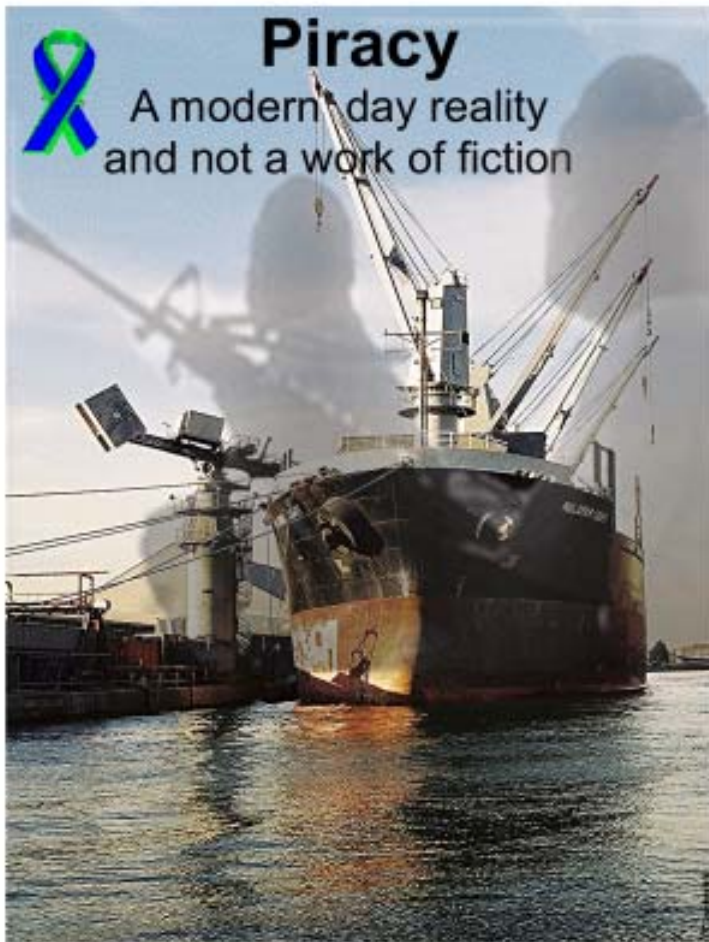




CATHOLIC MARITIME NEWS

March 2005

Vol. 62, No. 3



2005 Lenten campaign brings focus on piracy

AOS Port Chaplain Fr Paul Boagey, based in Tilbury has been one of the principal organizers and advocates of the Lenten Campaign. The following information is taken from the organizational webpage of the ecumenical seafarers' ministry group, Deeply Serious.

Created in 2004, the Lenten Campaign is an ecumenical initiative of the Christian Seafarer's welfare organisations along the Thames & Medway Rivers to invite all people of good will, during a determined period of the time (lent) to make a definite commitment to reflect/discuss a specific theme or topic that the seafarer of today must confront.

The aim of the campaign is to demonstrate that the process of reflection and the seeking of practical solutions to the challenges is the responsibility of all, and not only of those engaged in the full time delivery of maritime welfare.

The colours of the Lenten Campaign signify blue for the sea and green for new life and hope. It is our hope that throughout the forthcoming Lenten period those interested could make their own ribbons and invite friends and colleagues to do the same; thus ensuring a daily reminder not only for ourselves but to those around us of this year's theme, the seafarer and piracy.

For more information, visit the organization's website at www.deepllyserious.com

Lenten Seafarer Campaign 2005

Progress in Boston over shore leave

The following is a note from a port minister in Boston regarding progress on shore leave policies there.

The Exxon Terminal in Everett, MA has rescinded its policy of prohibiting all foreign seafarers from their dock. This policy, established shortly after 9/11, effectively detained all foreign seafarers onboard ships at the Exxon dock whether or not the U.S. government had cleared them to go ashore.

For the past three years, ship visitors have made hundreds of trips to ships moored at the Exxon dock to deliver and to pick up cell phones. These phones enabled crewmembers, restricted to the ships, to contact their homes and families from ship-

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202-541-3226, (USCCB-Washington, D.C.)

New feature in CMN - *Pray for ships*

Starting with this edition of Catholic Maritime News, there will be special areas in the Fishing, Merchant Marine and Cruise Ship sections to request prayers for the staff and crewmembers of specific ships.

