



Holy Night 2016: Fr. Nikodemus praying in front of the scroll with the names in the grotto of the Church of the Nativity.



Holy Night 2016: Our pilgrims sind at pray at the St. Elias Monastery, half way between Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Dear friends,

For our community, it is a very dear tradition for the Holy Night that you send us the names of your families and friends, the names of people for whom you want to thank or pray.

Every year we are touched by how many names are sent to us, and how many people join our big community of prayer in the Holy Night. – Even today, the child in the crib still moves people. It brings movement in our life that God Himself becomes man, so that we too can become human, that we can find the way to God and thus also to each other.

Praying together and praying for each other is our most important task as monks, especially in the Holy Land. – So once more, we cordially invite you to go with us in the Holy Night to Bethlehem! At least with your name and the names of those who are close to your heart. Because when we are walking side by side, when we stand for one another, our world will also be moved and can become a bit more healed and peaceful in the shining light of the child of Bethlehem!

In the joy of the incarnation of our Lord, I sincerely wish you together with my brethren of Mount Zion and Tabgha a joyous and blessed Christmas festival and the rich blessing of God for the new year 2018!

P. Nikodemus Schnabel OSB

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Prior-Administrator

I carry your name...

Names play an important role in the Bible. They are more than just a label, they designate the person itself. This is also true for God when we baptize and bless to this day “in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit”.

But it is also true for man: “Fear not, for I have provoked thee, I have called thee by name, thou art mine” (Isa 43: 1), God addresses the people of Israel. - To approach somebody with his name already creates a personal relationship. We need such relationships so that we can truly live. We need exhortation and correction, encouragement and consolation. This does not work anonymously, without names.

To call someone by name is to accept him or her as a person – with his or her individuality, weaknesses and strengths. When we write your names on a long scroll in the Holy Night, we take with your names also yourselves with us to Bethlehem: in our walking and praying, and in our joy for the newborn child in the crib and in our hope for salvation and peace.

...to Bethlehem

The child of Bethlehem, the newborn baby boy of the Holy Night, still has many siblings in Bethlehem: girls and boys, who are a promise for the future of this little town, but who also need to be given care and support. This is especially true for children with disabilities.

Therefore, alongside with our “name campaign”, we also have the good practice of inviting you to join our charity campaign. The donations, on one hand, benefit our community in its various services. But above all, we support social projects and institutions in Bethlehem, such as schools for children with disabilities, nursing homes, day-care programs, workshops and training places for young people with disabilities, and family projects.

On our website, you can find more information about the institutions we want to support with the donations from this year's Christmas campaign.

We thank you in advance for your kind gift.



Holy Night 2016: Before we start to Bethlehem, the scroll with the 63.599 names on it is blessed in Dormition basilica.

“ I must say honestly, it is hard for me to limit the number of names, almost everyone – actually, everyone – has to bear his burden.

The individual cannot decide which fate is difficult, which load is intolerable.

True healing begins in the heart of every one of us, and often a true and honest thought may be enough to move something.“

From a feedback



Father Nikodemus, Brother Simeon und Brother Natanael with the scroll in the grotto of the Church of the Nativity.

“ Your campaign touches me very deeply. Through it all of us can be there in the Holy Night, and can be connected to each other. Thank you!”

From a feedback

DORMITIO 2017
Christmas Campaign