

Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America
7th Annual National Conference
Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies
Linthicum Heights, Maryland
April 1-4, 2008

The 7th Annual National Conference of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America, held at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies, Linthicum Heights, Maryland, on April 1-4, 2008, was opened by the President of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America, the Rev. Sinclair K. Oubre, JCL, at 5:04 p.m. on Tuesday, Tuesday, April 1. Members were welcomed and reminded that this is also a regional meeting of AOS. Schedule changes were noted and members were briefed on the contents of the packet which had been provided each attendee.

Directions for dinner were given, and the members adjourned for dinner. After dinner the members viewed the Maryknoll film *Lives for Sale* on human trafficking.

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Msgr. Novatus Rugambwa, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People spoke about the work of the Pontifical Council, where he is rather newly appointed. He introduced and congratulated Deacon Albert Dacaney who is the AOS director in Canada and is newly appointed as AOS Regional Director for North America.

Fr. Sinclair spoke about some important issues we face in the USA, which he proposes to address further in resolutions to be presented to the membership for approval.

Deacon Dacaney announced that there has been a reshuffling of the territory and that Mexico and the Spanish speaking areas of the Caribbean are now in a separate territory of the AOS, with Rey Wong serving as the Regional Director.

Deacon Dacaney mentioned several things which are of particular concern to him as regional director:

- (1) Implementation of the World Congress; seek assistance from the local church in doing this, and make annual reports to the local bishops, so that they are continually reminded of the important work in the maritime community.
- (2) A need to develop and strengthen the chaplaincy network
- (3) Promote and encourage permanent deacons to get into maritime ministry
- (4) The fishing situation of the Caribbean and North America is a concern, particularly in regard to pollution and the environment.

(5) AOS Canada needs to follow AOS-USA in the development of the cruise ship priest program, with an emphasis on ministry to the crew.

(6) The AOS Regional Newsletter needs to be developed in addition to the website.

National AOS Director Sr. Myrna Tordillo, sc, spoke from her position in the newly re-organized position of working for the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity at the USCCB.

She encouraged our reflection on Matthew 25:35. Sr. encouraged our participation in National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners on May 22.

With great joy Sr. Myrna announced that Bishop Kevin Boland of the Diocese of Savannah in Georgia has been named the Bishop Promoter of the AOS-USA.

The election of area representatives to the Administrative Board of the AOS-USA was held, with each of the following being elected by acclamation:

Great Lakes and Inland Waterways	Rev. Robert Sipe
Cruise Ship Priest	Rev. Matthew Mauriello
Pacific Coast	Rev. Henry Hernando
Gulf Coast	Captain Joy Manthey
East Coast	Rev. Thomas Falkenthal

On Wednesday afternoon Sr. Mary Ellen Dougherty, ssnd presented part one of a two-part presentation on human trafficking. Following a long career of college teaching of English she developed a ministry of teaching prisoners. In her current work at the USCCB she teaches about smuggling and human trafficking, in addition to offering assistance to federal agencies when raids are executed, to rescue victims of human trafficking. Sr. indicated that she “helped to liberate people so that they can become survivors.”

The motion by Deacon Patrick LaPoint with a second from Captain Joy Manthey to accept the minutes of the 6th annual conference of the AOS-USA held in Dania, Florida, at the American Maritime Officers Star Center, January 29-31, 2007, having previously been dispersed to the members as an electronic file, was approved.

Deacon Patrick LaPoint reviewed the financial report which had previously been distributed to the members electronically. A member suggested that in future years it would be good for the reports to include a comparison of the data for the year previous to the current year being summarized.

Doreen Badeaux the secretary general, spoke favorably of her experience representing the AOS-USA at the Sea Trade Convention in Miami. Good contacts were made with people in the cruise industry which should be useful in the future. Fathers Oubre and Falkenthal assisted at the

convention. Our new display unit was very helpful at the convention. Doreen also spoke of making a similar appearance at the Canon Law Society of America convention in October, 2007. Fathers Oubre and Reynolds assisted at that convention.

The motion by Br. Anthony Ornelas with second by Deacon LaPoint to accept the Treasurer's report was approved.

