



CATHOLIC MARITIME NEWS

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AOS USA holds Third Annual Conference April 13-16

Discussions focused on ecumenism, shore leave rights

The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America held its Third Annual Conference in Traverse City, Michigan on April 13-16, 2004.

Over 40 participants were present for the Conference which was held at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. Rear-Admiral John G. Tanner, was a gracious host, and gave a very informative lecture about the maritime world on the Great Lakes. Most of our own Port Chaplains have expertise regarding the maritime world on the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf Coasts, but few know the world of the Great Lakes, so his talk was most appreciated by all.

Other speakers included Fr. Anthony Gittins and Fr. Arthur Kennedy, who spoke on the role of Ecumenism within Maritime Ministry. These sessions allowed everyone time to discuss how to dialogue and work with people of other faiths, in the truest spirit of Ecumenism, for the well-being of all seafarers, without losing our Catholic identity.

Captain William G. Schubert, Administrator for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, spoke to the assembly regarding the difficulties and accomplish-



Great Lakes Maritime Academy, Traverse City, Michigan

ments which have been made regarding port security and shore-leave rights for seafarers. He fielded many questions from Port Chaplains who now deal frequently with seafarers denied shore leave. We appreciate his willingness to speak with us, and his open and honest answers.

For the first time, AOS USA also had Cruise Ship Priest Members present. The Cruise Ship Priest Program only began in October of 2003, when the first brochures were mailed out. By October 30, there were 10 Cruise Ship Priest (CSP) members. By time the Annual Conference rolled around, there were 446 CSP members! We were excited that so many of them took time to attend the conference and to learn more about the full scope of maritime ministry. In deed, the Cruise Ship Priest members learned about Port Ministry, but our Port Chaplains also learned about the ministry on board Cruise Ships. In short, everyone present expanded their knowledge and left with a broader view of the ministry to the men and women of the sea.



Approximately 40 representatives of AOS chaplaincies from across the US attended the conference.

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The Academy, still under construction, had a breath taking view of the Great Lakes. Everyone had the opportunity to dine on board the *M/V State of Michigan* and tour the vessel with the help of the cadets. We are most appreciative to Rear-Admiral John G. Tanner, the cadets and staff of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy for making our conference such a positive experience for all.



Fr. Jacques Harel, of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People, updates conference attendees on AOS Vatican & World-wide issues.

During the conference, new officers and board members were elected to the Board of Directors. The new officers and board are listed at left.

At the Conference, several resolutions were passed. All resolutions are re-printed in this edition of Catholic Maritime News. We urge each reader to share the resolutions with any appropriate entities in your own home port. For example, the Resolution to the Coast Guard, should be shared with your local Coast Guard Commander or MSO. If you need additional copies, we will happily e-mail them to you. Send your e-mail request to Doreen Badeaux in the National Office at aosusa@sbcglobal.net.



Rear Admiral John Tanner and his wife joined Rev. Fr. John A. Jamnicky, AOS National Director, for dinner during the conference.

Please Pray for:

The Parishioners & Staff of Ss. Columba & Brigid Catholic Church in Buffalo, NY, which was destroyed by a fire on Palm Sunday. The Pastor is one of our newest Cruise Ship Priest members, Fr. Roy Herberger. Please keep Fr. Roy and the entire church family in your prayers.

Rest of the soul of Mrs. Frances Hope Donnelly Smith, mother of mariner member Capt. J.D. Smith.

Safety of all on land and sea in the path of hurricanes during the 2004 hurricane season, which began June 1.

AOS USA passes resolutions at annual conference

The 3rd Annual Conference of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America was held April 8 at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, Michigan. During the conference, the following resolutions were passed unanimously by the General Assembly.

A Resolution Affirming the Role of Ecumenism Within Maritime Ministry

Grateful for the values and friendships that the ecumenical progress of our Churches and Ecclesial Communities have permitted, and encouraged over the past forty years, we, the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America, participants in the Roman Catholic maritime apostolate, commit ourselves to support the continuation of authentic ecumenical cooperation and collaboration.

In this context we promise continuation of common ecumenical prayer services wherein together Christians may grow in following the gift of the Holy Spirit in seeking fuller unity of the Church, the Body of Christ.

We also acknowledge the value of being able to share in giving common Christian witness to all mariners and people of the sea. Together we all benefit from Christian hospitality and counseling which contributes to the spiritual aid of so many.

Because of our respect for this mission, which is God's work, we will continue to encourage and assist those whom we serve and who express a particular need related to their own communion to seek support from their proper church or ecclesial community representative.

In the same spirit of authentic ecumenical cooperation, we ask that pastors and representatives of other churches and ecclesial communities support the exercise of similar assistance to Roman Catholics who are in need of Catholic pastoral and spiritual care.

