

Summary in English

The aim of present bachelor thesis is to observe, describe and analyze the phenomenon of the Cult of St. Nicholas in Bari, who is also patron saint of the town. The thesis discusses the tradition as a religious, cultural, historical and social event as well as its meaning for the local people, especially the young generation. The methods used in the thesis consisted of the analysis and interpretation of questionnaires, literature and field research. The thesis is also concerned with the mentality of the people from southern and easternmost part of Italy. Saint Nicholas represents the symbol of unity and identification for local people, as well as the bridge between eastern and western world. He is also seen as patron saint of dialogue and peace. The Cult and its celebrations still connect people, believers and also no-believers in these days and has also become important for many pilgrims from all over the world. The object was to observe rituals as a symbolic translation, processions and also to describe traditional costumes and local cuisine and entertainment. The conclusion of the thesis contemplates the meaning of the celebrations in present-day globalised and chaotic world and also how far the tradition has retained its religious and spiritual character and how far it has rather become a commercial issue.