

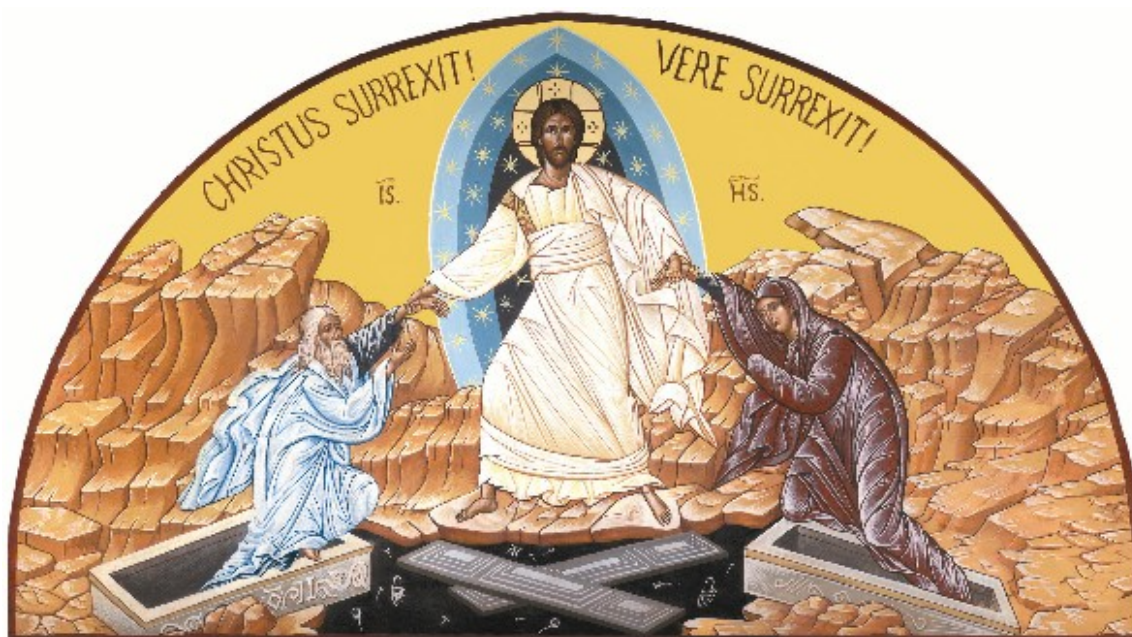
Apostolatus Maris



The Church in the Maritime World

Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People

N. 90, 2006/I



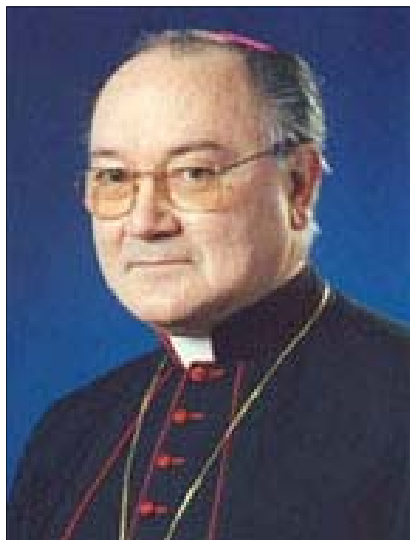
Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling death by death,
and to those in the grave, bestowing life
(Troparion of Pascha)

Inside...

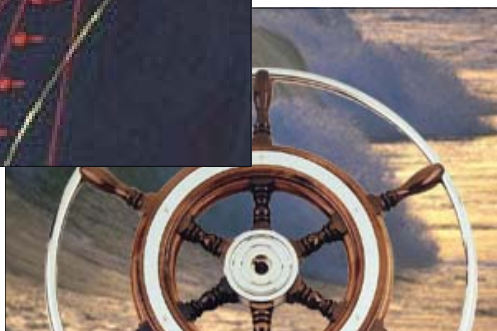
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CHANGE AT THE HELM OF THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL

The Apostleship of the Sea welcomes the new President!!



On March 11, 2006, the Holy Father accepted the resignation of His Eminence Cardinal **Stephen Fumio Hamao**, for reasons of age, from the position of President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People and, for now, has joined the Presidency of the Dicastery with that of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. As a consequence, His Holiness has appointed His Eminence Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino as the new President of our Council.



Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino was born in Salerno on November 23, 1932 and entered the Vatican diplomatic service in 1962. He worked in the Nunciatures of Nicaragua, the Philippines, Lebanon, Canada and Brazil. In 1980 he was promoted to the rank of Archbishop and Pro-Nuncio in Thailand and Apostolic Delegate in Singapore, Malaysia, Laos and Brunei. In 1986, he was named Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York. In 1991, he created the “Path to Peace”

Foundation for the purpose of supporting and strengthening the initiatives of the Holy See’s Mission to the U.N.

Cardinal Martino took active part in the major International Conferences sponsored by the U.N., in particular the World Summit on Children in 1990 in New York, the Summit on the Environment and Development in 1991 in Rio de Janeiro, the Conference on Small Insular Developing States in 1994 in the Barbados, and in the same year, the Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

He was appointed as President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace on October 1, 2002 and made a Cardinal in the Consistory of October 21, 2003.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Pope John XXIII’s *Pacem in Terris*, he took part in many conferences: in particular, on October 7, 2003 in the UN Glass Palace, and on November at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

His pastoral activity has brought him to many places of conflict on the planet: Colombia, Benin, Thailand, Indonesia, East Timor, Kazakhstan, Peru, Kenya, Mexico, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola.

