



**The Newsletter of the “Saint Leonards”**  
**n° 11 – april 2021**  
**( Ref: 11/20210401)**

The International Federation of Associations and Places dedicated to Saint Leonard (FIL-LEO) has the goal of encouraging exchanges and mutual activities of all groups which have the name of St Leonard in their title or who cite his name.

The members of the Board are pleased to send you their 11<sup>th</sup> newsletter which shares the information sent to us by the “St Leonards”.

This newsletter is sent out by e-mail to 434 correspondents in 22 countries in 5 languages: French, Italian, German, English and Dutch. Please continue to send us news of all your activities which we can include in our next newsletter which will be published in the third quarter of 2021.

Please send your information in a succinct form with up to two photographs.

(Contact : [fil-leo@federationstleonard.com](mailto:fil-leo@federationstleonard.com) or [michel.braem@wanadoo.fr](mailto:michel.braem@wanadoo.fr)

ref: nouvelles des “Saint-Léonard”)

**In this edition :**

**An invitation to the next major international meeting** at Saint Léonard-de-Noblat for the septennial OSTENSIONS on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

**News from Germany** (Inchenhofen, Laupheim, Niedernkirchen), **Belgium** (Banneux), **Croatia** (Gorican), **France** (Ile de Grooix, porspoder, Saint-Leonard [Seine Mme], Courcy, Obernai, Sélestat, St Léonard-de-Noblat), **Italy** (Mascali, Bay of Naples), **United Kingdom** (Upton St Leonards, Hythe), **Slovakia** (Lenartov), **Switzerland** (Ingenbohl-Brunnen, Basle)

**State of the development of our concerted action** to have the name of St Leonard inscribed in the official calendar of the Catholic Church on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

## Invitation to attend the International Meeting of all the “St Leonards” in St Léonard-de-Noblat in 2023

### Ostensions of St Leonard in St Léonard-de-Noblat (France) on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023

(invitation by Michel Defaye, president of the Committee of the Ostensions of St Léonard-de-Noblat)

“We are looking forward to welcoming you to the next celebration of the Ostensions which take place only every 7 years when the relics of the Saint are brought out in procession.

These festivities are an exceptional manifestation in the town founded by Saint Leonard, the hermit and Patron Saint of prisoners. It is an opportunity to bring all the “St Leonards” together every 7 years. Our Ostensions, which are an essential part of the Limousin tradition, have existed for almost 1000 years and are recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage event of Humanity.

During your time with us we suggest how you can discover the special elements of our region: its traditions, its agriculture, all its numerous qualities.



PHOTO: St Leonard surrounded by freed prisoners at the head of the procession



PHOTO:

The Bishop of Limoges shows, from a platform, the skull of St Leonard for the veneration of the participants in the procession, taking the route towards the Champmain hill where the original victims of the ‘Mal des Ardents’ in 1094 were cured by the showing of the relics of St Leonard.

A short video shot during the Ostensions of 2016 with commentaries in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish, giving a good explanation of all these events, is available:

<https://bit.ly/3qZGF20>



## News from the “Saint-Léonard”

### Germany

#### Inchenhofen (Bavaria)

##### During the pandemic the members of the Christmas choir keep active

(text Dekan Stefan Gast)

Even if the choristers at Christmas were not able to make their house to house visits due to COVID this year, they were present at the church services for the pilgrimage of St Leonard at Inchenhofen and were able to pass on their message.

Father Stefan Gast thanked all the participants in this campaign of songs and emphasised the significance of the three kings in his sermon. The video of the choir at Christmas can be watched on YouTube [“Pfarreiengemeinschaft Inchenhofen”](#). This video was made and edited by Michael Katzenschwanz and Sven Schneider.



#### Laupheim (Bade-Wurtemberg) – Parish of “Our Lady and St Leonard”

##### Plenty of activities despite the pandemic

(by Detlef von Kalckreuth)

“ Despite the pandemic we have been able to undertake many activities; the preparatory work for the restoration of the Stations of the Cross which had become urgent and required coordination within our parish: the procession in honour of Our Lady “Mater Dolorosa” through the town carrying her statue took place: the participation in the High Mass on the anniversary of St Leonard while singing the song dedicated to the saint was respected. The benediction of the horses and their riders with the relic of St Leonard which was presented in its reliquary casket took place as usual. “

PHOTO:  
mural fresco on the exterior of the  
Chapel of St Leonard at Laupheim



## **Niedernkirchen (Bavaria – Germany)**

### **The horse-drawn sledge of Reinhard in the snow.**

(text Alexandre Mazin)

“ These four horses in the accompanying photo might remind you of something ? Do you remember the Ostensions of 2002 and 2016 in St Léonard-de-Noblat ?