Deacon Albert Dacaney, Regional Director of AOS, divided the members into small discussion groups, and assigned each a question to consider. Each group was to present to Deacon Albert a written summary of its discussion and conclusions. The four groups were to discuss (1) the world AOS Congress in 2007; (2) cruise ship priest program; (3) fishing concerns; and (4) a manual for pastoral maritime ministers.

Thursday, April 3, 2008

The Rev. Alan F. Deck, SJ, of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity of the USCCB addressed the members and spoke highly of the Most Rev. John Manx, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, who chairs the sub-committee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers.

Fr. Deck noted that the American bishops acknowledge changes in the church in the USA, specifically that the church is no longer a European Church; now it is more of an Asian, African, and Latin American church. This new attention on diversity in the church calls for a new evangelization. The bishops seek collaboration with clerical and lay ministers, and wish to exercise subsidiarity. The USCCB wants to help us develop an internal capacity for ministry while "cultivating pastoral imagination."

Mr. Sean Connaughton, administrator of the US Maritime Administration spoke to the members about MARAD which is now part of a newly re-organized Department of Transportation. He is in charge of the merchant marine, and noted that there is a huge expansion in the industry. Coupled with this are security issues. There are fewer merchant mariners and many of those who are experienced are now choosing land-based employment. Foreign employers are hiring American merchant mariners. The vast majority of cadets at the merchant marine training facilities are Catholic. Ministry to these individuals, during their schooling and during their professional service is increasingly difficult. There is a huge increase in the number of maritime accidents. Mr. Connaughton insisted that MARAD will continue to focus on its legacy programs:

- (1) national security
- (2) maritime asset development programs
- (3) cargo preference
- (4) the training of mariners
- (5) the promotion of American shipping

But also develop new initiatives:

- (1) a new office that will be dedicated to the environment and regulatory compliance
- (2) The Intermodal System Development Office
- (3) Gateway Offices will be opened across the country in order to serve and communicate with the maritime industry

Mr. Perry Stutman spoke to the members about his work with the Mariner's Memorial Foundation, which seeks to care for various monuments and memorials to seafarers. Royalties from his published books fund the memorial. He may be contacted for further information at Perrystutman6@msn.com.

At the conclusion of the morning officer positions for the AOS-USA Administrative Board were conducted, with the following being elected by acclamation:

President	Rev. Sinclair K. Oubre, JCL
Vice-president	Donna Landry Giroir
Secretary	Rev. William E. Reynolds, JCL
Treasurer	Deacon Patrick LaPoint

In the afternoon members were bussed to the headquarters of the USCCB where Sr. Mary Ellen Dougherty, ssnd, concluded her presentation on human trafficking, after which the members were treated to a reception by the USCCB staff.

Friday, April 4, 2008

**A Resolution addressing the Criminalization of Seafarers
2008 AOS-USA Annual Meeting
Linthicum Heights, Maryland
April 2, 2008**

WHEREAS there is great concern of the trend by port state control authorities to unfairly treat seafarers by criminalizing masters and seafarers in the event of maritime accidents;

WHEREAS the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) has conducted many investigations into the criminalization of seafarers and identified 44 cases between 1996 and 2006; nine involved the detainment of seafarers prior to them being found guilty of committing a deliberate act or act of negligence;

WHEREAS the Council of American Master Mariners and the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations have adopted several resolutions concerning this worrisome trend of criminalization of seafarers by port state control authorities; and calling "upon the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) and other

maritime and regulatory interests to: use professional and civil sanctions, rather than criminal action, to penalize negligence; stop the criminalization of seafarers; ensure flag States protect their seafarers and abide by UNCLOS; ensure flag States carry out independent maritime accident investigations; facilitate greater mandatory use of Voyage Data Recorders; ensure IMO and ILO members States abide by the Guidelines on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers, adopted by the IMO Legal Committee in April 2006 and press for a mandatory Code; ensure flag States exercise effective control and jurisdiction over ships flying their flags”;

WHEREAS the issue of criminalization of shipmasters has not substantially improved and the tendency by Port and Coastal States to arrest and detain Masters and officers without trial following maritime incidents including the PRESTIGE, ERIKA, and ZIM MEXICO II;

