**PRESS RELEASE/ TOUR GUIDE TEXT ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

**«CUSTOMS OF THE DODEKAMERON - HOLY “TWELVE DAYS” IN CYPRUS»**

­The Synodical Office for Pilgrimage Tours of the Church of Cyprus, the Cyprus Police - Drug Law Enforcement Unit, the HELP2LIVE Charity Foundation and the National Ethnographic Museum in Warsaw are organizing the Exhibition «Customs of the Dodekameron Holy “Twelve Days” in Cyprus», at the National Ethnographic Museum in Warsaw from 15 until 22 November 2017.

The inauguration of the Exhibition will take place on Wednesday 15 November 2017 at 17.30.

The aim of the exhibition is to celebrate together with the Polish people the Cypriot Christmas culture by treating them with the rich cultural Cypriot Christmas tradition, through the traditions and the customs of the Dodekameron - Holy “Twelve Days” (Christmas, New Year’s Eve and Epiphany).

The Exhibition includes the following sections:

 **LET’S FOLLOW THE STAR WHEREVER IT LEADS**

* An exhibition with 27 paintings full with beautiful icons and explanatory texts about the customs during the Dodekameron - Holy “Twelve Days” in Cyprus (in Polish and English language).
* Two Hagiographies of the Birth and Baptism of Christ (replicas of the Byzantine Museum of Cyprus).
* A painted Cross on a wood-carved base/icon of the Epiphany with the Cross that falls into the sea to sanctify the Waters.
* The Table of Saint Basileios.

Representation of the Table of Saint Basileios, which the Cypriots prepare on New Year's Eve with a Vasilopita, kollyva, a bottle of wine and a glass, so Saint Vasileios will come to drink and bless the house and the housekeeper's pocket in order to be always full and prosperous. Above the table there is the icon of Saint Basileios (replica of icon from the Byzantine Museum of Cyprus) and the lit candle in his honor.

**CYPRUS, come and see*…***

The visitor of the Exhibition has the opportunity to enter and see the traditional Cypriot home, as well as to watch a series of documentary films about Cyprus.

**THE FESTIVE KNEADING OF THE DODEKAMERON - HOLY “TWELVE DAYS”**

In situ demonstration of the preparation of the kneading of the Dodekameron - Holy “Twelve Days”.

**CYPRUS OF ΤΗΕ OLIVE TREE, THE ORANGE TREE, THE LEMON TREE.**

Presentation and free distribution of printed materials about Cyprus.

**HANDCRAFTS, *by hand…***

Presentation of a series of ecological treasures, handmades, religious handcrafts, magnificent fruits of the love and patience of the monks of Cyprus.

The handcrafts will be available for sale as well.

**AROUND THE FIREPLACE**

Representation of the gathering area, the home where the family gathers on the Dodekameron - Holy “Twelve days” to chat, tell stories around the warmth of the burning fire that heats the hearts of the people and brings them closer to these days of love.

**PAINTING THE DODEKAMERON - HOLY “TWELVE DAYS” – PAINTING WORKSHOPS**

Organizing painting workshops with an educational notebook of painting titled «Customs of the Dodekameron - Holy "Twelve days” in Cyprus».

Organised visits in both the Exhibition and the painting workshops.

The Catalogue of the Exhibition and the Painting Notebook will be available free.

Entrance to exhibitions and workshops is free.

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For organised visits: sekretariat@ethnomuseum.pl