

**Message to all Merchant Mariners on Maritime Day  
May 22, 2005  
From the Apostleship of the Sea of the U.S.A.**

The Annual meeting was held just after the death of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. He proclaimed this the Year of the Eucharist, which means Thanksgiving. We give thanks for your maritime vocation, which we share.

As you continue your pilgrimage across the waters in this Year of the Eucharist, 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, 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 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 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 the tsunami and those fishermen who struggle to recover their livelihood.
- ★ 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, particularly in this Year of the Eucharist. You are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our most important gift to each other is the gift of Christ.

**A Resolution To Ask the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral  
Care of Migrants and Itinerant Persons to Request the  
Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the  
Sacraments Renew an *ad interim* approval of the English  
Translation of the  
Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea**

**WHEREAS, The Holy Father Pope Pius XII wished to encourage the devotion of the Church Maritime, and so granted a new and special Mass in honor of Our Lady under the liturgical title of "Stella Maris" for the Apostleship of the Sea.**

**WHEREAS, on the Feast of Our Lady's Presentation, November 21, 1957, the Sacred Congregation of Rites granted the privilege of this special Mass to His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Siri, President of the Apostleship of the Sea - Italy and Archbishop of Genoa.**

**WHEREAS, on August 17, 1964, at the request of Bishop Robert E. Tracy, Episcopal Promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea in the United States of America, the Sacred Congregation for Rites approved an English translation for the Church in the United States.**

**WHEREAS, on March 1, 1991, the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments promulgated a renewed text for the Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea.**

**WHEREAS, the same congregation gave approval on December 28, 1994, to a new English translation of the Mass, and approved it *ad interim* for a period of three years.**

**WHEREAS, the *ad interim* approval expired on December 27, 1997, and has not been renewed.**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America meeting during its 2005 Annual Conference at the California Maritime Academy wishes to humbly request the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Persons to communicate to the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, and request a renewal of the *ad interim* approval of the English translation of the Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea, so that English speaking Catholics can continue to Honor Our Lady in the Mass as "Star of the Sea."**

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

**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 Marine 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 Marine *Delivered the Men and Material* that made victory possible, participating in every invasion from Normandy to Okinawa;**

**WHEREAS, U.S. Merchant Mariners *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;**

**WHEREAS, U.S. Merchant Mariners *Struggled for Veteran Status* and finally received veterans status in 1988, over 40 years after the end of the war;**

**WHEREAS, U.S. Representatives Bob Filner (D-CA) and 120 others have cosponsored House Resolution 23 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;**

**WHEREAS, this Act may also be cited as the “Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2005;”**

**WHEREAS, 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;**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America meeting during its 2005 Annual Conference at the California Maritime Academy wishes to express its most sincere support for H.R. 23 of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress to pass a Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II.**