WHEREAS Captain Wolfgang Schröder was found guilty under the archaic Seaman’s Manslaughter Act and after six months home confinement, has been in a U.S. prison in Mobile, Alabama for four months awaiting his February 7, 2007 sentencing; who up until this incident was widely considered a more-than-competent shipmaster with a letter of commendation from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and a medal from the King of Belgium for acts of heroism in the 1987 HERALD OF FREE ENTERPRISE disaster where he and his ship saved a large number of passengers from a capsized ferry;

WHEREAS there is great concern that foreign port state control authorities will take retaliatory action against U.S. seafarers;

AND CALLING TO MIND the words of Cardinal Hamao, past president of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerants, in his 2005 World Maritime Day address: “Evermore, recently, we have been witnesses of increasing and unjustified detention and criminalisation of seafarers.”

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States America (AOSUSA), during its 2008 Annual Conference at the Maritime Institute of Technology & Graduate Studies at Linthicum, Maryland supports the work of CAMM, IFSMA, Nautilus, ITF, BIMCO, ILO and IMO in their effort to fight the trend of port states to criminalize seafarers;

AND

RESOLVED, that AOS-USA calls for United States Congress review the archaic Seaman’s Manslaughter Act (US Code Title 18, Chapter 51, Sec. 1115) in light of the IMO Resolution Reg.3(91) of April 27, 2006, *Adoption of Guidelines for the Treatment of Seafarers in the Event of a Maritime Accident*.

The motion concerning the criminalization of seafarers, offered by Mike DeToro with second by Karen Parsons was adopted.

**Commit AOS-USA to Work for the Ratification of ILO Maritime Labor
Convention 2006, & Establish Standing Committee
Proposed by: Merchant Marine Committee**

WHEREAS on February 23, 2006 the 94th Maritime Session of the International Labor Organization, in Geneva, Switzerland and adopted the new Maritime Labor Convention, 2006 by a vote of 314 for, with no votes against and four abstentions; the vote showed overwhelming support by delegates from more than 100 countries representing seafarers, ship-owners and governments.

WHEREAS The new Convention clearly sets out, in plain language, a seafarers' "bill of rights" while allowing a sufficient degree of national discretion to deliver those rights with transparency and accountability. The Convention also contains provisions allowing it to keep in step with the needs of the industry, and help secure universal application and enforcement.

WHEREAS the new Convention consolidates and updates 68 existing ILO maritime Conventions and Recommendations adopted since 1920; sets minimum requirements for seafarers to work on a ship and contains provisions on conditions of employment, hours of work and rest, accommodation, recreational facilities, food and catering, health protection, medical care, welfare and social security protection.

WHEREAS the new Convention becomes the "fourth pillar" of international maritime regulatory regime, at the side of the three key IMO Conventions, namely the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping Convention (STCW) and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The Convention will come into force after it has been ratified by 30 ILO member States with a total share of at least 33 per cent of world gross tonnage.

WHEREAS new Convention is supported by maritime labor and professional organizations such as the U.S. Council of Master Mariners, the International Transportation Workers' Federation, the International Christian Maritime Association

WHEREAS the new Convention was endorsed by the former president of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees who called on the Apostleship of the Sea to "encourage and urge all the member States who have voted this Convention to ensure that it is now ratified and properly implemented worldwide;"

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States America (AOS-USA), during its 2008 Annual Conference at the MITAGS Center in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, welcomes the adoption of the new Maritime Labor Convention 2006; AND

RESOLVED, that AOS-USA will network with maritime organizations such as CAMM, ITF and ICMA which support the ratification of the Maritime Labor Convention 2006, and work to have this convention ratified by the United States Senate, and have the United States a signatory to this convention.

The motion in support of the Maritime Labor Convention, that it be signed by the Congress of the USA, offered by Fr. Thomas Falkenthal, with second by Mike DeToro, was adopted.

