

Apostolatus Maris

The Church in the Maritime World

Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People, Vatican City



N. 82, 2003/IV



Cum Maria contemplemur Christi vultum!

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*During the angelus of Sunday 28th September 2003, the Holy Father John Paul II announced that in the Consistory to be held on 21st October, he would raise a number of ecclesiastics to the dignity of Cardinal, among them our own President, H.E. Msgr. **Stephen Fumio Hamao**.*

By means of this bulletin we would like to give echo to this news, with profound gratitude to the Holy Father for the recognition he has thus conceded to our much esteemed President and to our Pontifical Council, which extends its pastoral care to all those who are, in one way or another, on the move.

Card. Hamao, who was formerly Bishop of the Diocese of Yokohama, Japan, has also held the post of Chief of the Bureau for Human Development of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), Vice-President of Caritas Internationalis, and President of Caritas in Asia and Oceania. In his exercise of these functions, he was much appreciated for his gifts of great humanity and of pastoral commitment to the weak and suffering.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Father Gérard Tronche, who for nine years headed the Sector of the Maritime Apostolate at our Pontifical Council in Rome, has now left us and been replaced, as from the 17th November, by Father Jacques Harel.

Father Tronche has accepted a new assignment in West Africa, and will take up his new post in May 2004.

During all these years that he worked at the Pontifical Council, Fr Tronche has been a tireless advocate of the People of the Sea. He has spared no effort to advance their cause and to coordinate our pastoral work for seafarers and fishers and their families. He has animated many initiatives during his mandate that have enabled AOS to go forward, and we are grateful to him.

We thank him for his commitment and all the services he has rendered to the People of the Sea. All this experience will not be lost, as he is returning to Africa, where he first started as a missionary more than forty years ago, and where he will still be engaged in the welfare of seafaring communities. All our best wishes accompany him.

Fr Jacques Harel, Fr. Tronche's successor, comes from Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, where he had been active at national and regional level before being appointed ICMA's General Secretary, in Great Britain. He will now be working for our Pontifical Council and we welcome him.

As we are approaching the end of a very busy and eventful year, let me thank you for your devotion and manner in which you strive to serve and accompany the seafaring communities of which you are the pastors, chaplains and co-workers.

I invoke the Lord's Blessing on you and your families and wish you all a Holy and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours Sincerely in Christ

Stephen Fumio Cardinal Hamao

Farewell



During a meal with some friends a year or two after my arrival in Rome, this is what I found written below my name on the card indicating my place at table: “La Francia ti ha generato, l’Africa ti ha stregato e Roma ti ha rapito...“France begot you, Africa bewitched you, and Rome has ‘carried you away’”. What an original idea the hostess had!

Yes, Rome has carried me away and, I might add, in the two meanings of the term. Even though I was ‘stolen’ from Africa in 1994, afterwards I really appreciated what a privilege it is to work and live in Rome in the shadow of St. Peter’s Basilica.

In 1990 François Le Gall told me during a meeting at the Pontifical Council (to which I had come as AM Coordinator for the African-Indian Ocean region) that I would succeed

him one day, but I did not see myself that way at all.

And yet, today is the moment for me to say farewell to Rome and to pass the charge on to another. That’s life. This is one more stage in my life as a nomad missionary. As to the “bewitchment” – the spell that Africa cast on me in my youth, which I would rather refer to as a “call” – it seems it is still working because in Africa there is a Bishop who wants to welcome me in his place next year!

It was in Africa where I came to know the Apostleship of the Sea and ecumenical collaboration in the maritime world (through the Mission to Seafarers) in Dar-es-Salaam. After Africa, could it be that the maritime world has “cast a spell” on me? The fact is that I am going to try to combine these two “calls” once again as AM chaplain based in Nouakchott, and, for about two years, as Coordinator of the ICSW Regional Program in Western Africa.

In this little article in “our” Bulletin, I would like to express my great

esteem to all our AM colleagues around the world whether I have met you or not. I also wish to say thanks for the way you have welcomed me and collaborated in the service to the Peoples of the Sea during these past nine years. These sentiments obviously hold first of all for Antonella, who remains faithfully in her position, and for Jacques, who has just taken up the relay. They certainly hold for our brothers and sisters of the ICMA Executive Committee too. Last but not least, I would like to express here my sentiments of respectful affection and gratitude to Cardinal Cheli who “recruited” and guided me in my first steps at the Pontifical Council, and to Cardinal Hamao, his successor, who is giving me back to Africa today.