Each month, we will single out a small number of merchant vessels, fishing boats and cruise ships to remember in prayer.

Technical Request from Doreen...



I need to let all of our members, but especially our Cruise Ship Priest members know, that several of you have e-mail addresses which do not allow me to send you info. I get a message "User Unknown," which means the spam

blocker does not recognize the AOS email address.

Worse than that, for these Cruise Ship Priest members, it means that the Cruise Line Agents also have a problem trying to contact you. They get the same message, which means you never receives lists of available cruises. NOT GOOD!

So, if any member has NOT received an e-mail from me, it means I do not have an e-mail address for you, or you need to allow my e-mail address access to your e-mail. If you are a Cruise Ship Priest, you also need to allow the cruise agents access to your e-mail. You may need to check with your tech person on this.

Thank you!

This edition of CMN has a strong focus on disseminating Conference information. Conference packets, last year's meeting minutes, and the organizational By-laws and Constitution are being e-mailed to members, but those without e-mail may request a copy by mail. Alternatively, these documents can be found on the website at <http://www.aos-usa.org> under "AOS Documents."

Please Pray for:

Repose of the soul of long time CMN Subscriber Ms June M. Hoopes.

Repose of the soul of Fr. Daniel P. Madden, O.P., Cruise Ship Priest Member.

Repose of the soul of Roberto C. Pinon, 50, of Lee's Summit, MO, a '77 graduate of the USMMA and a retired ARCO Marine Chief Mate with 22 years of sea service. He is survived by his wife and 2 sons.

WANTED: HELPING HANDS...

On Jan. 13, 18 days after a tsunami wrought disaster in south Asia, India reported that fishermen in several districts were going back to work. In other districts, however, only a handful were doing so — those who “have not lost their fishing crafts and implements.”

Elsewhere, fishing is not being resumed because there are no fishing crafts and implements to resume it with. Meanwhile, in Ban Namkehm, Thailand, 1,000 miles or more away, an orange trawler sits in the center of the village, nearly a quarter of a mile from the ocean. A migrant worker named Sonnai, who was sitting on a rooftop when the tsunami came, watched as the trawler swept toward him, fully expecting to be crushed. “Luckily,” he says, “it hit a lamp post and another house.”

Kapila Gamini, a Sri Lankan fisherman in the seaside village of Patuwatha, is not as unfortunate as many of his countrymen. He survived. The tsunami destroyed his house, and he has no boat or net — 600 vessels were destroyed in his village — but his parents live in the mountains and he is staying with them. “We cannot go out fishing on the sea but wait at my parents’ home aimlessly,” he says.

(Nationally, Sri Lanka lost 7,573 fishermen, with 5,686 missing and 90,657 displaced. Twenty-three thousand fishing vessels were lost.)

In the Maldivé archipelago, which has been described as the lowest lying country in the world, officials were devastated.

Reprinted with permission from the March edition of National Fisherman in the Editor’s Log, by Jerry Fraser.

“We estimate that a quarter of the islands lost their entire fishing fleet, which was their only source of income,” said chief government spokesman Ahmed Shaheed.

Conceptually it’s hard for many of us, especially those who don’t remember Hurricane Camille or the Alaska tsunami, to embrace the scope of the disaster in southern Asia. It’s too big.

Seawater swept through villages and piled up fishing vessels in windrows. Offshore islands disappeared. Satellite images only hint at the geographic trauma that took place. Which is to say nothing of death, disease and human suffering. Nor were marine ecosystems afforded the sixth sense that spared so many land animals other than men, women and children.

For all the challenges the U.S. fishing industry faces, we have yet to endure anything on this scale. I believe we have a responsibility to offer aid targeting our counterparts in south Asia. Several fishing industry-related relief efforts have been mounted to do just that.

.....

The National Fisherman spotlighted several of the relief efforts for fishers affected by the tsunami. On Page 4 of this edition of CMN is a letter from Cardinal Hamao regarding an AOS tsunami relief fund of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People. Three other aid organizations are listed also.

"Charity As Medicine: Who Does it Help?"

Reprinted with permission from the Holden Village News. The Rev. David Mesenbring is a Lutheran Minister and the Executive Director of Seafarers’ House in Port Everglades, FL.

