



# CATHOLIC MARITIME NEWS

National  
Maritime  
Day  
May 22

May 2006

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## AOS USA holds Fifth Annual Conference April 25-28 *Discussions focused on ministry in a secular environment*



**David Carlin's talk on the decline of the Catholic church and cultural change in America sparked intense discussion.**

The fifth annual AOS USA National Conference was held April 25-28 at the Texas Maritime Academy at Texas A&M, Galveston.

Approximately 40 members attended, representing mariners, port ministers and cruise ship priests.

Discussions centered around issues relating to ministry in a growing secular environment, as maritime ministry certainly is. Delivering keynote addresses were professor David Carlin, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Catholic Church in America*, and canon lawyer Jennifer Haselberger, discussing the Rent-A-Priest program and the complications this organization creates, particularly in the context of cruise ship ministry.

The conference opened Tuesday afternoon with a meeting of the Administrative Board and committee meetings, followed by dinner and a welcome from AOS USA President Fr. Sinclair Oubre, who outlined the conference agenda for the next three days.

"This conference gives us an opportunity to meet, network and pray together. We will also have the opportunity to reflect on how the changing maritime environment, and the changing secular environment in which we live is affecting our ability to reach the people of the sea. David and Jennifer's reflections will contextualize this changing environment."

Wednesday, after Morning Prayer, attendees received a warm welcome from Dr. Jim McCloy, Superintendent of the Texas Maritime Academy and Texas A&M Galveston, who were gracious hosts throughout.

AOS USA Bishop Promoter Curtis Guillory thanked participants for their work in ministry to people of the sea and offered his encouragement and continuing support of the work of AOS USA.

Msgr. Jacques Harel, of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People offered his encouragement as well as hopes for the work of the conference as AOS USA strives toward improving the lives of seafarers and the quality of pastoral care they receive from the church.

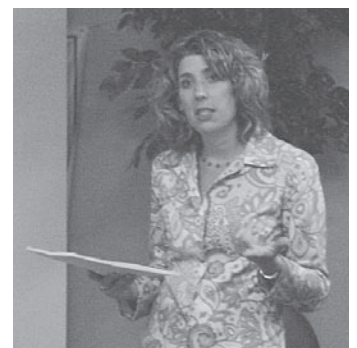
Joining the participants to con-celebrate Mass, Archbishop Daniel DiNardo extended a warm welcome also. "We in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston are happy to have you here, and we pray for you in your mission."

Fr. John A. Jamnicky, AOS USA National Director, offered reflections on the role of that position and the progress the organization has made in the past six years since he started.

One of the first measures was adopting a different name - AOS USA rather than the National Conference of Catholic Seafarers - to make the connection with AOS worldwide more clear.

Other changes have included a greater focus on training opportunities for port chaplains, increasing the circulation and scope of *Catholic Maritime News*, and maintaining a presence on the board of the ecumenical maritime ministry, NAMMA.

**CONFERENCE, page 11**



**Jennifer Haselberger's discussion of the Rent-a-Priest phenomenon was of particular interest to the AOSUSA Cruise Ship Priests present.**

*The text of Resolutions and Committee Reports adopted at the 2006 AOS USA Annual Conference appear on pages 5-10. Names of the newly elected Executive Board appear in the left-hand column of page 2.*

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## **President's Column ...**

### **Great Meeting In Galveston**



We've just finished up with our general meeting in Galveston, and I want to thank the membership for entrusting another two years of leadership to me.

I have made as a personal goal for myself the expansion of AOSUSA's mariner membership.

I and our new vice president, Jon Furukawa, truly wish to see AOSUSA also become the Catholic Professional Mariners Association.

I want to draw your attention to the resolutions that were passed at our meeting, and are enclosed in this issue. I hope that you will take them as your guide for the coming year.

I also want to draw your attention to the resolution concerning the office of National Director. Please use this as a model, and express your concern to your diocesan bishop and the leaders at the USCCB. To save this office will require us demonstrating its importance.



**Members of the newly elected Board of AOS USA (listed at left) gathered for a photo following the biannual election held at the Annual Conference this year at the Texas Maritime Academy at Texas A&M, Galveston.**

### ***Please Pray for:***

- Repose of the Soul of Mr. Gilbert Martinez of Texas A&M University at Galveston, and for his family and the staff of TAMUG.

- *M/V Mercury*, Celebrity Cruise Ship

# Maritime Day observances planned

*Editor's Note: AOSUSA will be sponsoring a Maritime Day Mass in conjunction with the Maritime Administration at St. Dominic Church in Washington, D.C. Fr. Jamnicky, Fr. Sinclair and Doreen Badeaux will be participating. The main presider is expected to be Cardinal McCarrick of Washington, D.C.*

## National Maritime Day, National Transportation Week to be commemorated, celebrated in USA

*As reported by the US Coast Guard*

Washington - A little known American commemorative date is approaching on May 22. Working behind the scenes, a group of Washington, D.C., maritime industry officials hope to make this an event one the whole nation embraces.