However, from now until I cast anchor in Nouakchott, I shall have gone around the world as a chaplain on the QE2, and hopefully this will give me the pleasure of seeing some of you again.

“**Arrivederci**”, till we meet again.

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First meeting: January 2004

Creation of a Permanent AOS ad hoc Committee on Fishing

In order to implement a resolution which was unanimously supported at the XXI^o World Congress of the Apostleship of the Sea in Rio de Janeiro, last year, namely the constitution of an AOS Committee on Fishing, a meeting was hosted at the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral care of Migrants and Itinerants, Palazzo San Calisto, Rome, from Thursday morning 4th of December 2003 to Saturday 6th.

There were representatives from the FAO, the ILO and the ICSF as well as AOS members from Asia, the USA and Africa/Indian Ocean. Rev. Fr. Bruno Ciceri, cs, Regional Coordinator of the AOS in East and South East Asia, chaired the meeting.

The task of the Ad Hoc Commission was to draw up the terms of reference of the future AOS *Ad hoc Committee on Fishing*, discuss its composition, decide on its objectives, determine its future strategy, and propose the date of its first meeting.

It was suggested that its conclusions and recommendations should be relevant, realistic, in line with the specificity of the AOS and that they should not encroach in any way with what other Agencies might be doing well already.

At the opening of the meeting, in his welcom-

ing address, Cardinal Hamao welcomed all the participants and said that *"we are here to respond in a concrete way to what has been asked by fishermen and chaplains of what AOS can do in a context of pastoral responsibility which excludes no aspect that touches the integrity and dignity of the human being created in the image of God"*. He added that the members of the committee were there to fulfill the mandate of AOS which is the promotion of the spiritual, social and practical well-being of fishermen and their families in collaboration with other Churches, Ecclesial Communities, agencies and NGO's.

At the beginning of the second day session, Archbishop Marchetto also intervened in the meeting commenting the results of the work done during the first day, and expressing what he considers worthy of note and consideration in view of the Committee's creation.

During the meeting, information was shared and a global vision of the situation of the fishing industry in all its different aspects emerged:

- while the vast majority of fishermen are small scale, artisanal, traditional fishermen, from the 1950's to the 1980's, great emphasis was placed on increasing fish

production, and most mandatory controls were directed towards the industrial sector, i. e.: the large vessels. Recently, the emphasis has shifted, granted that the small-scale sector harvests 50% of the global food fish production, the significance of this sub-sector has received increased recognition and attention;

- it was observed that advancement of the technical and socio-economic issues of fishermen must be complemented by pastoral care and empowerment of the fisher folk. Achievements in these would be limited, in the absence of a comprehensive understanding of the causal factors of poverty and of the real contribution of small-scale fisheries, to food security and poverty reduction;

- many fishermen, particularly the artisanal and self-employed, do not always have a sufficiently strong voice in the making of laws and regulations governing fisheries management and their conditions of work. Experience shows that whenever fishers are not part of decision-making process, they do not abide by them. Unless fishermen get organized, they cannot be part of the process of making laws and regulations and influencing national policy;

- women play a vital

To implement these recommendations, the Pontifical Council has now decided that the first meeting of the new Committee will be held at the end of January 2004.

(continued from page 5)

role in fishing communities. They should be given recognition and support.

From this discussion, suggestions were made on how the AOS could contribute to improve the quality of life of fishers and fisher folks: the Commission thus recognized the significance of empowerment and the value of organizing fishermen's associations to ensure access to and control over fish resources. As the AOS is concerned with the welfare of fishers, the Commission acknowledged that sustainability of fisheries was a prerequisite for its very existence and for the welfare of fishing communities. Hence good sustainable environmental policies are essential.

Other important considerations were made as regards our specific possible contribution to the fishing sector:

- the transfer and development of technology is not the priority task of AOS, as this is already done by other Agencies. On the other hand, through education and empowerment of its local and national leaders and the development of pastoral programs, AOS strives to improve the life of fishers and their families;

- the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People will continue to promote fishermen's welfare and dignity in conjunction with the Holy See's status as a Permanent Observer in the UN agencies and other international organizations;

- the action of this new Committee, through the normal AOS structures, will attempt to emphasize complementarity and collaboration with UN agencies, NGO's, unions and other Churches and ecclesial communities.