The very way we approach social problems is part of the reason they persist. Ever notice, for example, what happens when our consciences get pricked? We take just enough compensatory action to alleviate the guilt then feel free to carry on as before. Perhaps this is why the African novelist Chinua Achebe’s protagonist in “Anthills of the Savannah” proclaims, “charity is the opium of the privileged.”

In a similar vein, Steve Biko, a martyr of the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa, offers a prophetic warning for how we discern our sense of call. As the father of a potent black consciousness movement, Biko was severely critical of liberal whites for seeing themselves as blacks’ best friends. He argued that their subconscious motives were the opposite of their stated intentions: the anti-apartheid actions of whites helped them feel better about themselves but did not bring an end to black suffering.

If he was right, then the implications are damning for all Americans on the left as well as the right who believe that we can solve global problems with good intentions. All the right-living policies and justice-oriented teaching at Holden, for example, may only help a few of us in this world’s richest nation feel better about ourselves while the despoiling of God’s creation continues unabated? Surely God calls us to employ our privileged resources more effectively!

Perhaps the reason we are so self-satisfied with results that haven’t solved the problems paining God is that our process of

discerning of God’s call occurs in communities of people with resources similar to our own. If Steve Biko and countless other voices from the Global South are right, then Americans dare not discern God’s call in largely American circles. Otherwise, we are dangerously likely to reach conclusions that ultimately serve American interests, regardless of whether our stated intention is to accomplish this goal or not.

What to do instead? We need an attractive motive and global context for discerning how God summons out what we shall be. This could happen if the people we are called on to support are not painted in needy terms, but rather are introduced to us as people uniquely gifted in ways that might help us as well. Such an attractive vision might leave us hungry for the opportunity to feast on gifts God gave only to those “victims.” These are gifts that we may need, but which we won’t covet if we don’t know that they exist.

For the few Americans who visit global hot spots as part of socially responsible study tours, this vision can become reality. But very few people do that. More accessible to the bulk of us are the people of the world who sail in and out of our nation’s seaports everyday. Those who crew ocean-going vessels are the first truly global work force. And unlike the privileged foreign students who come here to study, merchant seafarers are more typical of the rank and file from nations where sparse economic opportunities drive people into long work contracts at sea, far from their homelands and their loved ones.

Because mariners are the largest group of least protected workers in our society, it would be easy to paint them in pathetic terms and to make us feel guilty about their predicament.

Fishing

AOS Tsunami Fund established

Donations will go to AOS Chaplains, pastoral agents working in affected areas

Letter from Cardinal Hamao

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The annual meeting of the AOS Regional Coordinators (Rome, 31st January - 2nd February) took this year a particular significance as it was held in the aftermath of the tsunami, this terrible disaster that struck such a great number of people in Asia and the Indian Ocean areas. I would like to share with you our feeling of deep sadness as we heard the reports from the affected regions, stories of grieving survivors and broken families and communities. We have conveyed to the communities concerned our deepest sympathy and assured them that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

An important part of the agenda of the meeting was taken by a consultation as to the more efficacious way we could participate - as AOS - in the ongoing Tsunami Relief Work. Our AOS members are already on the ground and have been working in solidarity and close collaboration with local dioceses and parishes as well as with local associations and international NGOs. There is still a lot of uncertainty as to the exact statistics, but the grief and the trauma are all too apparent and the needs immense. After consultation with Caritas Internationalis, we have reached some conclusions as to our participation, which I would like to share with you.

Above all, we must avoid any form of duplication or competition on the ground or working in isolation or as freelancers. Instead we must join in partnerships and integrate our projects with those of local dioceses, Caritas and local associations by keeping a constant contact and dialogue with them. We must also consider our long-term engagement now that the first emergency work is ending. This will require careful research, rehabilitation projects and budgets.

So we have decided that our long-term engagement must be geared, as a priority, towards those we know best, i.e. the devastated fishing communities, by helping the survivors to rebuild their lives and to recommence a "normal" and autonomous life. To that effect there is a great need especially for pastoral accompaniment, for pastoral workers who are able to listen, counsel and empower people through local associations or parishes. We need also to help initiate projects, in cooperation with Caritas, to promote local associations to provide boats, engines, nets and lines to fishers so that they are able to go back to sea and earn their living. The AOS Coordinators of the areas concerned have generously taken the additional responsibility to motivate and coordinate this work, but they will require also money, and for our part we have undertaken to help them find the financial resources they will need.