In 1933, Congress decreed May 22 as National Maritime Day. Each year since it has been a day for the United States to observe its proud maritime heritage, honor the men and women who serve and have served as merchant mariners, and recognize the many benefits that result from our American maritime industry. National Maritime Day also follows on the heels of National Transportation Week, which the U.S. Department of Transportation has announced will run the week of May 14-20.

As a way to underscore the critical importance of the maritime industry to the national transportation network, this year the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD), supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the American Association of Port Authorities, The Propeller Club of the United States, Waterways Council, Inc., and other maritime groups, will introduce an awareness campaign designed to focus national attention on the maritime industry. Called, "Maritime Matters," the campaign will help to communicate the value of the maritime industry in relation to the economy, national security, jobs, environmental protection, agriculture, quality of life, recreation and more.

For example, according to MARAD, our nation's ports and coastal and inland waterways support the annual movement of more than 2.5 billion tons of domestic and international commerce. They also generate significant local and regional economic development, support nearly 5 million jobs and provide facilities for some 8 million cruise and 113 million ferry passengers annually.

On May 22, commemorative activities will take place across the country-at seaports and along inland waterways-in combination with National Maritime Day observances in Washington, D.C. To visit the Web site MARAD has developed to help U.S. ports and cities disseminate information on their respective National Maritime Day events, go to <http://www.marad.dot.gov/> and click on the "National Maritime Day" toolbar.

This site provides up-to-date information on National Maritime Day commemorative activities across the country, along with a history of why the observance day came into being and how the maritime industry has evolved to touch each and every American life.

## Debut for Hellenic Maritime Day - Celebrations honour shipping and raise its profile

*As reported by Nigel Lowery in Lloyd's List  
Wednesday April 05 2006*

GREECE'S shipping industry is today celebrating Hellenic Maritime Day, the first of what is conceived as an annual date in the calendar to salute the achievements of the world's largest ship owning and operating industry, although there is an eye on the future too.

Befitting what has traditionally been an independent entrepreneurial business, the day is a private initiative under the aegis of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping, but has been enthusiastically supported by all quarters of the industry, labour as well as the government.

Chamber president George Gratsos said the goal of a national day was threefold: to honour the seamen, seagoing businessmen and shipping company staff; to inform the public about the "huge contribution" shipping has made to the country and to make high school students aware of the option of a seafaring career.

"There is a feelgood factor to it," said Mr Gratsos. "But it is also necessary that there is public awareness of the industry."

Just a few days ago new figures showed that Greeks remained collectively the largest shipowning nationality, with 190m dwt under their control.

But this was contrasted with shrinkage of the Greek flag — which owners are painting as a potential calamity for the nation's shipping, since the home register is seen as the nursery for new Greek officers.

"We want to let young people know that ships can provide a good life and that if you are good it can be the start of a good career ashore — even, who knows, as a shipowner," commented Mr Gratsos.

Some 200,000 booklets introducing the industry have been despatched to schools all over the country.

Greek shipping ministry general secretary Professor John Tzoanos said: "The image of shipping is a big subject. If the general public has a better idea of what the industry is all about then it is easier to do the right thing in policy-making."

John Platsidakis, chamber vice-president, said the day had resulted from nearly three years of effort after reading in Lloyd's List of another national maritime day in 2003.

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• **Send us photos from the Maritime Memorial Day observances in your ports. We would like to reprint them in CMN. Be sure to describe the memorial activities and who was represented there, and remember to include identifying information for the pictures.** •

• **Email information to: [aosusa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aosusa@sbcglobal.net)** •

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## Merchant Marine

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### Message to all Merchant Mariners

on National Maritime Day &  
National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners  
May 22, 2006

From the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

*The professional association of Catholic Mariners and the official Catholic organization for Cruise Ship Priests and Catholic Maritime Ministers, held its annual meeting at the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas. We give thanks for your maritime vocation, which we share.*

**As you continue your pilgrimage across the waters may we assure you that we recognize and thank you for:**

- Your service to God and Mankind. Your work is crucial to the well-being of economic progress and maritime safety in these troubled times;
- Helping us see the face of Christ in the cadet, dock worker, fisherman, blue & brown water merchant mariner, and retired seafarer;
- Showing us the dignity of seafarers, who like James and John learned from their father Zebedee, to find God's presence in the bounty of the sea;
- Your personal sacrifice of separation from family and loved ones. This sacrifice gives testimony to what is good and human.

