

# **AOS-USA Resolution in Support of Efforts to End Human Trafficking & Awareness of Human Trafficking In and Around Maritime Facilities**

**April 4, 2008**

**Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies  
Linthicum, Maryland**

Whereas, the Catholic Bishops of the United States have called all Catholics to greater awareness and assistance to immigrants in the United States;

Whereas, some of the immigrants in living presently living in the United States have been trafficked here for labor exploitation and the sex trade;

Whereas, human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, and the victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.

Whereas, ports and maritime facilities are points of entry for trafficked people;

Whereas Pope John Paul II noted in 2002, that “The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offence against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights.... Such situations are an affront to fundamental values which are shared by all cultures and peoples, values rooted in the very nature of the human person.” (*Letter to Archbishop Jean-Louis Taurin, May 15, 2002*)

Whereas, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have called on Catholics to act now to stop human trafficking and to serve the victims of this crime.

And further, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have noted that thousands of our brothers and sisters are laboring in modern day slavery.

Whereas, AOS USA has learned that there are different immigration categories and responses between those who enter the United States without proper documentation, and those who have been trafficked into the United States.

Be it resolved the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America will work to educate and bring awareness to its members of the plight and struggles of those who have been trafficked.

Be it further resolved that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America will strive to inform its members of their proper pastoral response to trafficking situations.

Finally, be it resolved, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America will assist and support the efforts of the Office on Human Trafficking of the Department of Migration and Refugee Services to end human trafficking.