Be it resolved that continued ecumenical cooperation and collaboration will be grounded in respect for the authentic teachings and practices of each Christian communion.

A resolution passed by the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ appears on page 7.

A Resolution Thanking the Great Lakes Maritime Academy

WHEREAS the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA) held its third annual national conference at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy April 13-16, 2004;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Maritime Academy provided the meeting place, hospitality and catering for the conference;

WHEREAS, the liturgical, conference and hospitality of AOSUSA

was exceeded in every respect;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America wishes to thank Rear Admiral John Tanner, his staff and the cadets of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy for their wonderful hospitality during the 2004 National Conference of the Apostleship of the Sea, and dedicate our prayers to all at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy that God will bless them in their lives, and careers in the maritime industry.

A Resolution Thanking the United States Coast Guard for Their Efforts in Defending Mariners' Rights to Shore Leave

WHEREAS, in the wake of the attacks on the United States of America on September 11, 2001, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (now U.S. Customs and Border Protection) severely restricted the access of non-U.S. seafarers to shore leave;

WHEREAS, thousands of seafarers have been denied shore leave and medical care because of these policy changes;

WHEREAS, the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA) and other seafarer ministry organizations and seafarer welfare agencies have vociferously decried the loss of *Crew List Visas* and the loss of the authority of Custom and Border Protection officials to waive D-1 Visas for visiting mariners;

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard has actively supported the rights of seafarers to access shore leave;

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard has introduced and actively promoted the concept of a new seafarer identification document, and the principles of the International Labour Organization Convention 185;

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard has warmly welcomed the input of AOSUSA, and has incorporated its concerns in its rule making for ship and port security plans;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State has refused to consider the points raised by AOSUSA, seafarer maritime ministries, maritime unions and other seafarer welfare agencies, and has issued the final rule eliminating the crew list visa and explicitly rejecting the principle of accepting the new seafarer identification document

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America meeting during its 2004 Annual Conference at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy wishes to express its most sincere thanks and appreciation to the thousands of men and women of the United States Coast Guard for their efforts in overcoming the onerous policies that have prevented seafarers from access shore leave;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AOSUSA looks forward to
Continued on the next page.

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continuing the cooperative efforts with the United States Coast Guard in assisting the more than one million foreign seafarers who visit our ports, and to eventually develop policies and procedures that will reduce the more onerous effects of the U.S. Department of State's policies.



Conference attendees toured the Academy's vessel. Pictured above, from top left are, Deacon Joe Connick, Rose Kearney, Br. Jim Horan, Fr. Henry Hernando, Fr. Jim Boyd, and in front, Cadet Tour Guide and Fr. Willy Verboomen.

A Resolution Thanking the United States Maritime Administration for Their Efforts in Defending Mariners' Rights to Shore Leave

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WHEREAS, thousands of seafarers have been denied shore leave and medical care because of these policy changes;

WHEREAS, the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA) and other seafarer ministry organizations and seafarer welfare agencies have vociferously decried the loss of *Crew List Visas* and the loss of the authority of Custom and Border Protection officials to waive D-1 Visas for visiting mariners;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Maritime Administration has actively supported the rights of seafarers to access shore leave;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State has refused to consider the points raised by U.S. Maritime Administration, AOSUSA, seafarer maritime ministries, maritime unions and other seafarer welfare agencies, and has issued the final rule eliminating the crew list visa and explicitly rejecting the principle of accepting the new seafarer identification document

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America meeting during its 2004 Annual Conference at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy wishes to express its most

sincere thanks and appreciation to Capt. William Schubert and the dedicated men and women of the United States Maritime Administration for their efforts in overcoming the onerous policies that have prevented seafarers from access shore leave;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AOSUSA looks forward to continuing the cooperative efforts with the United States Maritime Administration in assisting the more than one million foreign seafarers who visit our ports, and to eventually develop policies and procedures that will reduce the more onerous effects of the U.S. Department of State's policies.

A Resolution Recognizing the United States Merchant Mariners in Harm's Way

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine has served the people of the United States valiantly since 1776;

WHEREAS, courageous United States Merchant mariners constructed and sustained *asteel bridge* across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans to support American and Allied forces fighting to for freedom to an oppressed Europe and Japan;

WHEREAS, United States Merchant mariners were instrumental to the success of our fighting forces on the Korean Peninsula, in Southeast Asia, and in myriad smaller conflicts throughout the world,

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine willingly places itself in dangerous and life threatening situations in order to deliver humanitarian supplies for our nation's humanitarian efforts throughout the world;

AND WHEREAS, the seafarers' of the United States Merchant Marine courageously and unselfishly place themselves in harms way to support America's fighting forces;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America in session at its 3rd Annual Conference at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, Michigan, sends its prayers and support to our U.S. merchant mariners who are transporting humanitarian and military cargo to the war zones of the Middle East. May God carry you in the palm of His hands. May His seas be calm and His weather fair. And may Our Lady Star of the Sea watch over you, and through her intercessions, bring you safely home to your family and friends.