Many of you have already expressed the desire, in response to the Holy Father's appeal, to contribute to the relief work. We have therefore decided to set up at this Pontifical Council a special "AOS Tsunami Fund" to help the ongoing work of the AOS chaplains. The sums received will go towards helping our chaplains and pastoral agents on the ground. You can send your donations at the following account by stating precisely your intentions:

Istituto Opere di Religione
00120 – Vatican City
account no. 22527011 (in Euro)
“ no. 22527012 (in US\$)
name of beneficiary: Pontificio Consiglio Migranti
 (Please note that this Bank has not IBAN and BIC/Swift Code)

At the same time, please inform this office of any transfer of funds so that we can do the follow up.

There is a reasonable hope that other Organizations can help us to go beyond the sum we can collect to assist the communities of fishermen in need. The response of the international community to this catastrophe has been in fact remarkable, but we think that we too, as AOS, must join in this extraordinary manifestation of world solidarity. In that connection, I should be grateful if you could forward this message to your collaborators and colleagues and give it all the publicity that you will think fit.

I thank you in advance and I pray for the blessing of Mary Star of the Sea on our efforts.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Stephen Fumio Cardinal Hamao, President
 + Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, Secretary

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance www.namanet.org

Make checks out to: NAMA Relief Effort. They can be mailed directly to NAMA, 200 Main St., Saco, ME 04072 or to St. Joseph's Credit Union, 35 Bradbury St., Biddeford, ME 04005. For information about a joint U.S./Canada Tsunami assistance operations, contact Craig Pendleton at (207)-284-5374 or by e-mail at craig@namanet.org.

American Refugee Committee www.archq.org

The organization's Fishing Boat Project is seeking to raise enough money to replace fishing boats in 13 coastal villages in Thailand. Money will be used to buy boats from local boatbuilders. It's estimated each boat will cost \$500 to build. You can make a donation online at the organization's Website or send a check to ARC, 430 Grove St., Suite 204, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers www.icsf.net

On the organization's Web Site, you'll find a page of earthquake and tsunami-related news and resources. The page (www.icsf.net/jsp/english/flashNews.jsp) is updated daily and provides links to news coverage.

Pray for Ships...

- Shrimp boat: M/V Jenny
- Merchant Vessel: M/V Eagle Aurora
- Merchant Vessel: M/V Diamond Schoals

The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

1500 Jefferson Drive
Port Arthur, Texas 77642
(409) 985-4545
(409) 985-5945
Email: sinclair@pernet.net

Welcome to the 2005 AOSUSA Conference at California Maritime Academy

Dear Friends in the work of the AOS:

On behalf of the Administrative Board of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America, I wish to invite you to the 2005 AOSUSA Conference being hosted at the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, California, April 5-8, 2005.

Fr. Paul Divine and Robert McKoon of AOS-Oakland have worked hard in preparing for a wonderful four days of prayer, fellowship, education and leisure. Besides the wonderful hospitality that is being afforded us by the California Maritime Academy, the conference will also be highlighted with:

The presence of Bishop Curtis Guillory, S.V.D., Bishop Promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States

Bishops and the Archbishop from the Bay Area Dioceses/Archdiocese celebrating Daily Mass

Mr. Joe Holland, professor at the University of St. Thomas in Miami, and author of *Modern Catholic Social Teaching: The Popes Confront the Industrial Age*, instructing us on our Catholic Social Teachings

Mr. Mike Campling: Director - *International Seafarer's Assistance Network*, on the work of ISAN

We will be staying at the *Vallejo-Maritime North Motel 6*, located a few yards from the Academy gate, and down a tree-lined drive from meeting facilities. Please make your own reservations at Motel 6. Rooms have been blocked out under the name of the *Apostleship of the Sea* for this period, and each participant must see to their own reservations. Please refer to the boxed information on the *Registration Form* for all reservation information.