Under his impulse, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace published the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* on October 25, 2004. Since then, Cardinal Martino has been making an intense tour to present and illustrate the Compendium. Lastly, for his ongoing activity in favor of peaceful and prosperous relations among peoples, human promotion and culture, he has received many honorary degrees.

During a recent meeting in the offices of our Pontifical Council, Cardinal Martino said that he is very familiar with the life of fishers because he was born in a seaside city. For this reason he is abreast of the problems that concern them and added that these people are “generous by nature. To live on and from the sea is really an arduous undertaking. When the people of the sea confront these problems, they are inspired by solidarity and generosity”.

‘THE SEA IS THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY’

Card. Hamao says farewell to the Apostleship of the Sea

Dear Friends of the Apostleship of the Sea,

“The sea is the future of humanity”: this was stated last year during the Regional Meeting held in Port Louis on the Island of Mauritius. I have always been convinced about the truth of this statement. At the end of my mandate as President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, I would like to share some convictions with you that have always accompanied me during these eight years.

In this period, I have had the opportunity to visit the Apostleship of the Sea in various countries of the world: Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, Kaoshiung, Venice, Mauritius, London, Sri Lanka, Genoa, Augusta, and so on. This enabled me to see with my own eyes the joys and hopes as well as the difficulties and problems of the seafarers and their families, but also of the chaplains and their teams. Among them (priests, deacons, men and women religious, laypersons), I have met extremely generous, hospitable people who are dedicated to their apostolate. I have also had occasion to visit seafarers directly on board ships and celebrate Mass for them, to christen new cruise ships, to bless the sea, and to take part in commemorations for the victims of the sea.



Fishing and maritime transport are essential activities for the prosperity and development of humanity. Unfortunately, the living and working conditions of the men and women engaged in this profession are very difficult: long work contracts on board ships that are not always comfortable, with crews that are increasingly multiethnic and multicultural; the prohibition, in some countries, to go ashore; a lack of social protection, and separation from their families. There are also extreme cases of ships and crews abandoned with no resources in foreign ports.

In general, for the people on land—even though they receive much from the sea—seafarers and fishers are “invisible”. The Church is aware of this and wants to express her concern for them through the Apostleship of the Sea. For this reason, the work of chaplains, pastoral workers and volunteers is most important. Many times their disinterested, friendly welcome is the only one offered in the ports of call. To carry out this work better, I have always recommended sincere, effective cooperation with the port authorities, and for this I express my satisfaction with everything the AM is setting in motion to create “Port Welfare Committees”.

The Apostleship of the Sea, moreover, has a long tradition of ecumenical cooperation with the other Christian Churches and communities involved in pastoral work for the people of the sea. The ICMA is extremely useful in this area because it provides us with the necessary framework to work on the ecumenical and fraternal level. In the coming years, inter-religious dialogue will become increasingly important, and we have to get prepared in this sense.

In the maritime world, fishers continue to be the weakest because of their extremely precarious existence. So I am glad that in different regions of the world the AM has launched the cry of alarm regarding the small-scale and traditional fishers’ difficulties in the face of the enormous competition of the large industrial companies that fish in their waters and thereby endanger a whole ecosystem and a way of life.

From these pages, I would like to thank each and every one of you and my collaborators in the Maritime Sector of the Pontifical Council. You are the Apostleship of the Sea; you are the ones who bring the Gospel into the maritime world. I assure you that I will always share your ideal and be by your side in your efforts and your peaceful, persevering and courageous struggle for a better future for the people of the sea. Let us stay united in prayer, and may the Lord bless you.

Thank you, Your Eminence, for accompanying us these past years. We wish you a “good wind” on your future crossing and a fruitful apostolate for many years to come!!

Cardinal Stephen F. Hamao
President Emeritus

AOS EVALUATES ITS COMMITMENT TO THE MARITIME WORLD

REGIONAL COORDINATORS & AOS INTERNATIONAL FISHING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FINAL STATEMENT

The Apostleship of the Sea Regional Coordinators of the nine Regions of the world- 1.Africa Atlantic, 2.Africa-Indian Ocean 3.East /South East Asia 4. Europe 5. Gulf States 6.Latin America, 7.North America 8.Ocenia & 9. South Asia met at the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People's office for an AOS-International Meeting from **Jan 31st to Feb 1st 2006**.

1. They presented their reports and reviewed region by region the pastoral action of the AOS and the living and working conditions of seafarers and those of the fishing communities around the world. There was a wide consensus to say that although international bodies and some religious, governmental and non-governmental organisations are very active in this sector and that many positive developments have happened in some regions, overall the situation in the maritime world has not really improved and that new dangers have emerged such as piracy, the criminalisation of seafarers, shore leave restriction, increased stress and fatigue, hence creating a deterioration of the human environment. There is need for the AOS of a concerted effort to work together with our valued partners of ICMA, ICSW and ITF-ST to address relative pastoral and spiritual necessities.
2. Three areas- Eastern Europe, Southern Africa and the island States of Oceania- need renewed efforts and attention in order to promote the AOS there. As in certain regions chaplains are working in difficult situations, they need our support and prayers.
3. In some regions where AOS is facing difficulties, it was suggested that other regions might help by enlisting the cooperation of better established national AOS.
4. AOS recognises the efforts of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) towards bringing into being a Consolidated Maritime Convention that will update more than 60 international instruments regarding the conditions of employment for seafarers. It encourages governments, shipowners and maritime unions and religious maritime organisations to fully cooperate for the happy conclusion of the 94th Session ILO (7th- 23rd February 2006). Non compliance or overzealous application of laws and regulations, such as instances of denial or restriction of shore leave must be reported.
5. In many parts of the world, thanks to local AOS efforts and to their participation in Port Welfare Committees there are good relationships between the port chaplains and port authorities. Together with all concerned there is a common effort to ensure that visiting seafarers are being welcomed and listened to. It has been recommended that a questionnaire be circulated to ascertain the true needs and requests of seafarers.
6. AOS assets such as buildings and premises must be preserved, as these generally were acquired through specific fundraisings and donations and once disposed of, will not be easily replaced. At the same time we must never forget that our goal is not to run profit making centres but to uphold the dignity of seafarers by caring for their spiritual, moral and physical well-being.
7. The proposed website of the AOS International was discussed. This project, under the responsibility of the Pontifical Council, will enable access not only to statistics and a data base but also the more important messages and inspirational material from the Holy See in this field.
8. Sea Sunday is attracting each year a larger audience. It raises awareness around maritime issues as it focuses on seafarers and maritime communities. It is also an opportunity for ecumenical /interreligious celebrations and fundraising.



