

Oops! A huge blot on my letter. It has happened just because it suddenly knocked on the door and I got frightened. As I opened the door, my friend the postman was standing there with a lot of mail bags. "Good afternoon St Nicholas! I brought you again a lot of letters", he said in a friendly manner. "You look very dozily", he said grinningly and let me alone with the amounts of letters and parcels. Yes, he's right, I had been dreaming a little bit with open eyes as the knocking was surprising me. Slowly, it was dawning: the Advent has already begun. At that season I always get amounts of children's letters from Germany and the whole world.

Luckily I have been hardworking the whole summer and have already finished my preparations for the feasts. Now I can do the pleasant jobs and write a nice reply to you.

If you look closer to my letter, you will see below a huge storm coming to the haven and you also see me protecting the waiting children from this storm.

At that time, many many years ago, as I was Bishop of Myra, a big sailing ship, charged with precious treasures, was sailing over the Mediterranean Sea. Suddenly the sky turned black and a terrible storm started. The wind broke the sails and the mast. The ship was running the risk of capsize. The sailors were fighting against the storm. In their trouble, they asked God for help. Suddenly a man, who nobody has seen before, stood on the ship's wheel. He defied the storm and kept the ship on its course. The waves broke over the railing, thunder and lightning were rioting, but the man hold the wheel tight. The sailors saw a city slowly appearing on the horizon, the haven of Myra. The strange man was heading for it, fixed the ship in the haven and then the friendly and fearless helper disappeared without a trace.

On the same evening, the sailors went to the church of Myra to thank God for this miracle. There they recognized the man, who had saved them on the sea. It was the Holy Bishop St Nicholas. Thereupon they named me Patron of the Sailors.

I think I chatted enough now and I have to return to work as there are many other kids waiting for my reply.

I wish you and your family a beautiful exciting Advent, a cosy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