Vallejo can be reached by Amtrak, and by all the major airlines through the airports in Oakland, San Francisco and Sacramento. Oakland will probably be the most convenient, and have the best fares. The International Maritime Center in Oakland has kindly volunteered to assist in transportation, and has prepared a transportation document. However, you may also rent a car, or take a cab from the airport to the Motel 6. Note, though, that Vallejo is approximately 30 miles from the Oakland airport.

Each day we will have opportunities to pray together. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Mass will be celebrated by our special guest celebrants. We will also pray together Morning and Evening Prayer/Night Prayer. Since the Liturgy of the Hours is part of our treasury of prayer, I ask that you bring your copy of the *Liturgy of the Hours*, or *Christian Prayer* to the conference. If you do not have your own copy of these prayer books, we will be happy to share with one another.

As the weeks progress, we will be updating our conference information through *Catholic Maritime News*, the AOSUSA-Yahoo group, and through emails to the members. So mark your calendars, schedule the volunteers to man your centers, and come West to Vallejo for a wonderful four days.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Sinclair Oubre, J.C.L.
President

AOS USA 4th Annual National Conference
April 5-8, 2005
California Maritime Academy
Vallejo, California

DRAFT AGENDA #4

Tuesday April 5th:

- 1:00-5:00 Registration
 2:00-4:00 Certification Committee Training @
 California Maritime - Jean Marie Weber
 (USCCB/Committee on Certification and
 Accreditation)
 5:00 Social
 6:00 Opening Dinner @ California Maritime
 Academy
 7:00 Opening Meeting: AOSUSA President's
 Welcome, Outline of Conference, Establish-
 ment of Resolution Committee & *Statement to*
Mariners Drafting Committee
 8:00 Night Prayers - Taken From the *Liturgy of the*
Hours
 8:30 Board of Directors Meeting
 8:30 Hospitality Suite - Days Inn

Wednesday, April 6th

- 6:30-8:30 Breakfast @ CMA
 9:00 Morning Prayer - Chapel (*Liturgy of the*
Hours)
 9:30-9:45 Welcome from Staff of California Maritime
 9:45-10:15 Welcome Bishop Curtis Guillory (AOS
 Bishop Promoter) & Fr. Jacque Harel
 (Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of
 Migrants and Itinerant People)
 10:15-10:45 Chaplain Certification - Jean Marie
 Weber (USCCB/Committee on Certification
 and Accreditation)
 10:45-11:15 Approval of 2004 Minutes and Reports:
 President, Treasurer, National Director
 11:15-11:30 Break
 11:30 Mass - Celebrant: Bishop Richard Garcia -
 Auxiliary of Sacramento
 Concelebrating: Bishop Curtis Guillory, S.V.D.
 (AOS Bishop Promoter),
 12:30-1:30 Lunch w/ Capt. Keever
 1:30-2:30 Certification, Merchant Marine, Shore
 Leave, Cruise Ship Priest, Fishing Committee
 Meetings

- 2:30 Afternoon Free - Enjoy the Bay Area
 9:00 Night Prayer (For those Present)
 9:30 Hospitality Suite

Thursday April 7th

- 6:30-8:30 Breakfast @ CMA
 9:00 Morning Prayer - *Liturgy of the Hours*
 9:30-11:00 Mr. Joe Holland (author: *Modern Catholic*
Social Teaching: The Popes Confront the Industrial
Age) Part I
 10:00-11:15 Reports: Committee Reports (Shore
 Leave, Cruise Ship Priest, Fishing, Merchant Marine,
 Certification, Awards)
 11:15-11:30 Break
 11:30 Mass - Bishop Stephen Blair - Bishop of
 Sacramento
 12:30-1:30 Lunch w/ Capt. Brown
 1:30-3:00 Mr. Joe Holland: Part II
 3:15 Mr. Mike Campling: Director - *International*
Seafarer's Assistance Network
 4:00-5:30 Small Group Work on *Message to Mariners*
 & Mtg. of Resolution Committee
 5:30 Social
 6:30 Supper @ CMA
 9:00 Night Prayer - *Liturgy of the Hours*
 9:30 Hospitality