Commercial Fishing Industry Health Care Coverage Act of 2008
H.R. 5404 and S. 2630,
Proposed by: AOS-USA Fishing Committee

WHEREAS fishing families are an under served population and in need of health care;

WHEREAS fishing families are characterized with a high uninsured rate, low income, small businesses owners, large immigrant population, and having a higher than average rate of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis-C, Diabetes, and Asthma;

WHEREAS in Massachusetts the example of the Fishing Partnership Health Plan (FPHP), fishing families uninsured rates dropped from 43% to 13%; the FPHP serves as a model for other fishing communities – fishing families need healthcare;

WHEREAS some type of health insurance plan for fishing families should be adopted by every state across the nation; and every community should begin with market research to identify the specific needs of the fishing families in each state; when this data has been gathered and analyzed, the second step is to create a strategic plan for the formation of a health care coverage program to meet these specific needs;

WHEREAS there is a need to formalize support for health care for fishing families;

WHEREAS fishermen and their families as seafarers and people of the sea come under the apostolic responsibility of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees and the Apostleship of the Sea;

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States America (AOS-USA), during its 2008 Annual Conference at the MITAGS Center in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, recognizes the need among fishing families for access to high quality, affordable health care coverage; AND

RESOLVED, that AOS-USA endorses the use of federal funding for market research, strategic planning, and ongoing programmatic funding to support the development, implementation, and operation of health care coverage programs for fishing families as outlined in S. 2630 and H.R.5404.

The motion in support of fishermen's health care, that it be signed by the Congress of the USA, offered by Fr. Henry Hernando, with second by Deacon Patrick LaPoint, was adopted.

**A Resolution for Veterans' Administration Purple Heart
Benefits for Recipients of the World War II Mariners Medal**

WHEREAS, the World War II U.S. Merchant Marine made victory possible by being the *First to go into Action* with 243 Killed in Action prior to Pearl Harbor and amongst the first Prisoners of War and were also the *Last to Return* with 54 ships damaged by mines with in theater loss of life after V-E and V-J Day;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Marine suffered the *Highest Casualty Rate* with 1 in 26 Killed in Action to include 1,500 ships sunk, 9,300 mariners killed, and 12,000 wounded;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Marine *Delivered the Men and Material* that made victory possible, participating in every invasion from Normandy to Okinawa and U.S. Merchant Mariners *Manned the Ships* by being recruited and trained by the U.S. Maritime Service, increasing from 55,000 to a wartime high of 250,000 seamen; with 114,145 mariners receiving the Merchant Marine Combat Bar for service under enemy attack;

WHEREAS, U.S. Merchant Mariners were *Denied Veteran Benefits* to include unemployment, education, home or small business loans, priority of postwar jobs and medical care for disabilities;

WHEREAS, U.S. Merchant Mariners *Struggled for Veteran Status* and finally received veterans status in 1988, over 40 years after the end of the war;

WHEREAS, the Mariners Medal per Public Law 52 of the 78th Congress was awarded to any person, who while serving on any vessel in the American merchant marine during the World War II period, was wounded, suffered physical injury, or suffered through dangerous exposure as a result of an act of an enemy of the United States;

WHEREAS, 6,635 U.S. Merchant Mariners were awarded the Mariners Medal in World War II and 26 U.S. Merchant Mariners were awarded the Purple Heart in World War II;

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Rep. Jeffrey Fortenberry [R-NE] has sponsored House Resolution 447 of the 110th Congress to amend Title 38, United States Code, to provide that World War II merchant mariners who were awarded the Mariners Medal shall be provided eligibility for the Department of Veterans Affairs health care on the same basis as veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America meeting during its 2008 AOS-USA Annual Conference at the MITAGS Center in Linthicum Heights, MD, expresses its most sincere support for H.R. 447 of the 110th Congress to pass bill for VA health care for recipients of the Mariners Medal on the same basis as veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

The motion in support of Retired Seafarers' being granted health care benefits as are Purple Heart Recipients, that it be signed by the Congress of the USA, offered by Br. Anthony Ornelas, with second by Fr. Henry Hernando, was adopted.

Section 306 of the House of Representatives 2007 Coast Guard Authorization Act
(Now sec. 719, 4-25-08)
Proposed by: The Rev. Sinclair Oubre, J.C.L.
April 3, 2008

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of US and foreign seafarers have been denied shore leave since September 11, 2001.

WHEREAS shore leave is an ancient right to seafarers, which allows them to meet their personal needs, and maintain contact and interaction with their families.