It is the equestrian team of Niedernkirchen in Bavaria pulling a sledge, this winter, in the snow.

They made such an impression when they were in St Leonard-de-Noblat that a delegation went to Niedernkirchen in November 2016 to participate in their cavalcade in honour of St Leonard.

We give our thanks to Reinhard and Marc Pleynard who exchanged greetings at Christmas 2021 and sent us this photo.”



## **Belgium**

### **Banneux (community of Sprimont – Liège) – Church of Saint Léonard**

**Since 1933 this village has been a centre where the Virgin Mary has been worshipped. It is the most important marial shrine in Belgium.** (information from Albert Mathern)

There are two principal centres in the village: Banneux-Village to the north around the church dedicated to St Leonard, and Banneux Notre-Dame to the south around the marial pilgrimage.

Banneux with the St Leonard church is part of a pastoral unit Ekklesia d'Aywaille-Sprimont.

In 1713 there was already a chapel dedicated to St Leonard who was called ‘the father of the poor’.

It was destroyed and then rebuilt using its tower to create the present church.

Following apparitions of Our Lady in 1933 Banneux Notre-Dame has become a place of marial pilgrimage with a source of water said to be “miraculous” and has a hospice for disabled pilgrims.





## Croatia

### Gorican – Church of Saint Leonard

**Monseigneur Leonardo Logozar celebrated his golden anniversary mass on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

As a retired priest of the diocese of Varazain, Mgr Logozar celebrated his golden anniversary mass in the open air in the park which surrounds the church of the parish.

He was born on 5<sup>th</sup> July in Gorican. He was ordained priest in 1970 and had had 50 years as a priest. Josip Vargec, the President, thanked him for all the spiritual gifts which he had brought to his priestly calling in all the places in which he had served but especially in his home town of Gorican.



## France

### Quelhuit (Ile de Groix – Finistère) Chapel of St Leonard

**A work of the 20<sup>th</sup> century describes the chapel in the land.**

(An extract referring to the chapel of St Leonard taken from the publication of a work by father Joseph Danigo “Churches and Chapels in the region of Port Louis and Groix ” (1984) sent to us by Yvonn A. Le Heno)

“ Built on a site which dominates the village of Quelhuit, the Chapel of St Leonard serves the western half of the island. It is the wildest part most beaten by the winds. It continues to welcome the faithful from this area. In his childhood the poet Jean-Pierre Calloch attended this chapel and probably thought of it when he sang:

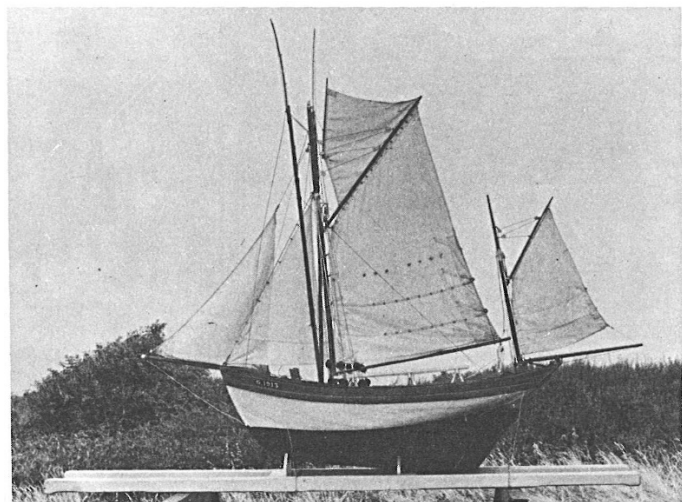
*O douter en overenneu  
En ur chapelig didrouz !*

(how pleasant the masses)  
(in a small chapel without noise)



GROIX — Statue dite de saint Léonard.

Statue of St Leonard



GROIX — Thonier. Ex.voto de la chapelle Saint-Léonard.

ex voto : a model tuna fishing boat in the Chapel of St Leonard

**Porspoder (department of Finistère – Brittany) Chapel of St Leonard de Larret, 'Gwechall ha breman', held its general assembly.**

The aim of the association is to bring life to the hamlet of Larret around its Chapel of St Leonard. It has 32 members and held its general assembly in March 2020.

Jo Le Vaillant, its president, spoke of the use of the chapel for the activities of the community and presented an estimate for the work required for the repair of the northern wall.

The normal activities will be concentrated on the schools, retirement homes and municipal activities.

Basket weaving is the main activity.