Friday April 8th

- 6:30-8:30 Breakfast @ CMA
 8:45 a.m. Morning Prayer - *Liturgy of the Hours*
 9:00 Mr. Joe Holland - Part III
 10:00 Approval of *Message to Mariners* & Report
 from Resolutions Committee
 10:30 Approval of Resolutions, *Message to Mariners*
 & Plans for AOSUSA 2006 Conference @ Texas
 Maritime Academy
 11:30 Mass - Archbishop Levada - Archbishop of
 San Francisco
 12:30 Lunch w/A Midshipman

AOSUSA
 APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 4th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 April 5-8, 2005
 Vallejo, California
California Maritime Academy

200 Maritime Academy Drive
 Vallejo . CA 94590

(707) 654-1000
<http://www.csum.edu/>

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
 PHONE: () _____ FAX () _____ E-Mail _____
 PORT NAME: _____
 AOSUSA MEMBER: YES _____ NO _____

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee (non refundable).....	\$25.00	_____
Conference Fee	\$125.00	_____
TOTAL.....		_____

Make Checks Payable to: AOSUSA Send to:
 AOSUSA Conference
 Apostleship of the Sea - International Maritime Center 4001 7th Street
 Oakland, California 94607
 Attn: Mr. Robert McKoon
 Phone: (510) 839-2226 Fax: (510) 839-8193 Email: mckoon@sfbayfarer.org
(Registration deadline: Friday, March 25)

Selected Motel for 2005 AOSUSA Conference
Vallejo-Maritime North Motel 6

I-80 At Sonoma Boulevard/Maritime Academy Drive
 597 Sandy Beach Road/Vallejo, CA 94590

Phone: (707) 552-2912 / Fax: (707) 645-9324 Email: m61361bo@motel6.com

A block of rooms have been reserved under the name: *Apostleship of the Sea.*

Rates are:

\$42.00 + tax.....single
\$47.00 + taxdouble

All participants must make their own motel reservations. They must be made to Vallejo-Maritime North Motel 6 to receive these special rates. The national reservation system will not be able to offer you these rooms and rates.

AOS USA Annual Conference Transportation Options

Via Public Transit:

From the San Francisco Airport:

- 1. Take BART to the El Cerrito Plaza station. Route maps and schedules are posted at the station.**
- 2. Go to 3 below**

From the Oakland Airport:

- 1. Take the shuttle to the Oakland Coliseum BART station. Route maps and schedules are posted at the station.**
- 2. Take BART to the El Cerrito Plaza station**
- 3. From El Cerrito BART, take the BARTLink bus service to Vallejo, call (707) 648-4666 or inquire at the BART station for schedule and cost.**
- 4. Take a taxi, (707) 643-3333, to your hotel or to the CMA**

The more adventurous may want to take the ferry from San Francisco to Vallejo. A beautiful 55 minute trip. Highly recommended. Check the schedule at www.baylinkferry.com

- 1. Take BART from the airport (see above) to San Francisco, Embarcadero station.**
- 2. Hourly (give or take) ferries depart the San Francisco Ferry Building, a 5 minute walk from the BART station.**
- 3. From Vallejo, take a taxi (see above) to your hotel - about a \$10 fare.**

Shuttle service

For those unable or unwilling to trust their fate to public transit, the Oakland AOS will provide shuttle service to Vallejo. An offering to cover the cost of gas, tolls, etc. will be appreciated. Please contact us at least 2 days prior to arrival and let us know at which airport you will arrive, arrival time and number of persons:

International Maritime Center

4001 - 7th St.

Oakland, CA 94607

510-839-2226

info@sfbayfarer.org

- 1. From the airport, take BART to the Oakland West station. Route maps and schedules are posted at the station.**
- 2. Phone the Oakland AOS at (510) 839-2226. We will pick you up in about 10 minutes.**
- 3. We will transport you to the Oakland AOS where you can rest up and wait for other passengers. Free coffee & tea! We will depart for Vallejo when all scheduled passengers have arrived.**

Shore Leave/Port Security

U.S. Coast Guard, CBP issue policy for high-risk crew

Editor's note: This is the policy in affect, and AOSUSA believes its members and readers should be aware of the exact policy and its principles in case the situation arises in their port.

The U.S. Coast Guard and the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) apparently have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement <http://sweb.iss-shipping.com/news/newsdocs/d13_public.doc> (MOA) and developed standard operating procedures regarding detention of certain high-risk crewmembers. When the CBP determines that a foreign crewmember is to be considered high risk, the Coast Guard assists in ensuring that the master of the vessel has provided effective security measures to keep the crewmember from

gaining illegal entry into the United States.