9. The necessity of a Chaplains pastoral manual has been discussed, and the necessity of reviewing a project which has been in place for many years has been accepted. Additions and changes to the same will be sought and will be done in due course.
10. The AOS recognises the new challenges being faced by the rapid growth of the cruise ship industry . Especially the role of Chaplains on board these vessels is a crucial pastoral issue which needs attention and new initiatives. The recommendations/observations of the Dunkerque AOS meeting (October 2005) on Cruise ships were noted and will constitute the basis of further reflection on this important segment of our pastoral work.
11. A draft paper regarding the development of “Onboard Christian lay leadership” in ships, which was discussed at the same meeting in Dunkerque, was also examined and will be further studied in the context of the chaplains’ manual.
12. Among areas, which need also our pastoral attention and care are, the Yachting, fluvial(lakes) coastal and inter-island shipping .
13. AOS welcomes the ICSW/ITF/ST Maritime Welfare Regional development plans and asks all its members to collaborate to its realisation.
14. The XXII AOS World Congress will be held in Gdynia, Poland from 24th to 29th June 2007. The theme was discussed. Suggestions for logistics, speakers, workshops and other modalities were offered. It was recommended that participants should be carefully chosen and their long time commitment to AOS should be taken into consideration when selected. The mode of voting for Regional Coordinators was discussed.
15. An entire day was spent on the **AOS International Fishing Committee**. There are more than 200 million people in the world depending on fishing for their living, very often they are the poorest of the poor.
16. The Tsunami has made the world more aware of the plight of the fishing folks. In South Asia, thanks to the modest AOS–International Relief fund which was contributed by its members around the world, AOS reacted to the emergency and continues today to be active in the ongoing relief work. The lack of nets and permanent housing remain a grave problem. AOS specific approach has been, since the beginning, to reach out to those left out from master plans of larger funding agencies. All monies collected have now been distributed and the accounts audited.
17. Conditions on board fishing vessels often border on the inhuman, even if it is one of the world’s more dangerous profession, the lack of proper life-saving equipment and proper training are a matter of urgent concern.
18. Illegal recruitment of crew members and fishing fleets continue; exploitation and bad treatments are rife. There are also whole communities of undocumented migrant fishers which suffer continuous harassment.
19. New technology, poaching and over fishing is fast depleting the last remaining stocks. On the other hand, in many parts of the world the quota regime and regulations are hitting hard the Fishing communities who struggle for survival. The fishers must be sensitised on the urgency of environmental protection.
20. Fishermen find it difficult to react to changes. In some parts of the world agro-tourism has presented a valuable alternative for fishers facing difficulties to carry out their tradition activities. The need for social security and insurance for fishers is slowly making headway in many countries. In Mexico, for example, a comprehensive project has already started.
21. The ILO Fishing Convention will be represented for the members’ approval in 2007. Each national AOS should campaign for its approval. and impress upon their individual governments the need for relevant ILO Conventions. These conventions need not only ratification, but also must be implemented and enforced wherever necessary.
22. Cooperation between national AOS agencies to secure the liberation of unjustly imprisoned fishers has given good results. We encourage the countries concerned especially in the south Asia region to continue in their efforts for their release.
23. The East /South East Asia AOS Region in collaboration with the Africa-Indian Ocean Region is planning the setting up of a “ Centre for Fishers’ Rights”. This socio-pastoral project will be based in Manila in the new seafarers centre where space will be made available, it will be geared towards gathering data and information, handling cases, give legal assistance and will eventually produce formation material, in communion with AOS-International.
24. Both the President, Cardinal Hamao, and the Secretary, Archbishop Marchetto, recommended urgently the AOS the study of the new Encyclical Letter “Deus Caritas Est” – presenting it – as it will be a great help in understanding the motivations and spirituality also of the AOS.

Cyclones Katrina and Rita have also greatly affected the fishing communities in North America. The AOS in this region has stood alongside these communities and has significantly contributed in the relief work and in the sensitization of the public on their situation.

FIRST AOS SEEDS SOWN IN THE GULF REGION

by Fr. Xavier Pinto, C.S.s.R. “ad interim” Regional Coordinator

Fr. Pinto was appointed “ad interim” Coordinator for this Region in 2005.

This has allowed a more systematic pastoral approach. AOS was received a great welcome from Bishops, clergy and laypeople and the prospects of future developments look good.

Below we are reproducing a report.

Work of the AOS began in the Region by default! I passed through the Gulf each time I came to Rome in the past three years. This was from the year 2001 and during these visits:

A. I had been sharing with the Parish Priest in St. Mary’s Dubai, Fr. Daniel Cerofolini, now changed to Fr. Peter, the work of the AOS.