**As you journey, remember that you are called:**

- To be the presence of Christ to others. You are entrusted to bring a spark of divine light to those you come in to contact with on board and ashore;
- To be a fully responsible person showing the dignity of God within you. While the burdens of your life-style are not understood by most of society, we urge you to be fully responsible for your own personal actions, safety and well-being. You are a steward of God's Creation in all that you do. Guard the purity of God's seas, the sky and land. You are a child of God, a member of a family, and a member of a community. You are important and unique and must treat yourself as such;
- To be faithful to those who have sailed before you, remember that you have the vocation of a professional merchant mariner. We urge you to bring dignity to your profession, constantly growing in knowledge and skill. By your example, may you inspire trainees, cadets and future mariners to walk in your footsteps.
- To work toward spiritual and personal growth. Remember, God travels with you. Make a place for God.

**Be assured that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America, in our shared pilgrimage:**

- Sees the suffering Christ in those who endured Hurricanes KATRINA, RITA, & WILMA, and those fishermen who struggle to recover their livelihood; crewmembers and passengers of the Cruise Ship CELEBRITY MILLENNIUM, Tug VALOUR, M/V SELANDANG AYU, Crew Boat RENE I, and the Passenger Ferry AL SALAM BOCCACCIO 98;
- Stands in solidarity with you in these trying days of port security which may often leave you, or your mates with no access to shore leave, phones or communication with your loved ones;
- Stands ready to serve you in the Mission of Christ, by caring for your spiritual, emotional and material needs while you are in port in a far away land;
- Continues to "put out into the deep" for you and with you, as you face difficulties on unfamiliar shores;
- Offers you the Sacraments of the Church. You are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our most important gift to each other is the gift of Christ.

### Professional Development Column ...



**Capt. David Teel**

retiring. In fact, he sailed with me on my last trip before I retired.

### THINKING OR PLANNING ABOUT MOVING ASHORE OR RETIREMENT

During this last month, I had the opportunity to talk to one of my KP classmates about retirement. He is two years away from

You can imagine how this conversation went. As I had been through this process, I was the "expert," and my classmate the "student." From my own experience and what questions my close friend was asking, the answer was obvious to even a merchant seaman: **PLAN EARLY.**

I realize it is easy to say that, but the devil is in the details. First, don't wait till your last day aboard ship; it is too late then. The first question one has to ask is: what do you want to do with the rest of your life? Stop and think about that question; it is scary. Do you want to start a second career, spend it with your family, start a family, or go back to school?

I think having several goals is the best way to go. Realize that things will not go according to your plan. Your family, friends, job hunting skills, and the job market will all have a big impact on what you do. Do not lock yourself into one specific plan of action concerning family life and/or work. Understand that coming ashore and/or retirement is major league readjustment for you, family and friends. It does take time to adjust to a completely different lifestyle ashore, and remember that you may have to try several different plans.

This thought process is one that you should use if you are thinking about retirement but also if you are deciding to come ashore any time short of retirement. I have never met another mariner who has not thought about quitting and/or retirement; it seems to be something that all mariners do.

Feel free to e-mail me at [kps77@cox.net](mailto:kps77@cox.net) with questions about training, advancement, or a career at sea.

*Capt. David Teel has 20 years sea service as a member of the American Maritime Officers' Union, including 7 years as Master in command of tankers and Roll-on/Roll-off vessels. He was Senior Deck Instructor at AMO's STAR Center and has worked for the last six years at the National Maritime Center as a Marine Transportation Specialist in the Course Instructor Approval Branch. He is a graduate of King's Point (USMMA) and has a Masters of Quality Systems Management from the National Graduate School.*

## Annual Conference - 2006

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America was held April 25-28 at Texas A&M University at Galveston Maritime Academy. During the conference, the following resolutions were passed unanimously by the General Assembly.

### A Resolution to Honor, Thank and Pray for His Eminence Stephen Fumio Cardinal Hamao upon his Retirement

WHEREAS His Eminence Stephen Fumio *Cardinal* Hamao has retired after serving 8 years as President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People;

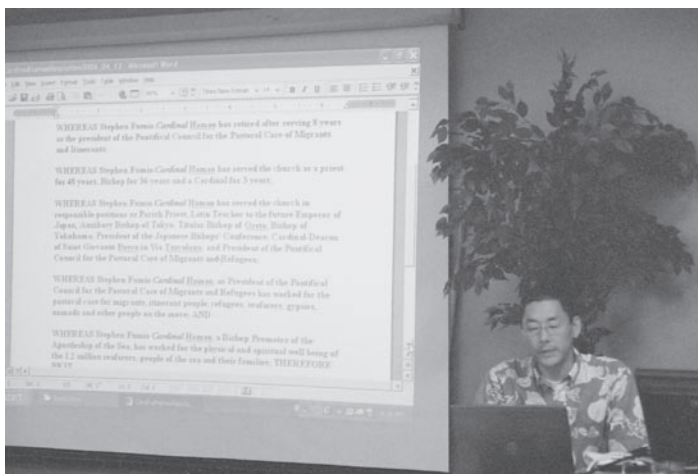
WHEREAS *Cardinal* Hamao has served the church as a priest for 48 years, Bishop for 36 years and a Cardinal for 3 years;