WHEREAS there is great confusion between the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, and the Code of Federal Regulations regarding the facilitation by ports, docks and maritime facilities of shore leave by mariners, and access to ship by port chaplains, maritime ministers and port welfare agents.

AND

Whereas the House of Representatives' Transportation Committee has drafted Section 306 in the *2007 Coast Guard Authorization Act*, which reads:

SEC. 306. SEAMEN'S SHORE SIDE ACCESS. Each facility security plan approved under section 70103(c) of title 46, United States Code, shall provide a system for seamen assigned to a vessel at that facility, pilots, and representatives of seamen's welfare and labor organizations to board and depart the vessel through the facility in a timely manner at no cost to the individual.

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that AOS-USA and its members support this legislation, and write letters encouraging their US Representatives and Senators to support the present language of Section 306.

The motion in support of section 306 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act, that it be signed by the Congress of the USA, offered by Deacon Patrick Lapoint, with second by Carol Waud, was adopted.

Resolution Concerning the Certification of AOS Chaplains
Resolution drafted by Rev. Thomas W. Falkenthal
Director, AOS, Archdiocese of Miami

Whereas

The People of the Sea have both a need and a right to high quality ministry;

Whereas

The Motu Proprio *On the Apostleship of the Sea* (commonly known as *Stella Maris*) given 31 January 1997 by Pope John Paul II has established the Apostleship of the Sea as the primary means of bringing ministry to the People of the Sea;

“In order to meet the needs of the special pastoral assistance required by those engaged in fishing and maritime trade, their families, harbor personnel and all who travel by sea, we establish what follows, updating the norms issued in this century, after having heard the opinion of our Brother, the President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.”

Whereas

The Motu Proprio establishes that,

“It is the right and duty of the diocesan Bishop to offer pastoral assistance with zealous concern to all maritime personnel who reside, even for a short time within his jurisdiction.” [XII. §1.] [confer *Christus Bonus* for the responsibility of the diocesan bishop to care for seafarers in his diocese.]

Whereas

Mission-specific training is necessary for the chaplain to adequately carry out this mission;

“So that the chaplain of the Apostleship of the Sea can carry out all the aspects of his unique ministry, he must be suitably instructed and carefully trained before this particular pastoral task is entrusted to him.” [IV. §1.]

Whereas

All professional ministers need continuing professional education to keep their skills current;

Whereas

Among the principal responsibilities of the National Director are to promote chaplains’ specific training and ensure chaplains diligently fulfill their duties;

“[Among] The principal duties of the national director are:
3) to promote the specific training that chaplains should receive;
5) to make sure that chaplains diligently fulfill their duties and observe the prescriptions of the Holy See and the local Ordinary;” [XI.]

Be it resolved

That the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOS-USA) recommend that the AOS National Director shall establish a USCCB requirement that all AOS port chaplains/ maritime deacons/lay ecclesial ministers become Certified Maritime Chaplains (through the process administered by AOS-USA) within the first thirty-six months of beginning this ministry;

“The diocesan Bishop is responsible for: appointing, in agreement with the national director, chaplains for the Apostleship of the Sea in his Diocese, and granting them the necessary mandate;” [XII. §2. 2]

Be it further resolved

That AOS-USA recommend that the AOS National Director shall advise diocesan Bishops of this requirement and the individual status of their AOS chaplains with regard to its fulfillment;

Be it further resolved

That AOS-USA recommend to the AOS National Director that the USCCB shall further require AOS chaplains to maintain currency of certification through the recertification process administered by AOS-USA.

The motion in support of the Resolution Concerning the Certification of AOS Chaplains, offered by Fr. Thomas Falkenthal, with second by Deacon Patrick LaPoint, was adopted.

**AOS-USA Resolution in Support of
Work in Fishing Convention (No. 188) and
Recommendation (No. 199), 2007
April 4, 2008
Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies
Linthicum Heights, Maryland**

Whereas commercial fishing is one of the most deadly occupations;

Whereas commercial fishing is carried out under only minimum safety and training regulations;

Whereas ILO 188 and Recommendation 199 provide a new standards designed to ensure that

workers in the fishing sector:

- ❖ have improved occupational safety and health and medical care at sea, and that sick or injured fishers receive care ashore;
- ❖ receive sufficient rest for their health and safety;
- ❖ the protection of a work agreement; and,
- ❖ the same social security protection as other workers.