It was also stressed that:

- AOS must be in solidarity with fishing organizations, providing moral support, encouragement and proclaiming the dignity and professionalism that is inherent in the life of fishermen. This would be done without usurping the primary responsibility of fishermen themselves and their organizations;

- Governments have a crucial role, for their decisions considerably affect the lives of fishing communities. AOS can sensitize the different national governments "as to the importance of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security" (FAO Code of conduct for responsible fisheries, 6.18);

- AOS must find ways through its normal existing structures to encourage national governments to take an active role in ILO/IMO/FAO meetings, which formulate and develop standards, which will ensure decent and productive work for fishermen;

- Local and national AOS organizations can be of assistance to the ILO during its drafting process of new Fishermen's Conventions, by sharing information, and by encouraging its national and local governments to ratify them.

An unanimous consensus was reached that it is necessary to establish a permanent Committee on Fishing within the structure of the AOS. The members felt that through such a Committee, the AOS will better express its pastoral care and play an important role in supporting and strengthening fishermen's organizations.



Participants of the Ad Hoc Commission.

From left to right: Fr. Sinclair Oubre, Fr. Pierre Gillet, Mr. Jeremy Turner, Fr. Bruno Ciceri, Mr. Felix Randrianasoavina, Mrs. Antonella Farina, Fr. Michael Blume, Mr. Brandt Wagner, Fr. Jacques Harel.

("Apostleship of the Sea", Newsletter No. 36, June-October 2003)

Fr. Roland Doriol, sj: 22 years at sea

What do you think are the key priorities in the maritime ministry?

It is extremely important to spend time with seafarers, quality time. I would say "time before any agenda". You have to be able to listen to their experience, understand their real needs and give practical support. Being part of the team when I was at sea meant that I could get close to the seamen and could always be there to listen and advice when the need arose. This quality time is also essential in seafarers center ashore.

If you don't have quality time the center will turn into a business. People working with seafarers need to be prepared to be flexible, to go the extra mile, according to the pilgrim spirit of the gospel.

What is it about working at sea that so appeals to you?

I like the sweat of the sea. It keeps me young. It

also means that closer relationship develop and you are able to understand and support people better. I often think that now when I travel from Cebu to Manila, that this is where you really meet seamen. I am planning to go back to the sea just to spend more time with them, on inter-island ships for example, serving as best as I can.

How would you compare the "worker priest" concept with the "sailing chaplain" concept?

I am not sure how a sailing chaplain can mix with the crew if he is with them only for short periods of time. I believe that in order to understand the needs of seafarers best, you have to share time and loneliness with them. It is very important to be with seamen when they first come aboard and see how they adjust in the first few weeks. I think it is also important to work with them. It is better for

sailing chaplains if they could take on some jobs, in the kitchen, for example.

How do you see the future of the ministry?

I can see modern communication changing things on the business side, but not when it comes to welfare. You cannot skip the personal contact. It always strikes me to see seafarers arriving at the center loaded with some kind of burden, or with some kind of urge for compulsive behavior (to call, drink or buy whatever quickly), and so conscious that time is short. You have to be always ready on your feet, and modern technology won't facilitate that. The little drop of kindness offered and received at the center is going to remain in the seafarers' memory and heart, and will go with them around the world.

Fr. Roland Doriol, a French Jesuit priest, spent 22 years at sea as a "worker priest" combining the role of electrician and minister for the Catholic Church. Following his retirement in 1991, he established a successful welfare ministry in Cebu City, Philippines. But he misses the – "the biggest parish in the world" – and wants to go back.

Listen to their Plights

The Seychelles Apostleship of the Sea along with the Seychelles Seafarers Welfare Committee had since the month of February 2003 embarked on a working campaign with fishermen with the aims to reorganize and restructure the SCSA by forming regional fishermen association for the Northern Region.

Fishermen, boatowners and skippers voiced out their problems that hinder their profession and social life, like the deterioration of the pass which is steadily getting clogged up; the dangers of granite boulders dislodged by waves from the recently reconstructed bund, the lack of slipway and the continued shortage of materials for boats repair and equipment for fishing despite repeated assurances that the SMB had set up a special section to assist fishermen.

Some dealers had adopted the practice of requesting payments in foreign currency for outboard engines, and major fishing equipment, while fishermen had no means of obtaining forex as the rates on black markets is too exorbitant.

They called for regulations requiring that boats and safety and security equipment be properly enforced to guarantee fishermen safety and security in case of distress.