B. I had shared with Fr. Michael, the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and other interested persons in Fujairah, the concept of the AOS.

C. I had met the MTS Chaplain who serves in the Seamen’s Centre and the Ports of the UAE. He was consequently changed and Rev. Stephen Miller took over. I have been collaborating with Rev. Miller ever since.

D. I had been to the Norwegian seamen’s Centre to see their work and understand the issues of Seamen they handle.

Consequently, the Pontifical Council decided to make official my role in the Gulf Region for the AOS.

Initial official AOS information meeting

After my appointment as “ad interim” Coordinator for the Gulf Region, I have met the Clergy and

the Archbishop (then just the Bishop Elect), Most Rev. Paul Hinder, ofm. Cap., Feb 2004. This meeting was held in the Port city of Jebel Ali, near Dubai and was attended by 18 priests, both Diocesan and Religious. This port is the next and constantly developing port of

The United Arab Emirates

(also called the UAE) is an oil-rich [Middle Eastern](#) country situated in the south-east of the [Arabian Peninsula](#) in [Southwest Asia](#) on the [Persian Gulf](#), comprising seven [emirates](#): [Abu Dhabi](#), [Ajman](#), [Dubai](#), [Fujairah](#), [Ras al-Khaimah](#), [Sharjah](#) and [Umm Al Quwain](#). Before 1971, they were known as the Trucial States or Trucial Oman, in reference of a nineteenth-century truce between the British and some Arab Sheikhs. It borders [Oman](#) and [Saudi Arabia](#).

The Church is vibrant through its overwhelmingly Migrant population of all nations and languages. The Archbishop of the Vicariate of Arabia enjoys Diplomatic status with the Governments of the UAE and Qatar.

the area. I specially took with me Rev. Stephen Miller to this meeting to apprise the clergy of the possibilities of what can be done. Rev. Miller detailed all the work he does for the seafarers and emphasized especially the intervention he has to make in legal matters, such as claims of their salaries and facilities in case they are sick and incapacitated.

I confirmed the ecumenical dimensions in which we the AOS

must work in the Gulf and the Islamic nations.

Through a special folder on the AOS, which I have made for the Gulf Region I was able to impress on the clergy the need to develop this apostolate without prejudice to their present duties within the church compounds and under the “shadows of the bell-tower” as such.

After this meeting two things were marked for follow-up.

1. Possibilities in the port of Fujairah as the initial AOS start in the Gulf.
2. Jebel Ali itself as a possible AOS centre.

Fujairah the first choice

A follow up in Fujairah was done in August 2004, while I was on a visit to my family. Fr. Michael Cardoz is very keen on the apostolate. In fact he has already had some experience of matters with seafarers being brought in for special masses in the church in Fujairah. In an awareness and information talk on a Sunday in

Aug. 2004 I was able to contact fifteen lay persons (mainly Philipinos) who had evinced interest in being volunteers of the AOS, once begun. The port of Fujairah has several Catholics working in prominent posts and shipping agencies who are willing to pitch in to develop the apostolate.

I personally contacted four of them and ascertained the possibilities. Prominent among these is Mr. Manuel Terreiro who owns the Fujairah Port Clinic facility and has a wide experience of dealing with seafarers. He is already a collaborator of the MTS, displaying their logo in his premises. He is to display the AOS logo too in a short while from now when we inaugurate the first effort of the AOS as such.

Delegate to the AOS South Asia Conference in Chennai

Consequent to the interest of Mr. Manuel in being the first main and serious contact of the AOS in the gulf region, he was invited as a special delegate to Chennai to participate in the AOS South Asia Regional conference Nov 18-20, 2005. He was approved as delegate by the Archbishop Paul Hinder and has presented his report to him. I sent over to his Excellency through Mr Terreiro a complete file of the proceedings of the South Asia Regional Conference 2005 for his perusal and information.

Jebel Ali Port

This port is situated about 12 km from the city of Dubai. In the year 2003 it has been raised to a Parish. There already exists a small seamen's centre. The AOS has a good role to play in the port. The Parish Priest Fr. Francis is keen on the information session to his people, like the one I did in Fujairah in 2005. A time is yet to be fixed for my visit there.

Key Development plans:

- Establish the AOS in the gulf, starting with Fujairah in Feb 2006.
- Meet the Clergy individually to gain support for the idea and vast possibilities of reaching out to people on the move in the Apostolate.
- Initial meeting of information to people in Jebel Ali.
- First visit to Kuwait in March 2006 for Clergy and people alike. Keep looking for a priest Chaplain to be formed in the Apostolate.

Strengths

- Archbishop Paul Hinder very convinced of the Apostolate and collaborates and gives the opportunity without hesitation.
- Fr. Michael Cardoz in the port of Fujairah keen to start the AOS there.
- Layman Michael Terreiro well versed in the matters of seamen in Fujairah.
- Layman Anthony Fernandes in Kuwait the first collaborator.

Weakness

- Church based activity already developed hinders the initiation of yet another apostolate.

- All ports do not have Catholic presence.
- Have to start from scratch to explain the AOS; most have never heard about this before.
- Have to tread gently in a nation where Christians are a minority.

Opportunities

- Collaboration in Fujairah with the floating MTS Ship/Vessel.
- Since Seamen's Clubs and facilities already exist in places like Fujairah and Jebel Ali, recreate the apostolate of the AOS to reach out differently.
- "Leaven in the dough" method to be adopted by lay people.
- Respect the Religion of all yet reach out in their needs to them.