Generally, this entails hiring a security service to provide a visible deterrent to unauthorized departures from the vessel. Needless to say, expenses related to hiring the security service are borne by the vessel. Operating procedures under the MOA may vary from port to port.

Countries From 68 FR 2363, 16 January 2003 : Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Totals: 25 countries

Homeland Security Chief discusses progress, plans for shipping industry

This concludes the abridgement, started in the January edition, of a speech delivered by Tom Ridge regarding homeland security.

“As we strive to close gaps and vulnerabilities at our own borders by pooling resources and engaging our entire country and citizenry, we must do the same with our international allies and friends.

Especially in the area of maritime security, we have made marked progress with programs such as the Container Security Initiative. We now have U.S. Customs inspectors working alongside our partners to target and screen cargo in 26 international ports including Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia.

With the use of large-scale gamma ray and x-ray imaging systems, Customs officers can safely and efficiently screen for contraband, including weapons of mass destruction. These units can scan the interior of a full-size, 40-foot container in under one minute. In this way, we are able to enhance the security of our nations without sacrificing the free and swift flow of commerce on which our economy depends.

The Asia – Pacific region has some of the largest container ports in the world, and one third of the world’s shipping and half of its oil pass through the straits of Southeast Asia.

Prior to 9-11, efforts to secure the vast global shipping industry were isolated, scattered and uncoordinated.

As a result, the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code was developed. For the first time ever, we have one global standard for ship and port security. This effort will increase our ability – and that of our allies – to prevent terrorists from attacking our ports or using ships as weapons.

About ninety percent of all world cargo moves in and out of international ports in containers. For the sake of security and prosperity, we must take additional steps to secure cargo – and, along with it, the foundation for global commerce.

A good place to start is forge a commitment to standards. Such cooperation could include the development of common standards

for cargo and consistent procedures that would allow countries to build upon existing protections to make shipping containers – and the ports they reach – more secure than ever before.

We also need to harness the power of technology and take advantage of innovative tools already available. Technologies such as electronic seals and container-tracking devices offer additional protections against container tampering.

One of the primary resources at our disposal as we move forward to make our borders safer is biometrics. Biometrics is proving to be a valuable and useful security tool allowing us to accurately identify and cross check travelers – and potential terrorists – before they enter our countries.

In America, we have already seen through our US-VISIT program that biometric information can provide an added layer of security, while at the same time bring travelers across our borders with greater ease and convenience.

Since the beginning of the year, US-VISIT has processed more than 12 million legitimate passengers, and since the program began we have matched more than 1500 potential entrants against criminal watch lists. However, to apply the use of biometrics globally, we must develop a set of international standards for capturing, analyzing, storing, reading and protecting biometric data in order to ensure maximum interoperability between systems, and maximum privacy for individuals.

...The victory in the Cold War came about as a result of a robust international effort and an unquenchable desire for freedom on the part of those who lived without it.

And that is the same path that will lead us to victory once again. For freedom is more powerful than fear. And when wielded by nations willing to work together for the safety and security of our people, freedom will continue to guide us toward a better and brighter future: a future of prosperity and peace for generations to come.

Thank you.

Letter from Cardinal Hamao

Reverend and dear Fr. Jamnicky,

Greetings from the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People.

I thank you very much for your letter of 24th January 2005 reiterating your kind invitation for me to attend the AOS of the United States of America annual conference in Vallejo, CA April 5-8,2005. Unfortunately, after reflection and in spite of my best efforts it will not be possible for me to attend this meeting because of other engagements; I sincerely hope this will not cause any inconvenience to the planning of the conference. I should be grateful too if you could also present my apologies to the Franciscan School of Theology.

Realizing nevertheless the importance of this conference, the Pontifical Council will be represented by Fr Jacques Harel, who will send all his registration documents to the conference office as soon as they are ready.

At the PCPCMI we follow with great interest developments in the AOS-USA; there is a lot of vitality and there is a lot of efforts being put in the development of the maritime ministry in your country, especially in the sector of Cruise ship ministry. I hope and pray for the success of this Conference and should be grateful if you could please give to all the participants my warm personal regards.