The administrative council has been modified; Jo Le Vaillant, President of Honour; Jean-Raymond Magueur, President; Jodie Guérin, Secretary; Alain Bargain, Treasurer.



**Saint Léonard (Seine-Maritime in Normandy)**

**Due to the pandemic, the Confraternity of St Léonard does not take the responsibility for many funerals.**

The Confraternity of St Leonard was founded in 1413 by Estod d'Estouteville, 22<sup>nd</sup> Abbott of Fécamp. At that time a group of men volunteered to pick up the dead bodies of lepers from the hamlet of Hogues to bury them according to Catholic practice.

607 years late the tradition which dates from the Middle Ages is still being carried out.

In 2020, because of the pandemic only 4 burials were undertaken by the Confraternity.

In November the confraternity received a new structure:

Michel Réaux is the mayor with 6 brothers:

Michel Paillette, Bernard Baudouin, Lucien Levasseur, Jean-Pierre Poignant, Didier Auboin, Jean Dessolle.

(Photo)





### **Courcy (department of Calvados in Normandy)**

#### **The Church has been a centre of pilgrimage since the Middle Ages.**

(text from newspaper Ouest-France-sent by Patrick Brissard)

The church is dedicated to Saint Gervais and Saint Protais, and has been partially inscribed in the supplementary inventory of Historic Monuments since 1927.

'The church at Courcy has been a place of pilgrimage in honour of St Leonard since the Middle Ages, whose feast day is celebrated on Trinity Sunday'.

This information is on a panel found in the porch of the church.

'St Leonard cured the sick and infirm who were brought to him, by his blessing in the name of Christ' A chain thought to have been borne by Robert 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Lord of Courcy, is attached to the wall near the altar of St Leonard.



PHOTO : the Church at Courcy

### **Obernai (department of Lower Rhine in Alsace)**

#### **What does the domain of the Château of Léonardsau look like after the restoration work?**

Guillaume Muller (of the newspaper 'Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsce – Obernai) 20th December 2020.

It is a restoration project on an enormous level which is funded by the town of Obernai, at a cost of around 8.5 million euros, for the Domain of Léonardsau (\*) and which is classified in the register of Historical Monuments. The works were particularly well supervised and thus did not disfigure the original structure in any significant way. This did not prevent a certain number of improvements which came as a welcome development by the various associations involved : the additions to the Château in the form of a contemporary structure and form are in order to ensure the logical lay-out of the building; the modification of the ancient stables into a welcoming area for all the visitors; the restoration of the gardens and the creation of a carpark for 120 vehicles and so on ...

(\*) Complementary note by Albert Mathern: Obernai is the second biggest tourist town in the Lower Rhine and is situated not far from Mont Saint Odile as well as the hamlet of Saint Leonard which is part of the community of Boersch. There was a Benedictine convent at St Leonard. Before the First World War St Leonard became an important cultural centre of the region.



## Sélestat (department of the Lower Rhine)

### The origins of the rue St Léonard

(text Christophe Huck, Hub of Resources and Modernisation /Regulation Service and General Affairs, mayor of Sélestat)

'...The Rue St Léonard makes reference to something quite different, as it is only the remaining part of an ancient route from the Middle Ages which went from Sélestat to Kintzheim. To the north of this 'route' a leper colony was to be found outside the walls of the town, at a secure distance. The leper colony of St Leonard also had a chapel. When the railway from Basle to Strasbourg was constructed in 1840 this route was diverted, and the section which interests us became a cul-de-sac baptised St Leonard in memory of this leper colony, which was on the site of what is now a goods station. We don't know if the saint, under whose patronage it is placed, is the same as our patron at St Léonard-de-Noblat...

... We think that his patronage was commonly used in the Middle Ages. There is a very old parish dedicated to St Leonard in the city centre of Basle and this name has become a popular christian name in Sélestat naturally in its German form Leonhard. Finally it seems that St Leonard is the patron saint of prisoners....'

View of Sélestat



## Italy

### Mascali (Sicily) Parish of San Leonardo

#### The commemoration of the stopping of the lava flow from Etna at the edge of the town

(text Concetto Stagnitta)

In 1865 the volcano Etna erupted. The lava flowed down its slopes. It caused great damage to the countryside around Monte Ariano and was making its way very rapidly towards Mascali.

On 5<sup>th</sup> February the citizens of the town carried the reliquary casket, containing the relic of St Leonard, and his statue towards the lava flow which stopped just before reaching the town.

Every year since then the Confraternity of St Leonard of Mascali runs a ceremony of thanks

on that date to remind the town that it had been saved. In 2021, because of the restrictions due to the pandemic this festival was very restricted. There was no procession with the statue and only 100 people at the mass.