WHEREAS *Cardinal* Hamao has served the church in responsible positions as Parish Priest, Latin Teacher to the future Emperor of Japan, Auxiliary Bishop of Tokyo, Titular Bishop of Oretto, Bishop of Yokohama, President of the Japanese Bishops' Conference, Cardinal-Deacon of Saint Giovanni Bosco in Via Tuscolana, and President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People;

WHEREAS *Cardinal* Hamao, as President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People has worked for the pastoral care for migrants, itinerant people, refugees, seafarers, gypsies, nomads and other people on the move; AND

WHEREAS *Cardinal* Hamao, as President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, has worked for the physical and spiritual well being of the 1.2 million seafarers, people of the sea and their families; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA), during its 2006 Annual Conference at the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas hereby honors, thanks and prays for Stephen Fumio *Cardinal* Hamao on his retirement as President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.



Jon Furukawa reads the text of a resolution he proposed during the meeting.



During the luau dinner on Wednesday night, Msgr. Harel and Fr. Sinclair presented Fr. Jamnicky with special gifts in recognition of his service to AOS USA as National Director.

### A Resolution to Honor, Thank and Pray for the Reverend Father John A. Jamnicky for his tenure as National Director, Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

WHEREAS the Reverend Father John A. Jamnicky has served from 2000 to 2006, as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees, Coordinator for Human Mobility Apostolates National Director, Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America;

WHEREAS in this position, Father Jamnicky promoted, established, supported, and coordinated all ministries of the Catholic Church in the United States of America for 'people on the move' to include all port chaplains, cruise ship priests, airport chaplains, all ministries relating to land transportation such as bus stations, railroad stations, truck stops, rest stops on highways and lastly the tourism ministries relating to tourism including theme parks, national parks and major tourist centers;

WHEREAS Father Jamnicky has coordinated the pastoral care of over a million American and foreign 'people of the sea' and their families through 10 seafarer centers, 48 port chaplaincies, 745 port chaplains, cruise ship priests, mariners and volunteer members of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America; AND

WHEREAS in this position, Father Jamnicky has represented the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America on the North American Maritime Ministry Association Board of Directors; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA), during its 2006 Annual Conference at the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas hereby honors, thanks and prays for the Reverend Father John A. Jamnicky for his six-year tenure as National Director of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America.

## Annual Conference - 2006

### A Resolution to Thank the Texas Maritime Academy



Participants gathered for a group photo on the TAMUG campus.

WHEREAS, the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America is the professional association of Catholic Mariners and the official Roman Catholic organization for Cruise Ship Priests and Catholic Maritime Ministers in the United States;

WHEREAS the mission of Texas A&M University at Galveston is a special purpose institution of higher education for undergraduate instruction in marine and maritime studies in science, engineering, and business and for research and public

service related to the general field of marine resources; Texas A&M University at Galveston programs focus on the scientific, technical, business, socioeconomic, and environmental policy issues concerning the oceans, coastal regions, and maritime industries;

WHEREAS RADM James M. McCloy, Superintendent of the Texas Maritime Academy and his Faculty, Staff, Officers, Crew, Students and Corps of Cadets of the Texas Maritime Academy, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Texas also known as the 'Sea Aggies' have been gracious hosts to the AOSUSA Port Chaplains, Cruise Ship Priests, Mariners and Volunteers for the past week; AND

WHEREAS RADM James M. McCloy, Superintendent of the Texas Maritime Academy and his Faculty, Staff, Officers, Crew, Students and Corps of Cadets have provided for us a wonderful meeting facility, great food, exemplary service, and their friendship; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA), sincerely thanks the Sea Aggies of the Texas Maritime Academy, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Texas for hosting the 2006 AOSUSA Annual Conference.



The TAMUG Color Guard flew the AOS USA flag during the conference.



### A Resolution supporting Human Rights for and the end of the Systematic Criminalization of Seafarers

WHEREAS, the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America is the professional association of Catholic Mariners and the official Roman Catholic organization for Cruise Ship Priests and Catholic Maritime Ministers in the United States;

WHEREAS, there have been substantial socio-economic changes in the quality of life of the people of the sea;

WHEREAS, there is serious concern at the lack of all nations' legal defences available to seafarers to protect their human rights, to uphold their personal dignity and be paid a living wage, and fair conditions of employment;

WHEREAS, there is concern about frequent denial of shore leave for seafarers visiting foreign ports, arbitrary provisions for penalties in employment contracts on cruise ships and tendencies to regard all maritime accidents as criminal conduct; AND