I take this opportunity to wish you every blessing in this time of Lent.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Cardinal Stephen Fumio Hamao, President

+ Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, Secretary

Interesting Links...

Erga Migrantes statement:

www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/migrants/s_index_generaldocuments/rc_pc_migrants_gendocuments.htm

www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/news/pr20050104.html

Palm Sunday...

It was Palm Sunday and, because of a sore throat, five-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter.

When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. Johnny asked what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by."

"Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed. "The one Sunday I don't go, he shows up!"

Notes from Cruise Ship Priests



Fr. Jack Treacy SJ is pictured with the choir, from Goa, at a mass for crew aboard the Celebrity M/V Mercury.

AOS Board Member comments on involvement as Cruise Ship Priest

In a Christmas letter, Fr. Bob Sipe shared some thoughts on his growing involvement in AOS USA with port ministry and the Cruise Ship Priest program.

"It was a Polish ship that was loading grain in the harbor at Duluth. Because of the location of the grain loading chutes, the ship had to be moved to a position that made the normal gang plank with steps unusable. To board the ship, one had to climb a fifty-foot rope ladder with wooden steps. I took one look and said to myself, "No way, Jose. I'm not crazy." But then they threw over the railing a rope to take up my Mass kit and vestments, and I was committed. ...

I got interested in Port Ministry to Seafarers in a rather round-about way. About two years ago, I received a mailing from an organization called the Apostleship of the Sea USA. They were recruiting priests to serve on cruise liners that traveled all over the world. I thought to myself, "What a great way to get some free cruises." ...

Some of you know that I have a habit of speaking up and asking questions at most meetings. That is why I got noticed and was asked to serve on the board... even though I have yet to take my first cruise.

A special thank you to the many Cruise Priests who are doing so much to make this new program a success. We continue to get many messages from passengers and crew affirming the quality of service. So many of you are seeing it as a real ministry, and not, as I once did, as an opportunity for some free travel.



■ Pray for Ships... ■

■ Celebrity Cruises: M/V Century ■

■ Holland America Cruises: M/S Amsterdam ■





American Merchant Marine Veterans Memorial
 South Harbor Blvd At West 6th Street
 San Pedro, CA 90731

This striking memorial, the first national memorial to merchant seamen in the United States, was commissioned by a group of local seamen to honor merchant marine veterans from all wars. At the height of World War II, there were 215,000 merchant mariners, including many teenage boys too young to enlist in the military, and men classified as 4-F, yet caught up in the patriotic fervor that swept the country after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. According to official statistics, more than 6,795 civilian merchant seamen lost their lives in World War II for a causality rate of 1:32 (the highest casualty rate of any service); 600 were taken prisoner; and more than 650 of their ships were sunk. Unofficial statistics cite 8,651 merchant mariners killed at sea, 11,000 wounded, 1,100 died from their wounds ashore, 604 taken prisoner and 60 died in prison camps.

The bronze statue depicts two merchant seamen climbing a Jacob's ladder after making a rescue at sea. The designer of the statue was the Wilmington, CA sculptor, Jasper D'Ambrosi. His creation of the original design was finished and accepted in early 1986. However, D'Ambrosi died August 1 of the same year before starting the final clay model. The enlargement was done by his sons, Marc and Michael as a tribute to their father. The Jacobs ladder was cast at the family foundry, Arizona Bronze, in Tempe, AZ in 1987. Although the land for the memorial was donated by the City virtually all of the \$700,000 for the project came from private donors.

A bronze plaque on the memorial states, "The United States Merchant Marine has faithfully served our country in times of war and peace hauling cargo to every corner of the world. This Memorial is dedicated to those brave men and women of all races, creeds and colors who answered that call to serve."

Is there a maritime memorial or display in your area?

Send us a picture and tell us about it: aos-usa@usccb.org

Apostleship of the Sea USA
 USCCB
 1500 Jefferson Drive
 Port Arthur, TX 77642-0646

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Upcoming Events For Maritime Ministry

May 20, 2005

National Maritime Day

July 10, 2005

Sea Sunday

November 25, 2005

World Fisheries Day

April 25-28, 2006

AOS USA Annual Conference,

Texas A&M University at Galveston Maritime Academy

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