Threats

None have emerged so far.

Conclusion

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Into that heaven of freedom my
Father let my country awake".

*Rabindranath Tagore
Noted Indian poet
and Nobel Laureate*



ERA OF OPENNESS AND PROGRESS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA REGION

by Fr. Samuel Fonseca Torres, C.S., Regional Coordinator

Since the last World Congress which was held in Rio in 2002, many progresses have been achieved in the field of maritime ministry in South and Latin America. This was made possible thanks to many initiatives at local, national and regional level.

The AOS Region is enjoying an era of openness and cooperation with ecclesial and governmental authorities, trade unions and ship owners. The difficulties, however, exist. The continent is vast, communications are difficult or expensive, ecumenism is not yet a reality in all ports.

We reproduce below some highlights of a report presented by Fr. Fonseca at the last AOS Regional Coordinators meeting.

In the last four years, Stella Maris Centers have been created and full-time chaplains appointed in the ports of: Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santos, Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and Cartagena in Colombia. Chaplains and volunteers have worked together to offer seafarers pastoral and religious services adapted to their need.

In the Region, through regular contacts with the local Churches, AOS has received much support from the Bishop Promoters and local Bishops. Full-time chaplains have been appointed in: Guayaquil – Ecuador; Buenaventura and Barranquilla – Colombia; Puerto Cabello – Venezuela; Puerto Colón and Puerto Balboa – Panama; Puerto Limón – Costa Rica. In other ports, contacts exist, such as Puerto Cortés – Honduras, Punta Arenas – Costa Rica, and Santa Marta – Colombia. In many of these ports **Port Welfare Committees** have been started for the benefit of seafarers, their families

and the people of the sea in general.

There are new projects in Brazil and Chile. The Chilean Catholic Church, through INCAMI, has a project to set up a Stella Maris Center in each of the ten main ports of the country. In Brazil, the inauguration is planned in 2006 of two new centers in the State of Rio de Janeiro: the ports of Itaguai (Sepetiba) and Macae.

In this country, ecumenical cooperation between the Catholic and

and made it possible for five chaplains to receive specialized training for the maritime ministry.

He also visited various countries where projects for a new center are under way: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Panama, Peru, Venezuela and Brazil. The existing centers have sufficient infrastructures to respond to the new challenges of this pastoral care. The planned centers will have to inspire themselves from these experiences as regards infrastructure, transportation and communication.

Bishop Promoters, National Directors, chaplains and committed laypersons have been taking on the role of protagonists and heralds of the Word of God together with the seafarers, fishers and people of the sea.

Presbyterian mission in Santos is exemplary. On January 2, they inaugurated a new center on the other side of the city, more or less 35 km from the existing one.

All these projects have been possible thanks to the help and cooperation of NGOs, trade unions, port and local authorities and other international Organizations.



The Regional Coordinator has participated in the CELAM support team and in the regional Port Welfare Committee. He organized

Most important of all, is to ensure the presence, at local level, of qualified, trained and dynamic persons to animate each center. They are the best insurance for the success of a project.

For the year 2006, our dream is to open ten new fully equipped centers. This would necessitate also the appointment of new chaplains and pastoral agents. This is why this year training and formation should be our priority.

We are planning a regional meeting of Bishop Promoters, National Directors and chaplains for the month of October in Bogotá. This will be an important step for the launching of our next development plans. Active cooperation with ICSW/ITF ST and ecumenical relations must continue and be further developed.

We are planning to equip the centers in Rio and Santos, in order to receive chaplains or laypersons from abroad, for a period of up to three months, for training and sharing the daily ministry of the local chaplains.

XXII° WORLD CONGRESS OF *APOSTOLATUS MARIS*

Gdynia, Poland, June 24 -29, 2007

*In Solidarity with the People of the Sea as
Witnesses of Hope,
through Proclamation of the Word, Liturgy
and Diakonia*

**En solidarité avec les Gens de Mer,
Témoins d'espérance
par la Parole, la Liturgie et la Diaconie**



*In solidarietà con la Gente del Mare,
Testimoni di speranza
con la Parola di Dio, la Liturgia e la Diakonia*

**En solidaridad con la Gente del Mar,
testigos de esperanza
por la Palabra de Dios, la Liturgia y la Diaconía**

Every five years our Pontifical Council organizes a World Congress of the Apostleship of the Sea. In this connection, we publish some preliminary information regarding our next meeting.

After consultation, it was decided to hold this **XXII Congress in Gdynia, Poland, from June 24-29, 2007** on the theme “*In Solidarity with the People of the Sea as Witnesses of Hope, through Proclamation of the Word, Liturgy and Diakonia*”. The subject will be pastoral and this will enable us to deepen the spirituality of our Organization in a world that is increasingly marked by lack of hope. Through our reflection, prayer and sharing, we will try to understand better our vocation and pastoral commitment in favor of the People of the Sea through our everyday witness, celebration of faith and service of charity.

On the morning of Sunday, June 24th, before the official opening of the Congress, that will take place in the afternoon, we will hold a reflection meeting reserved for the Bishop Promoters, Regional Coordinators and National Directors. The purpose of this meeting is to define the role of the Bishop Promoters better and identify the means to develop greater communion between the local Church and the Apostleship of the Sea.

It is customary for the World Congress to be prepared by regional meetings. You are thus encouraged to organize these meetings, which will make a first study of the theme, an assessment of A.M.’s evolution, since the XXI Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 2002, and also an evaluation of the most pressing pastoral questions based as well on a survey that will be prepared.