WHEREAS, the texts agreed by the Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers at its 2<sup>nd</sup> session in London *On the Development on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the event of a Maritime Accident and of the Consolidated Maritime Labour Convention* done at the 94<sup>th</sup> (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva that sets minimum requirement for seafarers to work



on ships; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA), during its 2006 Annual Conference at the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas urges all those responsible for the treatment of seafarers such as government officials, employers, and supervisors of seamen to always observe the human rights of seafarers and comply with the principles of the *Guidelines for the Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the event of a Maritime Accident and of the Standards, Regulations and Guidance contained in the ILO's Consolidated Maritime Labour Convention of 2006*; AND

**RESOLVED**, to assist within a nation's administrative, juridical or private law system to protect the social and economic welfare of the people of the sea working on board ships or ashore.

## Annual Conference - 2006

### A Resolution to Work for the Ratification of ILO Maritime Labour Convention 2006

WHEREAS, the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America is the professional association of Catholic Mariners and the official Roman Catholic organization for Cruise Ship Priests and Catholic Maritime Ministers in the United States;

WHEREAS the 94<sup>th</sup> Maritime Session of the International Labour Organization met from February 7-23, 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland with the intention of adopting a new comprehensive maritime, labour, and standard convention;

WHEREAS this 94<sup>th</sup> ILO Maritime Session adopted the new convention called the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 on February 23, 2006;

WHEREAS Stephen Fumio *Cardinal* Hamao, past President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, at the Holy See (Vatican City), has noted that "This Convention will make a great difference to the life of the 1.2 million seafarers and their families, as it will ensure that the health, safety, working conditions and general welfare of seafarers are given primary importance;" AND

WHEREAS *Cardinal* Hamao further calls on the Apostleship of the Sea to "encourage and urge all the member States who have voted this Convention to ensure that it is now ratified and properly implemented worldwide;" THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA), during its 2006 Annual Conference at the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas welcomes the adoption of the new Maritime Labour Convention 2006; AND

**RESOLVED**, that AOSUSA calls upon the other related organizations such as maritime unions and national & religious maritime welfare organizations encourage the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Maritime Administration to support the ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, and work to have this convention ratified by the United States Senate, and have the United States a signatory to this convention.



Conference participants celebrated Mass together and prayed for mariners and those ministering to them throughout the world.



Rose Kearney of AOS Ireland, a Galveston Seafarers' Center Board Member, and Sr. Rachele Marando with AOS Progresso, Yucatan.

### A Resolution Regarding the Proposed Maritime Education Loan Program

Whereas the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America, the Catholic ministry to the people of the sea, and the Catholic Mariners Professional association, meeting at its annual meeting at the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas on April 28, 2006;

Whereas the AOSUSA acknowledges the important and vital role that the US Merchant Marine and US mariners play in the domestic and international transportation system.

Whereas the United States has established one national merchant marine academy, and six state-based maritime academies, with the exception of union based facilities such as the Harry Lundeburg School, there exist few training facilities for limited license mariners and unlicensed mariners;

Whereas many US merchant mariners find themselves trapped in their present license or rating because of the lack of funding for necessary training;

Whereas the implementation of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers in 2002 created challenges for US Merchant Mariners and their employers to fund the new and ongoing mandated training;

Whereas the maritime industry faces many STCW challenges of which not the least is the time and cost of certification as it applies to mariners advancing up the maritime career ladder or "Hawsepip".

Whereas the United States of America faces an aging pool of mariners, and many obstacles for young people to become professional mariners.

Whereas the proposed Maritime Education Loan Program legislation would go far in alleviating the current barriers that are discouraging incumbent mariners who wish to upgrade into a licensed position or higher unlicensed endorsement.

Be it resolved that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America expresses its support of the efforts of the Pacific Coast Maritime Consortium, and its effort at enacting the proposed Maritime Education Loan Program.

Be it further resolved that AOSUSA will encourage its members throughout the United States to support this legislation by communicating to his or her members of Congress the organization's support of this proposed legislation.

## Annual Conference - 2006

### A Resolution concerning the “Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2005”

WHEREAS, the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America is the professional association of Catholic Mariners and the official Roman Catholic organization for Cruise Ship Priests and Catholic Maritime Ministers in the United States;

WHEREAS, the World War II U.S. Merchant Marine made victory possible by being the *First to go into Action* with 243 Killed in Action prior to Pearl Harbor and amongst the first Prisoners of War and were also the *Last to Return* with 54 ships damaged by mines with in theater loss of life after V-E and V-J Day;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Mariners suffered the *Highest Casualty Rate* with 1 in 26 Killed in Action to include 1,500 ships sunk, 9,300 mariners killed, and 12,000 wounded;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Mariners *Delivered the Men and Material* that made victory possible, participating in every invasion from Normandy to Okinawa; and *Manned the Ships* by being recruited and trained by the U.S. Maritime Service, increasing from 55,000 to a wartime high of 250,000 seamen;

