

# **GULF COAST REPORT**

## **AOS-USA**

### **2009**

All of the Seamen's Centers on the Gulf Coast are doing well with the exception of Galveston which is still recovering from Hurricane Ike. The rain just won't go away for Karen and the clouds are not clearing up either. Just last weekend, there was heavy rain in the Galveston, Texas City area and the AOS van was flooded and consequently totaled. So now besides needing lots of repairs to her Center, she is also in need of a van.

All of the chaplains have said that the number of vessels visiting their ports, docks and anchorages have declined in the economic slump that the United States is experiencing right now.

All of the chaplains have received their TWIC cards with the exception of Fr. Lito in Mobile who is still experiencing trouble with being a non-resident. Fr. Lito and Deacon Connick have been visiting the vessels together and Deacon Connick has been able to escort Fr. Lito into the port and onto the ships. The new Harbor Master for the Port of Mobile has been trying to help Fr. Lito with escorts etc.

The Mobile Center is doing well with their canteen and the Mobile folks will be coming to the AOS-USA meeting to provide hospitality for the meeting. This is very generous of them. Fr. Lito and Deacon Connick tried to visit the Carnival Cruise ship Holiday last weekend and were able to get on board but was not able to say Mass for the crew. The captain stated there was too much work to be done.

Fr. Eulalio in Corpus Christi said that an agent had said that their ships have really been reduced in number. An agent told him that their numbers have been reduced almost to half.

The Port of New Orleans has recently had an increase with the number of Chaplains they have. The Archbishop has assigned 4 Deacons to work with Deacon Reggie and Donna.

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