



CATHOLIC MARITIME NEWS



October 2004

Vol. 61, No. 10

Twenty-seventh World Maritime Day observed

AOS leaders, seafarers' centers call attention to work of mariners

IMO looks at maritime security

The following article is a message written by the International Maritime Organization regarding maritime security; the address was delivered on World Maritime Day, September 30.

Today marks World Maritime Day, the annual occasion when, all around the world, attention is focused on an issue of major significance to the work of the IMO.

This year's focus is on an issue of global importance - maritime security. On this day we also take the opportunity to highlight, in particular, IMO's work in promoting safe and secure shipping and protection of the marine environment and the key role of shipping in support of world trade.

Addressing the international maritime community in his World Maritime Day message, IMO Secretary-General Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos commended governments and the shipping industry for their efforts in ensuring the timely implementation of the

SECURITY, page 7

Pt. Arthur observes World Maritime Day



Mr. J. B. Beswick, ship agent for Vesstech, speaks to crowd about his concerns and frustrations as a ship agent since 9/11.

Cardinal O'Connor addresses Maritime world from St. Paul's

Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor preached at the 99th Annual National Service for Seafarers (ANSS) in, an almost filled to capacity, St Paul's Cathedral in London, in the presence of HRH the Princess Royal (Princess Anne).

Cardinal Cormac reflected when as a priest working in Portsmouth and Southampton he met many of those intimately connected with the sea.

Echoing the theme of this year's World Maritime Day, the Cardinal empathised with seafarers, who now have to live with the effects of 9/11 in the maritime world.

His concern also extended to the fishing industry in the UK, which was slowly disappearing, caught in the debate between maintaining livelihoods and conserving marine resources. Despite the many threats to the maritime community the Cardinal said that it was important to remain steadfast and courageous, 'I think it is no accident that the first people Christ turned to at the start of his ministry were fishermen.'

After the service Cardinal Cormac, as Patron of the Apostleship of the Sea, unveiled in the crypt a specially commissioned picture for seafarers, reminding those gathered that as a priest he had worked briefly as a cruise chaplain on a ship called the Mauritania.

For the last 99 years an Annual National Seafarers' Service

LONDON, page 7



Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, AOS Patron, preached at St. Paul's Cathedral, London for the UK's 99th Annual National Service for Seafarers. In the crypt, he unveiled a painting specially commissioned for the occasion. (See page 7)

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CATHOLIC MARITIME NEWS

is published 12 times a year by

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United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

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From the President ...
"Yes, Fr. John, This is the Renewal Letter"


When you read this issue of *Catholic Maritime News*, you will have already received your renewal letter for your 2005 Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America membership. If you have not received it, it is because you were not

a member in 2004. However, if for some reason you are a 2004 member, but did not receive a renewal letter, please send me an email at: aosusa@sbcglobal.net. I will see that a renewal letter is sent to you.

Miss Doreen Badeaux, our Secretary General, is our entire office staff at AOSUSA. Her primary responsibility lies in managing the important information that is required for the Cruise Ship Priest Program. In 2004, she processed more than six hundred priest memberships in addition to our port ministry members. I would greatly appreciate all the help that you can give her. You can do this by responding immediately to your 2005 membership renewal letter, and by being patient with her in getting out your new membership card.

Doreen is anticipating a deluge of renewals in the first two months. Each renewal will require her to update the changes on your membership information sheet, preparing your new membership card, and preparing the mailings that will be required. So please, give her a good thirty (30) days before you begin to call to check on your membership status, and packets.

Continued on the next page.

Please Pray for:

- Healing for Tracie Middleton, CMN Composition/Layout

Repose of the souls of:

John Brzek, AOS member in Green Bay, WI and former Vice President for the Seafarers' Ministry of Green Bay.

Radomir Ivanovic, seafarer on board the M/V Joldborg, who died of a heart attack while the ship was in port in Lake Charles.

Continued from the previous page.