WHEREAS, U.S. Merchant Mariners were *Denied Veteran Benefits* to include unemployment, education, home or small business loans, priority of postwar jobs and medical care for disabilities; and *Struggled for Veteran Status* and finally received veterans status in 1988, over 40 years after the end of the war;

WHEREAS, the State of Pennsylvania has recently passed regulations rewarding surviving merchant mariners of World War II;

WHEREAS, U.S. Representatives Bob Filner (D-CA) and 248 others have cosponsored House Resolution 23, and 35 other have cosponsored Senate Resolution 1272 of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress to amend Title 46, United States Code, and Title II of the Social Security Act to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States Merchant Marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II; AND

WHEREAS, this Act may also be cited as the “Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2005”; and this Act provides \$1,000 per month to WWII mariners or their widows in lieu of benefits not received after World War II. The Bill also gives Social Security credit for time served in the merchant marine, like the credit given to others who served in the Army or Navy; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA), during its 2006 Annual Conference at the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas wishes to express its most sincere support for H.R. 23 and S. 1272 of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress and urges Congress to pass the “Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II.”

### A Resolution Concerning the Vacant Position of National Director, Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

WHEREAS the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, Coordinator for Human Mobility Apostolates also serves as the National Director, Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America;

WHEREAS the position of Coordinator for Human Mobility Apostolates is responsible to promote, establish, support, and coordinate all ministries of the Catholic Church in the United States of America for ‘people on the move’ to include all port chaplains, cruise ship priests, airport chaplains, all ministries relating to land transportation such as bus stations, railroad stations, truck stops, rest stops on highways and lastly the tourism ministries relating to tourism including theme parks, national parks and major tourist centers;

WHEREAS the position of National Director of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America is responsible for the coordinating the pastoral care of over a million American and foreign ‘people of the sea’ and their families through 10 seafarer centers, 48 port chaplaincies, 745 port chaplains, cruise ship priests, mariners and volunteer members of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America;

WHEREAS this position will be vacated on June 30, 2006 and will become a collateral duty within the Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees for the next two years; and the future of this position is uncertain due to the reorganization of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; AND

WHEREAS the loss of the office of National Director of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America will have consequences of the network of port chaplains and cruise ship priests; and the loss of this position will continue the erosion of seafarer rights to shore leave; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA), during its 2006 Annual Conference at the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas urges the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to fully fund and select a permanent replacement for the position of the National Director of the Apostleship of the Sea, and re-establish a separate Coordinator of the Human Mobility Apostolates.



**Cecilia Motus discusses the process the Bishops will undertake in reorganizing the USCCB.**

# Annual Conference - 2006

## Cruise Ship Priest Committee Report

April 4, 2006

The committee has had some difficulty in coming together as a committee, since we had no travel funds. We looked for a way to meet by e-mail. We made several attempts by setting a time to come on line and exchange messages, but it was awkward, so we finally decided to try phone conference calls. This seemed to work fairly well.

The major effort of the committee has been to revise the CRUISE PRIEST MANUAL. Fr Bob Sipe, the Chair, did most of the editing with input from all of the members. We included a new section of helpful hints which can easily be amended. The new manual should be available in time for the Conference in Texas.

We are presently making efforts to secure group travel rates for all AOS members. Fr Sipe contacted AAA Minnesota, and they are able to work with us. We are presently looking for other options by other travel agencies.

The committee at this time consists of:

Fr Bob Sipe, Chair, retired, Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Fr. James Knight, St Peter Church, Woodward, Oklahoma

Fr Lloyd Thiel, OFM, retired, Detroit, Michigan

Fr Robert Mc Graw, Queen of Peace, Jackson, Mississippi



Cruise Ship Priests Fr. Steve Wiese and Fr. William Reynolds enjoy visiting at the luau dinner prepared by Texas A&M chefs.



Fr. Oubre, Bishop Curtis Guillory, and Fr. Jamnicky prepare to celebrate Mass using new AOS vestments and altar hangings. Serving on cruise ships, many priests in the program have been encouraged by the devotion of the crew and passengers.

## Information from Fishing Committee

Fishing Committee Chairman Pietro Parravano was unable to attend the Annual Conference this year but sent information about a critical situation in the fishing community regarding health coverage for fishing families.

A press release from the Commercial Fishermen of America, included in Parravano's information, is reprinted below:

### The Commercial Fishermen of America Endorse Disaster

#### Response and Health Care Coverage Initiatives

Providence, Rhode Island April 7- As the fishing industry gathered for the annual Highliners Award Banquet at Fish Expo Workboat Atlantic to honor the fishing industry's outstanding leaders, steering committee members of the Commercial Fishermen of America voted to fully endorse two new initiatives involving legislation for Health Care for fishing families (HR 4940, Section 4e) and Disaster Relief for Fishing Communities (HR 4939, NOAA Appropriations for Operations, Research, and Facilities).