They advocate for the setting and building for an ice plant for North Mahe region, that will serve fishermen, thus reducing the burden on the ice plants in Victoria fishing port.

They strongly complain about the unavailability of basic fishing equipment and materials, such as hooks, fishing line, water pumps in the country, plus the expensive prices of spare parts in shops at the fishing ports of provenience.

(from Golet, Volume 1, No. 8 – August 2003)

**Avvenire,
6.XI.2003**

A Wharf with a Soul for the People of the Sea

Behind a porthole with rusty, worn-out rims, an anonymous face with a blank stare is observing a far-off world. Perhaps he is trying to sight land from his ship. This is one of the photos by Stefano Schirato, the author of twenty panels on display at the photographic exhibit, "A Window Over the Sea", that is accompanying the "SOS-See Over Sea" tour organized by the Italian Apostleship of the Sea, a service of the Migrantes Foundation.

This initiative is an attempt to sensitize the cities that live with port activity about the emergencies that affect the lives of the persons who work on the sea. The two campers of the AOS

ships, the rights of crews, work safety for seafarers, and the most delicate, dramatic theme of seized ships and their abandoned crews.

Rev. Giacomo Martino, the AOS National Director, states: "We have a message to launch and we want to involve the people who live near the sea who many times do not know what is happening beyond the port fencing. Behind the broadsides of the moored ships, stories and dramatic situations are often hidden of men who are far from their homes and families for months. And on the merchant vessels it is not rare to find working conditions that border on slavery". "Even for those

that enlivens the Migrants tour. The schools have also been involved through a contest on these themes, and a first national photographic and video prize has been created (the winner will display his/her work in an exhibit to be held in 2004 in the new ferry terminal in Genoa, next year's European capital of culture). Lastly, there is no lack of dialogue with the city and port authorities. As a matter of fact, at each stopping place there will be a round table centered on the theme, "The Human Face of the Port". In the Trieste harbor office, the representatives of various companies involved in the port activity met with Bishop Eugenio Ravignani.

The prelate, who is the bishop in charge of the AOS, stressed the importance of guaranteeing material and spiritual assistance in every port, especially through the "Stella Maris" hospitality centers, the most direct expression of the charity that animates the activity of the Apostleship of the Sea.

Each stop in the tour concludes with a music and dance performance. Using movement, space and sound wisely, the young professional artists Sara, Matt, Andrea and Gianluca put the emotions and stories on stage of the persons working on the sea who often lose their sense of stability, even in their affective and family life.



will stop at no less than 25 Italian ports. Trieste was the first stop on this long voyage that aims not only at raising the subject of spiritual assistance on board, but also at encouraging discussion on issues such as the pollution of the sea, clandestines on board

who work on cruise ships", as Father Luca says, the chaplain on board since January of this year, "often life is not easy. The greatest difficulty is keeping in contact with their families who are far away".

The photo exhibit is just one of the initiatives

Implementing the World Congress of Rio

European National Directors Meeting

The first of what will hopefully be a series of Regional Meetings on the above theme was held in Hamburg from the 27th to the 30th October 2003.

Fr Edward Pracz, Poland's National Director and European Coordinator, chaired the meeting. National Directors and resource persons from the EU and former Soviet Union Countries were present. The meeting was held at the Stella Maris Center, which also looked after the accommodation and the meals; the hospitality provided by the Director Fr Dieter Schutz and the personnel was wonderful.

After giving the national reports, which were rich and varied, reflecting the diversity of situations and local environments where the national AOS organisations are engaged, it was agreed that

- There is a need for a more unified approach across Europe and a need to share experience, expertise and resources.
- There is a need for restructuring at a national level, bringing in experienced lay people in support of National Directors to raise awareness throughout the Church and society.
- A commitment to help the poorer AOS national bodies is essential.

Concerning AOS Spirituality, all believed spirituality is an important factor in sustaining and growing a strong AOS identity and that there must be a commitment to live our Christian vocation in a way adapted to our particular mission.

In England & Wales this is done by strengthening the AOS identity with the themes of Mission, Solidarity, Welfare and Hospitality and by an on-going formation of chaplains; in Poland by regular pastoral activities for families of seafarers and students of the Maritime Academy, and in France by national pilgrimages and regular theological reflection.

The role of permanent deacons was highlighted: in France there are 4 deacons involved in AOS, in Italy 3 deacons, and in Spain 2 deacons.