Finally, for those of you who are renewing, this year, you received an AOS badge holder. Please don't lose them. New badge holders will not be sent with renewals. However, if you need an extra one or need to replace your old one, Doreen can ship another to you for a nominal cost.

AOSUSA has made phenomenal growth in the last year. Our organization has been quoted in many national and international maritime publications including *Lloyd's List*, *Workboat*, and *National Fisherman*. Our Cruise Ship Priest program has been spotlighted in *Zenit News Service*, *National Catholic Register*, and *The Florida Catholic*. In addition, our members have brought the importance of maritime ministry and the struggle of the people of the sea to the attention of their local communities and press. Please, don't wait, renew today!



Special thanks to the members of AOS - Diocese of Beaumont, and volunteers of the Port Arthur International Seafarers' Center. These men and women did the actual work of stuffing all of our renewal mailouts. It is thanks to them, and other members like them, that we have been able to get by with only one staff person. Pictured are some of the hard working volunteers.



MØller funds new seafarers' mission in Algeciras, Spain

Company News

By Brian Reyes in Gibraltar- Thursday October 14 2004

ALGECIRAS, Spain's busiest port with an annual throughput of more than 60m tonnes, is finally set to have its own seafarers' mission by courtesy of its biggest client, Danish shipping giant AP MØller.

The mission is being established with a Dkr4m (\$650,000) grant from the AP MØller and Chastine Mc-Kinney MØller Foundation.

The money has paid for premises on the Algeciras waterfront, which will be accessible to all seamen.

The site, which should be open from February next year, will offer rest and recreation facilities, including internet access, for seafarers calling at the port.

AP MØller operates a dedicated transshipment terminal in the southern Spanish port, handling around 2.6m teu annually.

Memorial service organized in Lake Charles for Montenegrin seafarer

A prayer service was held aboard the M/V Sk Joldborg for a member of the crew who passed away from a heart attack while the ship was in port at Lake Charles.

Deacon Patrick Lapoint is the Director of the Lake Charles Seafarers' Center, and after learning of the man's death, worked to organize a memorial service.

The ship's captain had told Lapoint that the crewman, Radomir Ivanovic, was 57 and has five children; the oldest is in college. His home is in Montenegro. In organizing the memorial service, Lapoint made sure to find a translator as well so that members of the crew could understand the service.

"We contacted the Literacy Council of Southwest Louisiana for a person who spoke the language from Montenegro," he said. "They had two people in town that spoke the language. Betty Laviolette is from Macedonia, which speaks about the same language."

Fr. Richard Adiukwu led the service, with Deacon Lapoint and Dean & Betty Laviolette attending. "Betty was the interpreter for us for those who did not understand English," Lapoint said.

All crew members attended the service. Later, the ship's captain came to the Seafarer's Center to extend their appreciation for the service. "He said that it really helped his crew to deal with the feelings they were having," Lapoint said.

Pictured at left are members of the Lake Charles seafarers ministry, Deacon and Mrs. Patrick Lapoint (left) and Fr. Richard Adiukwu, (right middle) shown here during the Annual Conference with AOS USA President Fr. Sinclair Oubre (left middle) and AOS Secretary Doreen Badeaux (far right).

Fishing

Ten fishers arrested for 'mutiny' on Papua New Guinea tuna ship

GENERAL SANTOS CITY — Ten of twelve fishermen who staged a mutiny and took control of fishing vessels owned by RD Tuna Ventures Inc. to press for increase in wages and additional benefits were arrested Thursday.

The surprised fishermen said they were made to believe no retaliatory acts would be imposed against them during protracted negotiations with RD officials in Papua New Guinea.

Mediating in the talks in New Guinea, where the fishermen took the vessels, were officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Renne Subido, RD vice president for corporate business affairs, denied the company waived its right to sue the fishermen.

In a press statement read during a press conference here, Subido said "the dispute...may have come to a peaceful resolution but actions taken by the crew broke Philippine and international laws."