"Unity and cooperation, you simply cannot stress it too much," said Jimmy Ruhle, a past Highliner Award recipient and trawl operator from Wanchese, NC, "If we stand together, put aside our squabbles, we have a chance. Separate and divided, we shall fail."

To achieve that goal, the Commercial Fishermen of America has come together with fishermen from across the land, including fishermen from as far away as Alaska and Florida, to meet and form an organization that puts the needs of fishermen and their families first. Against the backdrop of bungled disaster response to the Gulf Hurricanes, the steering committee identified initial priorities for the group. "When we first met a year ago in New Orleans, things were bad," said shrimp activist Tracy Kuhns, "and that was before the hurricanes. We still don't even know where many of our fishermen are, how many of them even survived. The Commercial Fishermen of America asks fishermen and concerned citizens to write U.S. Congressmen to support the language in HR. 4939 that provides supplemental appropriations to NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities for Fisheries Disaster Relief in the amount of one billion and eighty-five million dollars total.

Health insurance continues to plague fishermen. "Nationally, the rate of uninsured fishermen is three to four times the national average," says David Bergeron, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership. Fishermen in Massachusetts have found a solution. The Fishing Partnership Health Plan has provided access to high quality, affordable health care coverage to Massachusetts fishing families since 1997. "Now fishermen have a chance to bring health care coverage to fishing families across the nation. We must all write letters to urge our U.S. Congressmen and Senators to include the Fishing Industry Health Care Coverage Demonstration Program in the final version of the Magnuson Stevens Act Reauthorization."

The Commercial Fishermen of America asks fishermen to visit their website of [www.cfafish.org](http://www.cfafish.org) to get more information on the two pieces of legislation endorsed and for information on how to take action on these initiatives. The group is also soliciting interest for memberships from fishing organizations.

# Annual Conference - 2006

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## AOSUSA Merchant Marine (Deep Sea) Annual Report 2006

### People:

- Global maritime workforce 1.2 million (BIMCO/ISF/ Warwick University 2005)
  - 466,000 officers (modest shortage of 10,000)
  - 721,000 ratings (significant surplus of 135,000)
    - Continuing supply shift from OECD to the Far East, SE Asia and E. Europe
    - Increasing overall demand for seafarers; pressure on certain grades and ship types
    - Ageing OECD senior officers and a lack of replacements from elsewhere
    - The need to increase training and recruitment and to reduce wastage
- 207,488 active U.S. merchant mariners Oceans, Lakes and Inland (2005)
  - Only 16 AOSUSA mariner members (up from 12)
  - "Recruit" more AOSUSA mariner members by annual letter to maritime academies

### Ships (self-propelled oceangoing vessels 1,000 gross tons and greater MARAD 2005):

- 29,036 entire world merchant fleet
- 931 U.S. owned (12<sup>th</sup> by flag and 6<sup>th</sup> by ownership)
- 418 U.S. flagged (178 are U.S. government owned)

### Ports:

Largest U.S. Coastal Ports by port call (MARAD 2005)

Houston, TX	SF Bay Ports	Savannah, GA	Jacksonville, FL
LA/L ong Beach	Phil/DE River	Charleston, SC	Miami, FL
New York, NY	VA Ports	Baltimore, MD	Texas City
New Orleans Ports	Columbia River	Port Arthur, TX	Tacoma, WA

### Security:

- Visa required by U.S. State Department
- Revised U.S. STCW Endorsement – more security features
- Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004
  - U.S. citizens will be required to have passport to reenter the U.S. after January 1, 2008
- Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2004
  - Transportation Workers' Identification Credential (TWIC)
  - Background search to ensure no terrorist connection
  - Will effect all U.S. maritime transportation workers (blue & brown water mariners, rail, pipeline, stevedores and truckers) that required unescorted access to MTSA regulated facilities and vessels

### Safety:

- International Labour Conference 94<sup>th</sup> (Maritime) Session (February 2006)
  - Minimum requirements for seafarers to work on a ship
  - Conditions of employment
  - Accommodations, recreation facilities, food and catering
  - Health protection, medical care, welfare, and social security protection
  - Compliance and enforcement

- 2004 Annual Flag List from U.S. Coast Guard Port State Safety Targeting Matrix

Antigua& Barbuda	Cyprus	Italy	Panama
Belize	France	Malaysia	St.Vin. & Gren.
Brazil	Gibraltar	Malta	Turkey
Cambodia	Honduras	Mexico	Ukraine
Croatia	India	NE Antilles	Venezuela

- Flag states removed from previous year's targeted list

Algeria	Bolivia	Cayman Islands	Lithuania	Rep. of Korea
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### House Resolutions (not passed):

- H.R.23/S. 1272 "Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariner of World War II Act of 2005." 248 House co-sponsors (more than half of 435) and 35 Senate sponsors. No hearings, no movement.