A World Congress is surely an important moment in the life of the Apostleship of the Sea; we are therefore counting on everyone’s cooperation so that this Congress will bear significant fruits. In the following

XXII° WORLD CONGRESS 2007

ADVANCED INFORMATION

Vatican City, 31st March 2006

Prot. n. 2297/2006/AM

Dear Regional Coordinators,
Dear National Directors,
Dear all,

At our last Regional Coordinators' meeting in Rome, it was agreed that an "information pack" concerning the XXII° AOS World Congress should be sent to you and publicized in the Easter edition of the "Apostolatus Maris" Bulletin. This information is destined to be used especially to prepare the regional meetings planned before the holding of the World Congress.

To this effect you will please find as attachments:

- The main features of the Congress;
- The theme;
- Its explanation;
- The main recommendations of the XXI° AOS World Congress, Rio de Janeiro 2002.

As the XXII° World Congress draws nearer we shall provide you with all the necessary information. Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As you prepare yourself to celebrate Christ's passion, death and resurrection, I avail myself of the opportunity to send to you and all your collaborators our very best wishes and the assurance of our prayers.

Yours sincerely,

+ Archbishop Agostino Marchetto
Secretary

XXII° WORLD CONGRESS 2007

(Main features)

Sunday June 24, 2007

Morning

Meeting of Bishop Promoters and National Directors

The aim of this meeting is to encourage an open discussion on:

◇ **The role of the bishop promoter to foster communion with the local Church (national directors, chaplains, volunteers and parishes)**

◇ **The AOS as an integral part of the local Church: problems and results.**

09,00am Presentation by a panel of National Directors of the main problems and needs of national or local AOS, followed by general discussion. The Results of the questionnaire/survey will constitute the basis of this session.

10,30am Coffee break

11,00am Round Table: The role of the bishop promoter:

12,30am Lunch

Afternoon

Formal Opening of the Congress

16,30pm Eucharistic Celebration,

18,00pm Greetings and welcome:

Followed by Dinner

Monday June 25, 2007

Breakfast

08,45am Morning prayers.

09,00am -11,30am Morning Session

12,00am Eucharistic Celebration

13,00pm Lunch

15,00pm-18,00pm Afternoon Session

19,00pm Supper

Hospitality room

Tuesday 26, June 2007

Breakfast

08,45am Morning prayers.

09,00am-11,30am Morning session

12,00am Eucharistic Celebration

13,00pm Lunch

15,00pm-18,00pm Afternoon Session

19,00pm Supper

After supper: **Regional meetings and nomination of candidates for Regional Coordinators**

Hospitality room

(Continued from page 11)

Wednesday 27, June 2007

Breakfast

08,30am Eucharistic Celebration

09,25am-11,30am Morning Session

12,00am Lunch

14,30pm to 16,00 Afternoon Session

16,15 Departure for Gdansk, visit of the city

Return to the hotel in the evening.

Thursday 28, June 2007

Breakfast

08,45am Morning prayers

08,55am-11,30am Morning Session

12,00am Eucharistic celebration

13,00pm Lunch

15,00pm-18,00pm Afternoon Session

19,00pm Supper

Hospitality room

Friday 29, June 2007: Feast of St. Peter and Paul

Breakfast

08,30am Morning prayers.

08,45am Concluding Session

◇ Presentation of the final document

◇ Message to the maritime world

◇ Press release or Press Conference

10,30am Departure for the “Festival of the Sea” and Eucharistic Celebration.

Supper

Hospitality room

Saturday 30, June 2007

Departure of participants

EXPLANATION OF THE THEME OF THE CONGRESS

In Solidarity with the People of the Sea as Witnesses of Hope, through Proclamation of the Word, Liturgy and Diakonia

1. In preparation to the next AOS World Congress, we have received numerous suggestions to the effect that its theme should be “pastoral” and that we should take this occasion to better understand our vocation and pastoral commitment in favor of the People of the Sea. We believe that this suggestion is timely, as there has already been many initiatives and efforts in that direction in many parts of the world in recent years. The word “pastoral” is taken here in the wide sense, as we do not want to exclude in our apostolate anything that is inherent to the life and work of the men and women of the sea. It is hoped that this will be also an opportunity for AOS to reflect on and take stock on what constitutes its spirituality and its specific contribution to the maritime world.

2. The maritime profession remains today one of the most difficult, demanding and dangerous occupations in the world. The seafarers, fishers and their families are facing all manners of difficulties and dangers and they are the first ones to suffer the negative effects of globalization (see Final Document of Rio World Congress, 2002). Our reflection and commitment towards the people of the sea is rooted in the conviction expressed by the Second Vatican Council that: “*The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts*” (Gaudium et Spes, Preface).

3. Amid new pressures and new threats against the working and living conditions of seafarers and their families, AOS vocation is to stand alongside them, in their struggle for more dignity when their rights are ignored and “to support the work of the faithful who are called to witness to their Christian life in this sphere” (Motu Proprio, Stella Maris, Art I). In a world which is increasingly marked by lack of hope, we do so by keeping the virtue of hope alive in our hearts and by looking for the signs of its presence in the maritime world. As “*Church we have the responsibility of reading the signs of time and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel... we should be able to answer the ever recurring questions which men ask about the meaning of this present life and of the life to come.We must be able to understand the aspirations, the yearnings and the often dramatic features of the world in which we live*” (G.S N°4). With this in mind we shall, during the Congress, examine our present and future involvement as a Church organization in a maritime world in constant evolution, with particular reference to merchant ships, fishing vessels, cruise ships, yachts, port workers, seafarers’ family organizations, maritime students, etc.