RD slapped five counts of mutiny charges against 12 fishermen but only 10 have so far been arrested. They are Reynaldo dela Cerna, Danny Dominquito, Randy Patorite, Eliseo Solas, Fredel Cocal, Nole Berdonar, Gerado Sasam, Michael Ocon, Roger Villarosa and Joel Yapan. Still at large are Angelito Abastas Jr. and Wilberto Novo. Abastas is reportedly in Cebu.

Police reportedly picked up some of the fishermen while they were attending a company-sponsored seminar. Subido said the company decided to file charges of mutiny against the crewmembers responsible for the "unfortunate acts."

He said the company lost at least US\$100,000 a day for the duration of the mutiny.

On August 24, some 191 crewmembers of RD Tuna Ventures staged a protest, took command of the company's fishing vessels and cut off communications with the company base in Papua New Guinea while at the high seas there.

They demanded better living conditions aboard their vessels and asked that they be given remuneration and benefits similar to international seafarers. They lifted their protest action after seven days when Philippine Ambassador to Papua New Guinea Bienvenido Tejano interceded in the dispute.

Subido claimed the fishermen were instigated by the London-based International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) into staging the mutiny.

Asked why the ITF was not included in the case, Subido said company lawyers are preparing a separate suit against the labor federation.

The arrested fishermen protested their arrest Thursday and claimed the company acted in bad faith when it filed the charges against them.

Berdonar, who spoke in behalf of the group, said RD president Rodrigo Rivera Jr. assured them that no charges would be filed against them during the negotiations brokered by Trejano.

He said all they were asking for were better pay and benefits. Berdonar said his monthly salary is still P5,000 even when he has been with the company for seven years.

Dominguito, Cocal and Ocon also claimed they were arrested close to midnight Wednesday by police officers who reportedly did not identify themselves. The arresting police officers were reportedly also not in uniform. In addition, they also claimed RD vehicles were used by the policemen while effecting the arrest.

Six of their companions were also arrested while attending a seminar on company rules and regulations.

Lawyer Franklin Gacal Jr., who was asked by the accused to represent them, said he is still studying the charges and would most likely file a motion to grant bail to the accused.

A Gulf Shimper hard at work



Merchant Marines

ILO consolidating standards into unified "Seafarers' Bill of Rights"

GENEVA (ILO News) - The International Labour Organization (ILO) today took a significant step toward the creation of a major new international labour standard that provides a "Seafarers' Bill of Rights" for some 1.2 million maritime workers by consolidating a wide range of maritime standards adopted since the 1920's.

The Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference was attended by 551 delegates representing governments, shipowners and seafarers from 88 countries who ended this Friday two weeks of intense discussions on the new labour standard. The new draft Convention is to be presented for adoption by the Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference by the beginning of 2006.

The new convention has been defined as "an ambitious instrument" unprecedented in the ILO in its scope and approach, since it aims to consolidate key principles and rights and standards found in over 60 existing Conventions and Recommendations developed during the last 80 years.

"We have a balanced project", said the president of the Preparatory Technical Conference, Jean-Marc Schindler, government delegate of France. "This is in the interest of all parties concerned. On the one side, the life of seafarers will improve. On the other, shipowners and governments will see the exercise of their responsibilities facilitated."

The draft Convention, over 100 pages in length, addresses key issues such as minimum standards for employment; working conditions; repatriation, entitlements and leave; standards for onboard working and living accommodation; social protection and seafarers' welfare.

"The draft Convention seeks to secure decent working conditions for all seafarers and addresses almost all aspects of a seafarer's working life", says Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, Director of the ILO department that promotes the new instrument. "A very large number of difficult and important issues were successfully resolved during the Preparatory Conference."

However, some specific areas of concern to governments, shipowners and seafarers remain unresolved. "There will be ongoing efforts in the follow up to this Preparatory Conference to address the pending issues", explained Ms. Doumbia-Henry.