CONFERENCE

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Additionally, endorsed by the bishops, one of the first ever National Days of Prayer and Remembrance will be held this year on May 22, when every parish, priest, and bishop will offer prayers for mariners.

Perhaps most notably, AOS USA undertook the 'monstrous' job of instituting the Cruise Ship Priest Program, Fr. Jamnicky said. "There is nothing else like it in the world, and it has had great impact."

"People on the move are different than most people in the diocese. They're essentially visitors – only here for short periods of time – but they have great pastoral needs while they're here. It's important for us to extend hospitality but also to provide the sacraments, which they don't have available, often for months at a time."

"AOS USA is a ministry of the local church," he said, "so it is vital to establish relationships with the bishops. They're the ones who appoint the chaplains and need to be aware of this special need."

With Fr. Jamnicky leaving, members feel this is especially pressing, so that the ministry will continue to have the impact of recent years.



TAMUG chefs prepared a wonderful luau dinner Wednesday, complete with a whole roast pig. The pig was not the only one roasted that night, though!

Fr. John A. Jamnicky, National Director of AOS USA for the past six years, will be leaving this position and move to Chicago, where he will have the opportunity to start a new church. Grateful colleagues surprised him with gifts and offered their best wishes on his new assignment and appreciation for his work in AOS USA.

"Thank you; it has been a blessing to serve with such dedicated people," he said. "I will always be involved with AOS USA in some way. I plan to continue as a cruise ship priest, and you will all stay in my prayers."

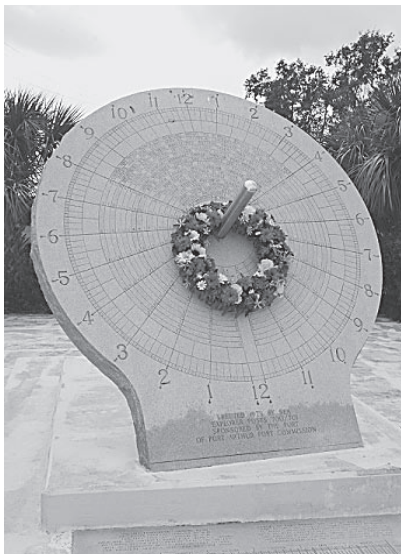


Msgr. Harel presents Fr. Jamnicky with a rosary blessed by the Holy Father, a gift from Cardinal Hamao.



Karen Lai of AOS Galveston/Texas City presented the Maritime Samaritan Award to Lt. Joseph Leonard of the USCG Galveston for his role in the Coast Guard's response to Hurricane Rita.

35th Anniversary of Texaco Oklahoma sinking remembered in ceremony



Earlier this month, a prayer and remembrance service was held at the Port Arthur International Seafarers' Center to commemorate the 1971 sinking of the Texaco Oklahoma off Cape Hatteras. The names of all the crew members lost in that event were read aloud and prayers offered for them and their families. One member of the crew who survived the sinking, Willie Jacquet, shared memories of that day and memories of crewmates who died. Family members of other crew members shared memories as well. A wreath was placed on the merchant marine memorial sundial.

## “Survivors” - at the Australian War Memorial in New South Wales



At the Australian War Memorial in Newcastle, New South Wales is a bronze sculpture entitled “Survivors” recognizing the contributions of merchant mariners in World War I and World War II.

The memorial is formed on the central block of three large concrete and stone structures in the sculpture garden on the west side of the main Australian War Memorial building. The north and south sides of the block carry plaques recording the names and ships of merchant seamen who died during World War I and World War II. On the west side of the block is a bronze sculpture depicting men helping others into a rubber raft.

“Survivors” was designed by Dennis Adams who was a war artist in World War II. The sculpture was cast in Sydney and acquired in 1973. Below the sculpture is a flat surface of polished black granite in the centre of which is a circular light for illuminating the work.

The inscription on the lower left hand corner of the flat surface below the sculpture reads as follows:

“This memorial commemorates the service and sacrifice of Australian merchant seamen who manned ships in all parts of the world during the First and Second World Wars.”

The support these men provided was vital to the success of the war effort. Merchant ships carried vital supplies and troops but were vulnerable to enemy attack because they were generally slow, poorly armed and often loaded with dangerous cargoes.

On the right hand lower corner of flat surface is the Insignia of the Merchant Navy.

Apostleship of the Sea USA  
USCCB  
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### Upcoming Events For Maritime Ministry

**May 22, 2006** National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners

**May 22, 2006** National Maritime Day

**July 9, 2006** Sea Sunday

**June 24-29, 2007** AOS World Congress - Gdynia, Poland