4. After reflection and consultation it was decided that our Congress be “developed” around 2 main notions: “**witnessing**” and “**hope**” inspired by 1 Peter 3:15-17: “*Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope. Give a kind and respectful answer and keep your conscience clear.*”

These two realities will be articulated around Proclamation of the Word, Liturgy and Diakonia, bearing in mind the Holy Father Benedict XXVI’s teaching in his Encyclical “Deus Caritas Est”: “*The Church’s deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God (kerygma-martyria), celebrating the sacraments (leitourgia), and exercising the ministry of charity (diakonia). These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable. For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being*” (N.25).

This Congress will be a time for AOS to interrogate itself about its commitment to these three-fold responsibilities which constitute the essence of all pastoral activities.

- The place of the proclamation of the Word in the Apostleship of the Sea.
- The celebration of the sacraments as the source and “raison d’être” of our pastoral care.
- The service to all but especially to the poorest as the priority and hallmark of AOS.

5. We have also included the term solidarity in the theme for two reasons. First, as we are going to Gdynia, which is 20 km from Gdansk, the birthplace of the “Solidarnosc” movement, we have thought that it would be fitting to render a tribute to the Polish labour movement Solidarity, which was instrumental in bringing such great historical changes and finally made possible Europe’s reunification. The second reason is more theological as we believe that our mission is God’s vocation realized “in solidarity” with the maritime world by sharing the lives of those who are part of it. The context marked by secularism and, at the same time, by a growing multireligious and multicultural reality, is also a reminder that AOS has a great tradition of ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue and of cooperation “in solidarity” with every man and woman of good will.

6. We pray that this next World Congress be a time of grace for the AOS and that our reflection, prayer and sharing will enable us to progress in our mission to reach out, as members of the Church, to all the People of the Sea. As we set forth on this new journey of faith, hope and love, we confide to Mary the “Stella Maris”, our Congress and we ask her for her protection and guidance.

ASSESSMENT OF AOS EVOLUTION, SINCE THE XXI° CONGRESS IN RIO DE JANEIRO IN 2002

The main Rio recommendations

Listed below, not in order of priority, are some of the main recommendations/conclusions of the XXI° AOS World Congress held in Rio de Janeiro in 2002.

Before embarking on a new Congress, it is important to reflect on the main recommendations and evaluate whether they have been present in our pastoral planning and whether progress has been made in these particular fields.

- ▶ Strengthen the AOS network and enhance AOS visibility by informing the public, the Church and the authorities of our work.
- ▶ Extend the network where it does not exist and support it where it is weak.
- ▶ Promote an AOS spirituality.
- ▶ Foster relations with other Catholic organizations, NGOs and International Agencies.
- ▶ Work ecumenically and cooperate with initiatives from others.
- ▶ Training of laity and “chaplains” is of the utmost importance.
- ▶ Make Scripture resources and prayer books available.
- ▶ New models of non ordained ministry: ship visiting, cruise chaplains, drop-in centers, seagoing “chaplains”, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Prayer/faith leaders on board etc.
- ▶ Each region must reformulate for itself the vision of AOS and have a pastoral plan adapted to its real needs and possibilities.
- ▶ Each AOS branch must have a professional approach and a good and clear organizational structure.
- ▶ The role and place of permanent deacons in the network.
- ▶ The role of women.
- ▶ Seafarers’ Family (or Wives) Associations are to be encouraged.
- ▶ The creation of Port Welfare Committees.
- ▶ The problem of AIDS and other epidemics.
- ▶ Pastoral care of the families, wives, children and other dependents.
- ▶ An AOS International Website.
- ▶ Improve the communication network and infrastructure

(email etc.).

- ▶ Courses/lectures in maritime academies and pre-departures seminars/encounters for seafarers.
- ▶ The creation of an “AOS International Fishing Committee” is recommended.



ONE YEAR AFTER THE PASSING AWAY OF JOHN PAUL II

by Joanna Rylko, Stella Maris, Gdynia - Poland

Egli continua ad essere presente nella nostra mente e nel nostro cuore; continua a comunicarci il suo amore per Dio e il suo amore per l'uomo; continua a suscitare in tutti, specie nei giovani, l'entusiasmo del bene e il coraggio di seguire Gesù e i suoi insegnamenti.

Benedetto XVI, per il Rosario nel primo anniversario della morte del Servo di Dio Giovanni Paolo II, 2 aprile 2006

One year after the passing of Jean Paul II, we can still hear His message to us all: "Stay strong in the Faith".

When the Servant of God visited Gdynia in 1987, He addressed Seafarers with deep and meaningful words: "To many of you the power and vastness of the sea facilitates contact with God. There is a well known

saying: Let the one who doesn't know how to pray go to the sea!".

After His death a book of condolences was put in the Seamens' Club and many seafarers and their families, students of maritime academies and representatives of maritime institutions consigned there their thoughts, reflections and sentiments concerning the late Pope. A recurring feeling was a deep sense of gratitude for his Pontificate and all His efforts to defend and promote the human dignity of the People of the Sea.

We have also received messages from captains and their crews at sea sharing their sorrow and offering their sympathy. Herewith we copy some of these messages:

≈ "To our beloved Pope John Paul II, we thank God for sharing your life with us and your love to us Philipinos and the world. We love you and you will always be remembered as the loving and greatest Pope. Farewell !!!"