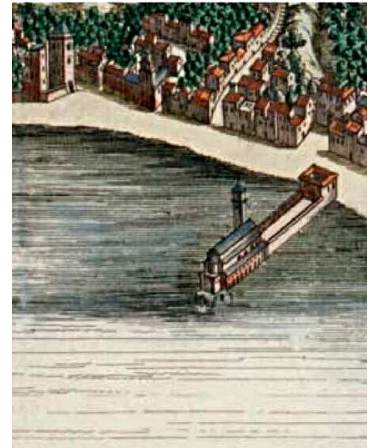


## The Bay of Naples – “San Leonardo ad Insulam”

(text Nicola Castaldi)

“The cult of St Leonard is very old in the kingdom of Naples.

In 1028, about 60 years before the miracle (Mal des Ardents) in 1094 in St Léonard-de-Noblat, Leonardo Orio, a Castillian merchant who was caught in a storm at sea, vowed to build a church on a small island just near Naples to be known as San Leonardo in Insulum which was originally run by the Basilien monks, then by nuns. It existed until 1800 when it was demolished. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the monument Armando Diaz took its place and the site is now called Rotunda Diaz”



The church of Saint Leonard around 1500

## United Kingdom

**From ‘Romain Gary’ living in St Leonards Terrace in London SW3 in 1940 to Upton St Leonards in Gloucestershire, England, which is dedicated to St Leonard.**  
(text Alexandre Mazin)

The French author Romain Gary joined the Free French in London in 1940 where he lived in St Leonards Terrace in Chelsea.

This Terrace (row of houses) was built opposite the Royal Hospital and its name dated from 1845 and was the choice of one of its builders; John Tombs who was at that time a native of Gloucestershire and Cheltenham and who had remembered the name of a local village, Upton Saint Leonard, where the Anglican church was dedicated to the Patron Saint of Prisoners. The name Leonard was added while Richard the Lionheart was a prisoner in Austria on his way back from the crusades. The church was built in 1190 and modified over the years.

An extract from the military records of Romain Gary



The church of Upton St Leonards

## Hythe (county of Kent – England)

### The parish of St Leonard is waiting for a new priest.

(text Brin Hughes, former churchwarden)

“I send you the warm greetings from our parish church of St Leonard in the little village of Hythe in the county of Kent which faces the English Channel looking towards France. Normally we celebrate our patron saint on 6<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately we could not celebrate this in 2020 due to Covid restrictions. More detailed information on the parish and its activities can be found on our website; [www.slhk.org](http://www.slhk.org). Our parish priest took his retirement in November 2020 and we are awaiting the appointment of his successor.



Stained glass window  
of St Leonard (south porch)



Church of St Leonard at Hythe

## Slovakia

### Lenartov (region of Presov )

**Greetings** from Jana Blandova MBA, Jan Bortnik, Mgr Marcel Stalmach

“In this new year, in the name of all the inhabitants of Lenartov, we wish you good luck, good health, love, understanding and success in all of your families and in the development of the inheritance of St Leonard. Until now we have succeeded in overcoming the trials of the pandemic even though we have had a certain percentage of people touched by the virus; thank God without grave consequences.

The services in the church of Svätého Leonarda have taken place as from 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 without parishioners. The municipal office continued to work normally. Our elderly parishioners put on a Christmas play to mark the birth of Christ. We have snow in the mountains which surround us”



Christmas Play





## Switzerland

### Ingenbohl-Brunnen (canton of Schwytz)

#### Parish of St Leonhard celebrates Christmas

( text Christine Wyrsh and Lukas Thürig)

“In memory of the birth of Christ we celebrate Christmas every year. We make our preparations, we are happy, we sing and celebrate throughout the period. Numerous poems were written on the Christmas theme inspired by this moment of grace.

Our pastor Jürg Thurnheer (1946 – 2020) also wrote poems over many years.

*Luc 2:10 – The angel said to them: Don't be afraid for I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be shared with all the people: Today in the town of David the Saviour is born. He is the Christ, the Lord.*



### Basle – French church of St Leonhard

(extract from a folder by Céline Hauck ; website [www.erk-bs.ch/kg/eglise](http://www.erk-bs.ch/kg/eglise) )

A first mention indicates the existence of a cultural place dedicated to St Leonard in 1012 (\*).

In 1135 a convent of Augustinian canons took over the church. An earthquake in 1356 destroyed Basle and the church as well as the monastery. The reconstruction of the new church, in gothic style, did not take place until 1480 to be finished in 1521.