Enjoying an evening out at the conference were, from left, Fr. Tony Haycock, Msgr. Patrick Gallagher, Renee Matyok, and Tom Matyok.

Message to all Merchant Mariners on Maritime Day, May 22, 2004

From the Apostleship of the Sea of the U.S.A.

As you continue your journey 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.
- ★ your work as bearers of the commodities whose source is God's Creation. By bringing these gifts to others, you contribute to the well-being of the citizens of the world.
- ★ 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 a lighthouse beacon 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 lifestyle 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. Despite your limited time for spiritual reflection, we urge you to do your utmost in this regard, to ensure that God has a space in your life. God travels with you. Make a place for God.

Be assured that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America:

- ★ Prays daily for your well-being, the well-being of your mates, and the well-being of your loved ones.
- ★ 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 be advocates 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.



AOS USA members celebrate Mass together at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy

AOS USA Members urged to consider maritime chaplain certification

All AOS USA members are urged to consider expanding their involvement in maritime ministry by seeking certification as Maritime Chaplains.

It is important to note that this is an opportunity, but NOT a requirement for members. It is an option open to you, if you wish to delve deeper into maritime ministry.

Here is a quote from our Resource person (Sister Janet Ryan, IHM) who assisted us in getting our renewal to continue certification:

“I was impressed with how this organization reaches out to some of the most abandoned people on earth. The AOSUSA chaplains are real justice advocates as well as ministers of the good news. I also learned that this group is very intentional about growing more culturally competent and sensitively aware of intra-faith issues. They are also addressing environmental issues with ship captains and port authorities.”

“There should be affirmation of that renewed commitment to professionalism. They should be encouraged to increasingly make use of their training program, certification process, annual meeting and continuing education program for professional growth and development.”

The updated MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF MARITIME CHAPLAINS is now available from Deacon Glenn Teske of AOS-Green Bay at (920) 499-0035 or by email at: gt-aosgb@execpc.com.

It is important to note that attendance at conferences can help you to gain hours needed for certification or renewal of certification. You may want to keep this in mind when considering future meetings.

Notes from on board Celebrity Cruise ships



Photo courtesy of Celebrity Cruise Line
Fr. Ivan Dyer celebrated Easter Mass on board the M/V Horizon. Fr. Dyer is a member of AOS USA's cruise ship priest program.

Celebrity Horizon hosts Easter Mass

In April, the Celebrity Horizon held Passover and Easter celebrations on board ship.

Rabbi Micael Mendelsohn led a Seder Service, and Fr. Ivan Dyer, one of AOS USA's cruise ship priests celebrated mass. Pastor Scott Williams and Fr. Dyer collaborated for an Ecumenical Sunrise Service Celebration Easter morning, and both were pleased with the event.

Romeo Burlat, Assistant Cruise Director of the M/V Horizon, related that the celebrations were a big success.

"We had the Catholic Mass at 8:00am then the Pastor conducted an Interdenominational service at 9:00am," Burlat said. "Both services catered to a large crowd."



Fr. Michael Barrosa, Cruise Ship Priest, celebrated Mass on the M/V Century. He also celebrated Mass with the crew, pictured at left.

Dear Doreen,

Please convey my deepest gratitude to Fr. Oubre for this great opportunity to be part of AOSUSA and join the cruise. It was a very memorable experience. I wish I had more time to give to the ministry. As chaplain I am glad for the opportunity to be able to reach out to the crew members and the guests. Indeed it was a rare opportunity. I hope it will be the beginning of many future cruises. The Assistant Cruise Director of the *M/V Century* wanted me to stay for six months, but I had to come back to reality! As they say, we board as guests, and we come down as cargo. The food was excellent. I evade looking at the mirror! I felt rested, and with great energy I am back again to my hospital ministry. Thanks again for your assistance.

Fr. Michael Barrosa

Letters to AOS USA

Letter from Stephen Fumio Cardinal Hamao

Vatican City, 24 May, 2004

Reverend and Dear Fr. Oubre:

Thank you very much for the pleasant surprise that reached me just this morning. The stole is beautiful, and I will wear it with the memory of the celebration of the AOS USA of the honor and responsibility the Holy Father bestowed on me in naming me Cardinal. As I have told my collaborators in the Pontifical Council as well as many other friends in the world of human mobility, the honor is also theirs, a recognition by the Holy Father of the importance of these apostolates. I am grateful for your participation in this cause of rejoicing for our Pilgrim Church.