Whereas, Archbishop Marchetto, Secretary to the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples stated:

“The Apostleship of the Sea hails this new “Convention and Recommendation concerning Work in the Fishing Sector” as a great sign of hope and congratulates the ILO, his social partners, member States and NGO’s for the great level of collaboration showed in drafting and developing this instrument that provides a comprehensive labor protection for fishers.”

Be it resolved the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America will work

with national and international organizations, as well as, national and international

fishing organizations to bring attention to this groundbreaking convention and recommendation.

Be it further resolved that the ratification of ILO Convention 188 and ILO Recommendation 199 be promoted as part of the legislative agenda of AOS-USA, and encourage the Department of Cultural Diversity in the Church of the USCCB to make it one of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' legislative concerns.

The motion in support of the ILO convention on Fishing, asking the Congress to adopt the resolution, offered by Fr. Thomas Falkenthal, with second by Deacon Patrick LaPoint, was adopted.

**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 Heights, 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.

The motion in support of the Resolution regarding the ending of Human trafficking, offered by Carol Waud, with second by Deacon Patrick LaPoint, was adopted.

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Whereas, 90% of all consumer goods travel by sea or along our nations waterways;

Whereas, mariners who operate our tugs, barges, offshore vessels and ships play an essential role in preserving our quality of life;

Whereas, maritime careers pay family wages, and benefits that allow a family in the United States to live in dignity and security;

Whereas, many shoreside industries are dependent on the skills of mariners once they come ashore;

Whereas, new construction, and the development of new maritime transportation systems like the *American Marine Highway System*, and US-flagged LNG shipping, will create 14,000 new jobs in the US merchant marine;

Whereas, our nation will need to invest energy and resources in attracting the next generation of mariners;

And whereas, there is a critical need to develop maritime high schools, maritime technical schools, and new training programs to meet the need for a larger US merchant marine;

Be it resolved that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America joins with the United States Maritime Administration, the Ship Operations Cooperative Program, maritime unions and

industry associations to promote maritime careers among young people, especially in the our Catholic parishes and schools;

And be it resolved that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America will encourage its port chaplains, maritime deacons, religious and lay ecclesial ministers to offer pastoral care and spiritual support to cadets, midshipmen and trainees at our country's many maritime training facilities and schools.

The motion in support of the Resolution Ship Operators Cooperating Program, encouraging the support of AOS-USA, offered by Br. Anthony Ornelas, with second by Mike DeToro, was adopted.

A Resolution concerning the
"Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007"
April 4, 2008
Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies
Linthicum Heights, Maryland

WHEREAS, the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America is the professional association of Catholic Mariners and the official Roman Catholic organization for Cruise Ship Priests and Catholic Maritime Ministers in the United States;

WHEREAS, the World War II U.S. Merchant Marine made victory possible by being the *First to go into Action* with 243 Killed in Action prior to Pearl Harbor and amongst the first Prisoners of War and were also the *Last to Return* with 54 ships damaged by mines with in theater loss of life after V-E and V-J Day;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Mariners suffered the *Highest Casualty Rate* with 1 in 26 Killed in Action to include 1,500 ships sunk, 9,300 mariners killed, and 12,000 wounded;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Mariners *Delivered the Men and Material* that made victory possible, participating in every invasion from Normandy to Okinawa; and *Manned the Ships* by being recruited and trained by the U.S. Maritime Service, increasing from 55,000 to a wartime high of 250,000 seamen;

WHEREAS, U.S. Merchant Mariners were *Denied Veteran Benefits* to include unemployment, education, home or small business loans, priority of postwar jobs and medical care for disabilities; and *Struggled for Veteran Status* and finally received veterans status in 1988, over 40 years after the end of the war;

WHEREAS, the State of Pennsylvania has recently passed regulations rewarding surviving merchant mariners of World War II;

WHEREAS, U.S. Representatives Bob Filner (D-CA) and 248 others have cosponsored House Resolution 23, and 35 other have cosponsored Senate Resolution 1272 of the 109th Congress to amend Title 46, United States Code, and Title II of the Social Security Act to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States Merchant Marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II; AND

WHEREAS, this Act may also be cited as the “Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007”; and this Act provides \$1,000 per month to WWII mariners in lieu of benefits not received after World War II. The Bill also gives Social Security credit for time served in the merchant marine, like the credit given to others who served in the Army or Navy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOS-USA), during its 2008 Annual Conference wishes to express its thanks to the United States House of Representatives for passing HR 23 on July 30, 2007, and calls upon the United States Senate to bring to the floor its companion bill S. 961 of the 110th Congress and pass the “Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007.”