Countries are expected to get ready to ratify and implement the new Convention after its formal adoption, since one of the goals of the consolidated Convention is its early entry into force.

The new Convention will not call into question the legal status or substance of existing maritime labour instruments, but rather provide more consistency and clarity, more rapid adaptability and general applicability.

The process for a new major standard began in 2001 when the Joint Maritime Commission (JMC) that includes shipowner and seafarer representatives as well as tripartite participation from the ILO's Governing Body approved a "Geneva Accord" concerning the review of maritime labour standards, which was later accepted by the Governing Body of the ILO. The Accord calls for "an international regulatory response of an appropriate kind - global standards applicable to the entire industry."

It also noted that the shipping industry, that moves nearly 90 per cent of the world's trade, has been considered "the world's first genuinely global industry".



Seafarers throughout the world have been negatively impacted since 9/11/01. Pictured above Captain A.K.D. Edirappali of the *M/V Great Calm*, speaks at the World Maritime Day Press Conference held in Port Arthur, Texas. Only he and 3 officers had D1 Visas. The rest of the crew were retained on board. To the left of Capt. Edirappali is Ronnie Hicks, Dock Master of the Port of Port Arthur. To the right is Mr. Shwe Aung, ITF Inspector, and Mrs. Verna Rutherford, President of the Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce.

And in other news...

A guy goes into the doctor's office. There is a banana stuck in one of his ears, a carrot stuck in one nostril, and a cucumber in the other ear.

*The man says, "Doc, this is terrible. What's wrong with me?"
The doctor says, "Well, first of all, you're not eating right."*

Letters to AOS USA

Letter from Fr. Jack Walsh, Port of Davao, Philippines

Greetings and best wishes from the Port of Davao..

As you know, this is the Month of the Mission, and I just wanted to “drop a line or more” to thank you and your Co-workers for your generous prayers and concern for us over here....

I am pretty sure that I wrote toward the end of September, but with the many typhoons hitting the country at this time, mail and other delivery services are slow — if working at all!!! But thank God, it has not been as tragic as in Florida.. But, I am happy to write that.....

All is well here even as our Government faces another in a long series of financial crises — the peso is still dropping while gas prices have gone up for the 11th time since January!!! With the increase in gas prices, the usual increase in food and transportation prices will soon make their presence known!

Unemployment stands at about 14%, and the under-employment rate at about 20%; plus an estimated 15% of the total populations of over 73-million Filipinos are in an almost perpetual state of hunger!!

So much for the bad news — the good news is that all of us here at the Stella Maris Seafarers Center are A-OK — The Port of Davao is just one of the over 400 private and public ports throughout the country — but one of the biggest. More than 9’5% of the country’s goods come into the Philippines by ships from all over the world. Our port is one of the biggest money-makers for the country since we export millions of bananas every week to just about all major sections of the world — we also export thousands of sheets of plywood — the “PHILIPPINE mahogany” as it is called on the market — but, sad to say, we must first import the logs to make the plywood. Our forests are mostly depleted but, thank God, the folks in New Zealand have realized that they will never have more people than sheep!

At the latest count, they have about 7-million people in New Zealand but over 21-million sheep!!! And so it was that after World War II, they converted thousands of acres of land to commercial tree growing — beautiful straight pine trees that are harvested when they are over 20 inches thick and about 25 years old — then shipped out and sold on the world market.

The Philippines imports these pine logs and carries on its very lucrative plywood industry. One big logging ship arrives here in Davao every week with over 70,000 such logs and so the plywood industry continues.

Just the other day, two enormous Chinese cargo ships arrived from Vancouver, Canada. They brought thousands of tonnes of golden wheat and so we have plenty of flour being processed here in Davao just up the highway from us. The wheat was unloaded “24/7” — day and night for over a week as the crews enjoyed our hospitality which fortunately includes 4 cable TV channels of Chinese language

broadcasts every day: news, soap operas, sports and movies.