Assuring you of my prayers for your efforts in helping the Lord enter into this too easily forgotten area of human mobility represented by the Apostolate of the Sea, I extend to you and your collaborators my sincere best wishes as we move towards celebrating the Solemnity of Pentecost.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
 Stephen Fumio Cardinal Hamao

Letter from Revd Canon Bill Christianson, Secretary General of The Mission to Seafarers

London, 8 June, 2004

Dear Sinclair,

Thank you very much indeed for remitting to us on a regular basis the Catholic Maritime News. Your leading article in Volume 61, No. 5 of May, 2004 refers to Sea Sunday. I am very pleased that it has been included, but I feel there are two aspects worthy of comment. The first is that Sea Sunday was established in 1975 when the three societies decided together that there should be one day on which the contribution of seafarers around the world is remembered and acknowledged in prayer. It was not established by BISS. The other aspect of that first paragraph is that the Missions to Seamen changed its name in 2001 to the Mission to Seafarers and is no longer known by its former name. If you wouldn't mind correcting this in further publications, it would be much appreciated.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you and other members of NAMMA at the conference at the end of July and hope that it will be as an outstanding success as I believe Oakland was last year. I am staying on for the ICMA and I assume that many from NAMMA will remain for the second conference as well. I look forward to seeing you then,

With all my very best wishes,
 As ever,
 Yours sincerely,
 The Revd Canon Bill Christianson

A Resolution to Support Seafarer Rights

from the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ

WHEREAS Jesus dignified seafaring in calling as his first disciples from those who made their living from the sea, and began his ministry “proclaiming release to captives, ... and setting at liberty those who are oppressed,” (Luke 4: 18); and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ sponsored the visit of the Freedom Schooner *AMISTAD* to Boston in October 2003 to educate its members on their Congregational heritage and tradition of working for the release of captives and oppressed, encouraging them to continue the work for justice; and

WHEREAS Seafarer’s Friend was incorporated as Boston Seamen’s Friend Society in 1827 as the agent for ministry to and advocate for seafarers on behalf of New England Congregationalists, and continues this ministry today in ports in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine; and

WHEREAS, a survey conducted by the Center for Seafarer Rights and the Seaman’s Church Institute of New York and New Jersey revealed that the United States is the only country to require a visa of foreign seafarers to come ashore, and numerous marine terminals in the United States prohibit crews from leaving their ship even if they have a visa; and

WHEREAS following the *AMISTAD* into Boston Harbor was the freighter *ORCHID BAY* with all but one of its crew of 22 Filipinos facing 53 days of virtual captivity (according to the captain to the Port Chaplain, 8 days sailing from Spain and 35 days projected sailing to Shanghai, with 10 days spent in the Port of Boston) aboard due to a port change by the ship owner resulting in the crew not having the proper visa for shore leave, an instance that occurs approximately 15 times a month the past year in the Port of Boston according to records kept by Seafarer’s Friend chaplains; and

WHEREAS the International Labor Organization Convention 185, Seafarers’ Identity Documents Convention (Revised) [ILO 185], awaiting ratification by the United States, provides standards for reliable, verifiable, and internationally acceptable identification which balances legitimate port security requirements and the need for crews to attend to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs on shore leave; and

WHEREAS in accordance with international treaties, the Maritime Transportation Security Act (effective December 2003) in its provisions regarding security for terminals and vessels calls on terminal owners and operators to “ensure coordination of shore leave for vessel personnel or crew change-out, as well as access through the facility for visitors to the vessel (including representatives of seafarer’s welfare and labor organizations).” [*Federal Register* Par 105.200]; and

WHEREAS the North American Maritime Ministry Association, of which Seafarers’ Friend is an active member, at its annual meeting in September 2003 in Oakland, California, passed a resolution in support of the Seafarers’ Identity Documents Convention (Revised) [ILO 185]; and was a contributor and supporter of shore leave provisions in the Coast Guard interim regulations for terminals and vessels;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 205th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ invites all churches in the Conference to study the status of seafarers and consider working for the advocacy of seafarer’s rights to shore leave in U.S. ports through

1. Urging their congressional representatives, and through them the State Department, for United States of America ratification and full implementation of the Seafarers’ Identification Documents as substitutes for crewmember visas for shore leave purposes (ILO 185).
2. Urging marine terminal owners and operators who do not allow seafarers to exercise their right to shore leave at their terminals, especially any in Massachusetts ports, to comply with the spirit and specifications of the Coast Guard interim regulations for crew shore leave.

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Upcoming Events For Maritime Ministry

July 11, 2004
Sea Sunday

July 25-26, 2004
NAMMA Conference, New Orleans, La.

July 28-August 2, 2004
International Christian Maritime Association Ninth
Plenary Conference, New Orleans, La.

September 25, 2004
World Maritime Day

October 25-27 (tentative)
AOSUSA Board Meeting at California Maritime Academy