The members attending the annual conference consented to a resolution expressing the content of the above resolution without having before them the actual text of the above resolution.

Motion by Fr. Falkenthal in support of the wonderful work of the officers of the AOS-USA, along with the General Secretary, seconded by Fr. Henry Hernando, passed.

Doreen Badeaux was applauded single-handedly by the group for the exemplary work she performs for the AOS-USA.

Deacon Albert Dacaney asked for reports from the study groups of yesterday.

Fr. Falkenthal reported on the ship welfare visitor course. The first question concerns is there a port welfare committee in each port? Training varies for volunteers and ship visitors. More training would be welcome.

Carol Waud reported on the practical implementation of the AOS World Congress from Poland. A first issue is that of an awareness of the importance of the portside maritime ministry, especially within the local church. Use of the media is encouraged to disseminate the news about port ministry. Making the Mass schedule available for in-port mariners is important.

Cooperation of the local bishop is an issue; we look to the Bishop Promoter to engage his brother bishops in discussion. The encouragement of permanent deacons to get involved in port ministry is important, especially in the training of permanent deacons. Sharing knowledge of port activities throughout a diocese remains a concern.

Fr. Reynolds spoke of the cruise ship priest program, noting that critique forms, information from passengers and cruise directors, and from priests who repeat in the program speak to the quality of

the program. The crew Mass is important, as is being pastorally ‘present’ to the crew is a concern.

Sometime the priest hears of issues between the crew member and his employer, and this can require great delicacy.

The Cruise Ship Priest Manual can be helpful, as would a training DVD be which is under discussion.

Emphasize that this is a cruise ship ministry program. The ministry is to receive a greater emphasis than the priest who performs the ministry.

Donna Giroir spoke about the fishing communities in the Caribbean, and the need to incorporate the fishers in the work and scope of AOS-USA. Fishing in the Gulf Coast still suffers after Hurricane Katrina. The rights of fishermen is always a concern. Piracy in the Caribbean remains an important issue, as is toxic pollution and the outsourcing of labor.

Deacon Albert Dacanay expressed thanks for the good work of the participants in this exercise.

Fr. Oubre distributed certificates of attendance which are helpful to keeping certified for maritime ministry.

Carleen Hunter Lyden-Kluss spoke about the North American Marine Environment Protection Association, of which she is the co-founder and now serves as executive director. She is employed by NAMMA. The environmental imperative is a current concern. She mentioned that Pope Benedict has spoken about the dangers of pollution and recently the Holy See identified pollution as a sin. The onus for environmental crime falls to the seafarer. Port chaplains are encouraged to take on board ships promotional materials from NAMEPA.

In January, 1998, a renovated old school a opened in Port Arthur to house retired indigent seafarers. Called the Savannah House, it is a place for people in need.

Jay Brooks spoke about the Sailors' Snug Harbor, an outreach service located in New York, representing the model for a community of retired seafarers. We should be alert for retired mariners who need assistance (retired deep sea mariners with ten years of service, 65 years of age or older, and who are in financial need). He distributed information cards to be distributed at the ports we visit and where we minister.

Fr. Sinclair offered special thanks to Msgr. Novatus; Sr. Myrna Tordillo, sc; Father Alvin Deck; Msgr Fitzgerald and all the local hosts, and the Administrative Board; Deacon Albert Dacanay; and Nancy Krebs the liturgical musician.

On motion by Karen Waud and second by Fr. Falkenthal the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

At the end of Mass Fr. Reynolds sought and received permission to send special greetings from the group to Fr. Keating's sister and to our new Episcopal promoter, Bishop Kevin Boland.