There was a long discussion on the necessity to implement models of ministry that meet the needs of international seafarers. Excluding certain obvious regional variations, European countries are all working with the same people. Their needs are the same. A model of ministry that meets the needs of seafarers in one country is likely to work across Europe.

The meeting agreed that the role of **the National Director**, in each country, is essential and a necessary precondition for growth and progress. A fragmented approach to a global work force weakens our cause. Hence networking and more co-operation between different countries is very important. But this is only possible if within each country there is a national policy for AOS and a strong commitment to help other, and especially poorer, AOS agencies.

The **Cruise Industry** is the fastest growing sector of the Shipping Industry. European and even global co-ordination and training of chaplains for cruise ministry is needed. The meeting agreed the set up of a European Cruise Committee and suggested the setting up of a global committee under the auspices of the Pontifical Council, to include the other AOS Regions.

The **ecumenical aspects** were also emphasised. The members thought that ICMA was a necessity and doing very good work and that AOS must always be a staunch supporter of ICMA. The offer of cooperation by NM & AFBS (Naval Military Air Force Bible Society, for information: nma@sgm.org), to distribute free scripture resources to seafarers was gladly accepted.

At the end, the meeting expressed its gratitude to Rev Gerard Tronche for his years of dedicated service at the Pontifical Council in Rome, wishing him well and the assurance of prayers for his next appointment in West Africa.



30th Anniversary of the AOS in Madagascar

A conjuncture of circumstances and dates unexpectedly made these celebrations rather broad ranging. In fact, a varied program filled these days:- The celebration of the World Day of Fishers on Sunday, November 21, 2003; - the celebration of the Jubilee on Sunday, November 23rd; - the National Meeting from November 21st-25th; - the ceremony for those who died at sea on November 30th.

Delegates from the different ports of Madagascar were present (Majunga, Diégo, Nosy Be, Antalaha, Tuléar, Fort-Dauphin, Morombe). Our Regional Coordinator, Mr. Jean VACHER, from Mauritius, with some members of his Family, Father Théophile REX from the Mission of the Sea Reunion, and Marie F. DARONDEAU of Dunkirk, the delegate of the Mission of the Sea France, also honored us with their presence. This was a great joy for all and attested to

the friendship and collaboration we have experienced internationally.

A still more important happening was our first contact with our new Promoter Bishop, Most Rev. Zygmunt ROBASZKIEWICZ. He presided at the ceremonies together with the Most Rev. René RAKOTONDRABE, the Bishop of Tamatave. He took part in the entire national meeting. We were able to appreciate his dynamism and above all his desire to work with method and apostolic zeal in developing the Apostleship of the Sea of the entire island and making its place recognized more in the pastoral care of the local Church.

A very intense moment during this celebration was the inauguration of a monument dedicated to Mary, the Star of the Sea, with a commemorative plaque in remembrance of the three pioneers, Fr. François LE GALL, Fr. Marcel BATARD, Fr. Yves AUBRON, who gave everything so that

the Apostleship of the Sea would live.

Many people attended the ceremony for those who died at sea in the beautiful setting of the nautical club in front of the port. The maritime and port authorities left no stone unturned so that after the Mass a beautiful flotilla could transport the grieving families and their friends to place the flowers at sea. The port sirens sounded at length to announce the immersion of the floral wreath. It was a moving moment and a reminder to all the land dwellers about everything that seafarers risk for everyone's welfare.

The active participation of all those who make up the Apostleship of the Sea – associations of seafarers, fishers, their families and their children – both in the preparation and animation of these festivities was noteworthy and noted. This is a sign that the maritime world in Tamatave has become a big family.

The celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Apostleship of the Sea last November 23rd was an occasion to re-view our history and give thanks for everything that has been experienced and accomplished during these past thirty years. Above all, it was a high point for revitalizing our strengths and guiding our future.

So slept the child on his first morn.
He was going to begin, God knows, that day.
He was going to begin an everlasting year.
He was going to begin that immense destiny [...]
So slept the child deep in his first sleep.
He was going to begin the immense event.
He was going to begin the immense advent.
The advent of the order and salvation of man [...]
And his beautiful eyes closed under his eyelids
Saw no more his immense kingdom.
And the shepherds who came along stone paths
Looked at him sleeping in the hay and the stubble.
And his beautiful eyes closed to our ingratitude
Saw no more than an inner dream.
His young eyes closed to our decrepitude
Saw no more than a previous age.