In 1529 the Reformation took place and the church became Protestant in the Calvinist manner. The buildings of the convent were taken over by the town.

Today the French Church of St Leonhard is one of the parishes of the Swiss Reform Church in Basle.

(\*) 1060-1080 in another Historical source.



## Concerted action

### The request to record the inscription of Saint Leonard in the Roman liturgical calendar on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### The situation on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021 :

**On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016:** the International Federation (FIL-LEO) was created by representatives of 25 delegations 'Saint Leonard' coming from 7 countries when they met at St Léonard-de-Noblat during the Ostensions. The constitutive assembly adopted a proposal presented by Pierre Wolff, a representative from Munich in Germany, to have a more important recognition of St Leonard on 6<sup>th</sup> November in the liturgical calendar.

**On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 :** we received a proposal from Nicola Castaldi from Panza d'Ischia in Italy, to introduce a request to the competent Roman commission :

**' The Sacred Congregation for the Devine Cult and the Implementation of the Sacraments '**

**21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 :** A consultation with Monseigneur Pierre-Antoine Bozo, Bishop of Limoges, which suggested that we should propose a detailed information of what we know of 'the life and times of St Leonard' as an essential element of support for our request and also to consult the conclusions of Vatican 2 on the cult of saints and the result of that on the cult of St Leonard.

**At the beginning of 2020,** the work on the ' life and times of St Leonard' had progressed. As a result of a proposal from Jacques Plainemaison, an administrator of the Federation, a letter was sent to the Sacred Congregation to have detailed information on the procedure required in order to present our request for the inscription of St Leonard on 6<sup>th</sup> November, in order to know how to proceed and to have this validated by the Administrative Council of the Federation. The letter from the Federation was sent by Mgr Pierre-Antoine Bozo via the Nomenclature.

**12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 :** The secretariat of the Sacred Congregation acknowledged the receipt of our letter but did not give any answer to the questions we had asked.

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 :** Jacques Plainemaison and Michel Braem discussed the situation with the Bishop of Limoges. It was suggested that we should concentrate more on the history of the cult of St Leonard than that which is to be found in the *vita* . Mgr. Bozo suggested we should send a short memo on the history of the cult of St Leonard, with our arguments, to the representative of the Sacred Congregation which he could present on his next visit to Rome.

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 :** Alain-Charles Dionnet, Jacques Plainemaison and Michel Braem held a meeting to define the major points for a memoire for the Sacred Congregation.

They made the following arguments:

- The universal audience for St Leonard from the 11<sup>th</sup> century until today.
- The events as from this recognition are the promotion of the cult of St Leonard by Jourdan de Laron, Bishop of Limoges at the start of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and the construction of a bigger collegial church at St Léonard-de-Noblat in order to welcome the growing number of pilgrims.
- The multiplicity of associations and charitable movements, places of worship and parishes, towns and villages, medical establishments etc. which have the name of St Leonard attached to them. The researches have been undertaken by historians throughout the centuries. The latest inventory by the commission of Connaissances et Sauvegarde de St Leonard around 1995 came to the figure of almost 1000 places of worship or other structures.
- The frequency of exchanges between groups with the name of St Leonard in a variety of countries (contacts and visits) and the existence since 2016 of the International Federation (FIL-LEO) whose role is to develop contacts between these sites.



- Emphasising the vitality of the cult of St Leonard at the present time: the commemoration of miracles in Italy, the cavalcades of St Leonard in Germany and Austria, the pardons of St Leonard in France, the Monday of Pentecost in Belgium...
- The force of the power to liberate attached to St Leonard.

He is the Patron Saint of prisoners and his message of liberation from the shackles of all kinds is understood in all parts of the world. Movements act in many countries to help with the reinsertion of those leaving prison at the end of their sentence to restart their lives in society by offering them places where they will be welcomed until they find work and a place to live.

In addition, following a proposal by Jacques Plainemaison, it was decided to make an appeal for the collaboration of all our correspondents to find out more about the day to day activities associated with St Leonard by the populations of a variety of countries.

What are the origins of the cult? What ceremonies and manifestations? What liturgical forms? What popular traditions? What artistic creations? What miracles and lessons are attributed to St Leonard? What movements being created or in development?

A study will be requested of Patrick Brissard, the specialist of the iconography of St Leonard, who has assembled more than 3000 representations coming from all over the world and from all ages.

**The request for collaboration has been sent in eight languages to our contacts which are most active. We hope we shall receive answers. Without these it will be difficult to give a correct overview of the day to day life of St Leonard throughout the world.**