With all of this commercial activity, we here at the Stella Maris Seafarers’ Center are kept busy and we are very happy about it. We meet Seafarers from all parts of the world — about 85 % are men and 15% are women. Most of them come here to exchange money, make phone calls home and, in general, just to relax in a safe and decent environment for the relatively short time their ships are in port. The realities of “globalization” make their lives tough — they are just about always “on the go”. At least, by our hospitality and friendship, we help to present a “human face” to the “globalization” that they are part and parcel of.

And so it goes for now. I - we —are most grateful for your interest in us — your encouragement and support. Thanks ever so much. Take care.

Peace, good health and every blessing to you all...

- Jack in the wind and rain-swept Port of Davao.

Obituary



John S. Brzek
Associate Member

John S. Brzek was born to eternal life on August 21, 2004 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He had been unable to do serious ship visiting for the past year, although we would take him with his oxygen tank to the dock and crew members would come down to visit with him.

He was 87years old, having spent almost 50 years as a union representative at the ports of Green Bay and Milwaukee. He served as a member of the Brown County Harbor Commission for several years and as Vice President of the Seafarers Ministry of Green Bay. He was proud to be an active member of AOS USA, especially when he attended the AOS meeting in Seattle(a 4 day Retreat preceded) and in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

He also served as a Chaplain to the Elks Club in Green Bay and was a strong supporter of the Men’s club. He was an excellent Public Relations man for our Seafarers Ministry and did well to promote our Ministry Program in Northeastern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

His wife Evie died 3 yrs ago. He has 3 children and several grandchildren. He was buried from Resurrection Parish in Green Bay on August 25, 2004.

SECURITY *from Page 1*

IMO maritime security measures, including the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code - the ISPS Code, which were adopted in 2002 and entered into force on 1 July 2004.

But he warned against complacency.

"Now that the new international maritime security measures are in force, we must not make the mistake of resting on our laurels and assuming the work has been completed. The risks are too high to allow for any hint of complacency and we must make sure that high levels of vigilance and awareness are maintained and built upon until they become second nature throughout the shipping and port industries. Terrorism is not a matter of concern to one country or a group of countries - it is a global issue that affects us all and we should spare no effort to ensure that, together, we build a robust and resilient defense," Mr. Mitropoulos said.

The Secretary-General highlighted the fact that, in a broader context, IMO's work in the realm of maritime security also provides support for its objectives in enhancing safety and also preventing pollution of the marine environment. "The detrimental impact on the environment of a successful attack on a ship laden with oil, chemicals or other hazardous or noxious substances could be immense and, by raising our defences against terrorists, we are providing further protection in this respect," Mr. Mitropoulos said.

The work of the IMO global technical co-operation program on maritime security was particularly important in helping Member States, especially those in the developing world, to fully and effectively implement the security measures, Mr. Mitropoulos noted. A Maritime Security Trust Fund has been established to provide a dedicated source of financial support for IMO maritime security technical co-operation activities.

The World Maritime Day celebrations conclude at IMO's London Headquarters on Thursday evening with the customary reception for members of the London diplomatic and maritime communities.

Background Information

The International Maritime Organization is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.

Every year IMO celebrates World Maritime Day. The exact date is left to individual Governments but is usually celebrated during the last week in September. This year, IMO is celebrating the day on Thursday, 30 September 2003.

World Maritime Day is used to focus attention on the importance of shipping safety and the marine environment and to emphasize a particular aspect of IMO's work. To mark the occasion, the Secretary-General of IMO prepares a special message, and this is backed up by a paper which discusses the selected subject in greater depth.

The full text of the message and the background paper can also be found on the IMO Web site at <http://www.imo.org> (Click on About and World Maritime Day or go direct to: http://www.imo.org/home.asp?topic_id=320).

LONDON *from Page 1*

(ANSS) has been held at St Paul's Cathedral in London. The service is organised by representatives of various organisations connected with the sea of with seafarers, AOS is one of these organisations.