(Charles Péguy, *Oeuvres poétiques*)



AOS Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Boulogne

Commodore
Chris York,
AOS National
Director

(September
3, 2003)

Boulogne yesterday was great. We left Tilbury at 0700 with Bishop Tom Burns leading our working lay chaplains and volunteers chaplains Pilgrimage to our Lady of Boulogne. 22 of us on the bus. Our ordained team of 4 plus some other lay volunteers could not make it due to other commitments. The purpose was also to pray for the recruitment of 5 new chaplain. Morning prayer, Bishop led reflections plus 'individual Gospels' got us to the ferry and onwards on the bus to Boulogne.

After lunch in Boulogne, we had a pilgrimage Rosary plus Mass ... with music in the Cathedral. We were very well looked after. Many of us wore distinctive AOS polo shirts and people were pleased to note the AOS badges. Return format to Tilbury was similar. Whilst Bishop Tom led the Pilgrimage, the preparation, prayers and music plus liturgy was lead by one of our 'young' office team. The pilgrimage was enjoyed by all and I think we developed well as a 'working AOS community'. We arrived back at Tilbury at 2100.

There was much talk of it being a regular pilgrimage activity for the core team as well as arranging something larger for supporters in UK. That I think would have to be at Walsingham. There was, however, much talk of persuading all 'Europe' core chaplains and front line volunteers to do what we did and eventually to gather all at the Our Lady of Boulogne Shrine.

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Seafarers' Health Information Available on ICSW Website

A range of seafarers' health information articles are now available on the ICSW website and can be accessed directly by clicking on the following link:

http://www.seafarerswelfare.org/41_medical.htm

Copies of the articles in Microsoft Word format can be obtained on request from the ICSW office (Cassiobury House, 11-19 Station Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 1AP, UK) and it is hoped that PDF copies will be available for download from the website in the near future.

Electronic copies of the Hygiene in the Galley material is available in a variety of languages and can be downloaded from the following web address:

http://www.seafarerswelfare.org/how_promo.htm

The Merchant Navy Welfare Board's HIV/AIDS/Sexually Transmitted Diseases information is available in a variety of languages and can be downloaded from the following web address:

<http://www.seafarerswelfare.org/hiv aids.htm>

AM World Directory

ITALY

(new telephon number)

RAVENNA

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SOUTH AFRICA

DURBAN *(new port chaplain)*

Fr. Arcangelo Maira, cs

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MADAGASCAR

(new Episcopal Promoter)

Bishop Zygmunt Robaszkiewicz, of Morombe

Eveché, Morombe 618

NEW AOS WEBSITE

We are proud to announce the launch of the AOS-Canada website, www.aos-canada.org

The site is a one-stop source of information on the work of the Roman Catholic Church in the maritime ministry in Canada. Here, you will access up-to-date news from the various Canadian ports, download the latest edition of Morning Star, AOS-Canada's national magazine, and become witness to the hand of God at work in the maritime world.

*Deacon Albert M. Dacanay adacanay@aos-canada.org
National Director*

Acronyms & abbreviations *(to be continued)*

A mariners' instant guide to some of the acronyms and abbreviations in use at sea and ashore.

Compiled by The Nautical Institute

P and I (P&I) club — protection and indemnity club

Panamax — Market category of ships notionally within the limit for transit of the Panama canal

PC — personal computer

PFD — position fixing device, personal floatation device

PIANC — Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses

PLB — personal locator beacon

PMS — planned maintenance system

POB — pilot on board/persons on board

PCS — port state control

PV — pressure/vacuum, prime vertical

QA — quality assurance

R&D — research and development

RAM — random access memory

RCC — rescue coordination centre

RDF — radio direction finder

RF — range finder, radio frequency

RINA — Royal Institution of Naval Architects, Registro Navale Italiano (classification society)

ROB — remain on board (cargo, bunkers)

Rom — read only memory

Ro-ro — roll on/roll off

RS — Russian Maritime Register of Shipping (classification society)

RT (R/T) - radio telegraph, telegraphy, telephone

SAC — special area of conservation

Sam — surface to air missile

SAR — search and rescue

SART — search and rescue radar transponder

SAS — safety at sea

SDW — summer dead weight

SES — satellite earth station, Seafarers' Education Service

Sire — ship's inspection report: a database system of the OCIMF

SPA — special protection area

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