grand Prix 2010” given by the St Nicholas Academy (President dr. Gilles Aubert) to the German scholar prof. Karlheinz Blaschke, former Director of the Archives of the Saxony Ministry of Interior and prof. of History of Saxony at the technical University of Dresden. We hope to receive from our friend Gilles Aubert the text of prof. Blaschke’s conference.

TIJDINGEN VAN HET SINT-NICOLAASGENOOTSCHAP

This is the title of the Revue issued in Flemish (like Dutch) language by the Association of St Nicholas in the City of Sint Niklaas (Belgium).



Years ago. Fr. Cioffari in Sint Niklaas (Belgium). At center Mr. Lieven Dehandschutter, President of the St Nicholas Association. At right, the Parish Priest.

Although the Revue is more concerned with folklore of St Nicholas, often deals with the Saint giving news about traditions, churches, paintings or statues, and so on.

In the February issue 2010 can be found the priestly ordination of Canon James Rosenthal (29 Sept. 2009), the schools of Santa Claus in Flanders, the Treasury of the Basilica in Bari, two films on Sinterklaas (directors Martijn van Nellestijn and Rita Horst). In the June issue there are articles on the visit of the Association in Lorraine, St Nicholas in the Black Forest (Germany) and East Flanders, a book about images and poems of the Saint during the 2nd World War by Hinke Piersma. The cover of the September issue shows a beautiful statue of the Saint with the little children in the tub (in Antwerpen). Some articles are dedicated to churches and cult of the Saint in Antwerpen, Amsterdam and Bayern. Mention is made about feasts of the Saint in several cities and, when speaking of Santa Claus, a special attention is paid to Zwarte Piet (Peter the Black).