Apostleship of the Sea is an agency of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England & Wales.

AOS was founded in Glasgow in 1922 and has since spread to 89 countries around the world.

Worldwide, AOS is directed by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, based in the Vatican. It both a mission and welfare outreach of the Church, providing help to all seafarers regardless of colour, creed or nationality.

AOS works closely with its ecumenical partners in mission: Mission to Seafarers and British & International Sailors Society, as well as Deutsche Seemannsmission and the Nordic Seafarer Societies.

This year's service was marked by the unveiling of a specially commissioned painting. The painting, which was installed in the cathedral's crypt, was created by Elizabeth Wang.

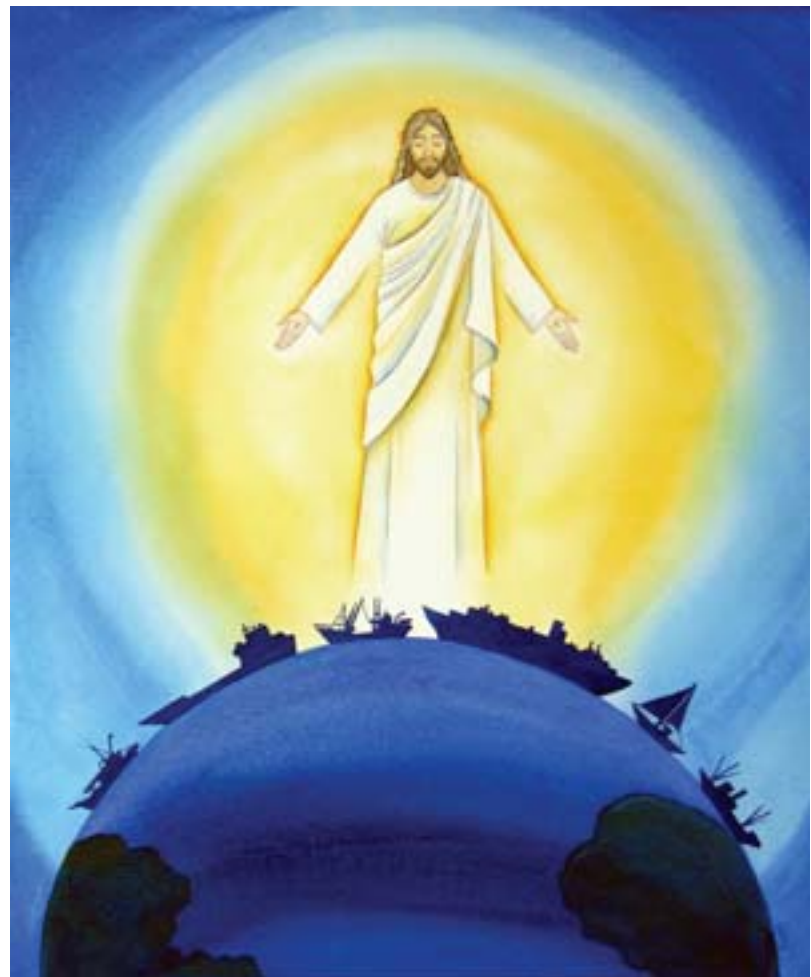


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Upcoming Events For Maritime Ministry

October 25-26

AOSUSA Board Meeting,
California Maritime Academy

October 31, 2004

Priesthood Sunday
<http://www.priestsunday.org>

April 5-8, 2005

AOS USA Annual Conference,
California Maritime Academy

May 20, 2005

National Maritime Day

July 10, 2005

Sea Sunday



This monument pays tribute to the Heroes of World War II serving on the *S/S Munger T. Ball* and the *S/S Rawleigh Warner*. Erected by the men and women of Sabine Transportation, in Port Arthur, Texas.

Is there a Maritime display in your area? Send a picture and a brief explanation to aosusa@sbcglobal.net.