Samuel A-Pana Jr from the Philippines

≈ "To our Beloved Pope John Paul II. For us You are more than a symbol of faith, of the Church, of the entire catholicism. You are also a guiding light that unites all of us in the world. We are very pleased and thankful that You were able to visit us twice during Your papacy (in the Philippines). You left us a legacy of humility that we've never seen of any human being before. Thank You very much and You will live in our hearts forever. Philipino Crew of m/v Sophie O"

Arnold Villarosa Lamberto Flores Renato Isidto

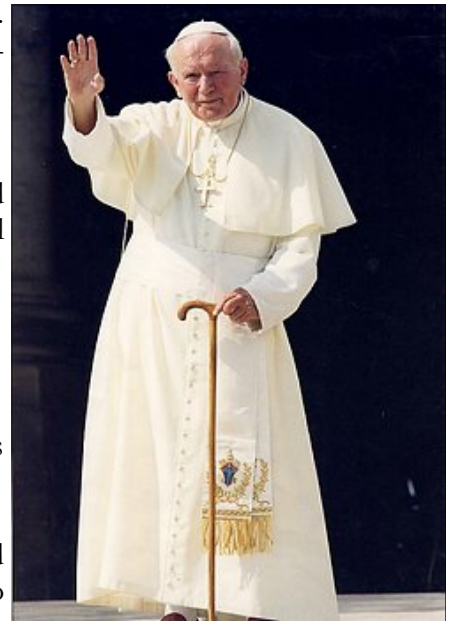
≈ "To Pope John Paul II. Please help me pray so that I could stand hardships and temptations, for good health of my family and all my relatives. May peace dominate the world".

Picky Caminos MV Adruanople

Pope John Paul II is with us no more, but as the then Cardinal Ratzinger said at His funeral mass: "We can be sure that our beloved Pope is standing today at the window of the Father's house, that he sees us and blesses us".

The process for His beatification has started and is moving forward swiftly. We can turn to him confidently and, for my part, I would like to conclude with the following plea:

"Holy Father, although you no longer deliver any speeches to us we still listen to your words and want them to fall deep into our hearts. And now when you look at us from the Heavenly House, bless us, so that, full of hope, we wait for meeting you again on the day of resurrection. We loved you and still do. We want to fulfil your message and be witnesses of your love. Holy Father, bless us".



AN HISTORICAL VOTE

MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION 2006

As soon as the ILO members voted this new Convention, Cardinal Hamao, the then President of the Pontifical Council, and Archbishop Marchetto, Secretary of the same Dicastery, wrote the following letter to the AOS:

Dear Regional Coordinators and National Directors,

On Thursday 23rd February the maritime session of the International Labour Conference of ILO adopted a new comprehensive Maritime Labour Convention. Our Pontifical Council warmly welcomes this new instrument for the protection of seafarers and their families. This Convention will make a great difference to the life of the 1.2 million seafarers and their families, as it will ensure that the health, safety, working conditions and general welfare of seafarers are given primary importance.

We congratulate all those who have worked tirelessly for the success of this Conference. We would like also to underline the spirit of dialogue and collaboration which has reigned during the Conference and which has made this fruitful outcome possible.

In his concluding speech, the ILO Director General, Mr. Juan Somavia, recognised the importance and paid homage to religious welfare organisations and other non-governmental organisations working with seafarers. He also made special mention of the delegation of the Holy See, of ICMA, of the role of Christian organisations and of their positive contribution within the maritime industry.

At our XXI AOS World Congress in Rio de Janeiro (2002) we expressed the wish that the “globalised maritime industry be given a humane face”. We believe that this vote is a step in that direction. To make it become a reality, we must encourage and urge all the member States who have voted this Convention to ensure that it is now ratified and properly implemented worldwide.

As we rejoice and give thanks for this historical event, we pray that it will inaugurate a new era for the People of the Sea, where the dignity of each one will be recognised and respected.

Yours sincerely in Christ.

Cardinal Stephen Fumio Hamao
President

+ Archbishop Agostino Marchetto
Secretary



The Holy See supports the consolidated Maritime Convention

On the 20th February 2006, Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations at Geneva, addressed the ILO General Assembly. In his speech he underlined the historical importance of this new Convention: *“The word historical is not a rhetorical expression, but the definition of an achievement made possible thanks to the spirit of dialogue and the quality negotiations which have prevailed, thus enabling the conference to reach a consensus even on the more difficult provisions. The challenge that now remains is to formalize the good work already done”*.

The Permanent Observer then advocated the concept of “fair trade” applied to the maritime industry urging the authorities *“to provide to maritime workers social security and protection”*. In his conclusion, he commended *“all delegates and the ILO personnel for their commitment and hard work over the last five years to develop this Consolidated Maritime Labour Convention and congratulates them and the dedicated staff of this Organisation for bringing the maritime world to this decisive point of change”*.

THE FOURTH PILLAR OF MARITIME REGULATION

by Captain Jean-Yves Legouas
Expert in maritime affairs at the ILO

On Thursday, February 23, 2006, the International Labor Organization adopted a new comprehensive labor standard for the world's maritime sector, which, when it enters into force, will represent a decisive step forward for the world of maritime work.

The new 2006 Convention for maritime work was adopted by a vote of 314 votes *for*, with no votes *against*, and 4 *abstentions* at the 94th International Conference of Labor (maritime), which took place in Geneva at the Palais des Nations from February 7-23. This vote reflects almost unanimous support by the 1,200 delegates from more than 100 countries representing seafarers, ship-owners and governments.

The new Convention consolidates and updates 68 existing ILO conventions and maritime recommendations that have been adopted since 1920. The countries that do not ratify the new Convention will still be bound by the former conventions that they have ratified, but those instruments will be closed to further ratification.

The new Convention clearly sets out, in plain language, a “bill of rights” of the people of the sea, while leaving sufficient latitude to the nations to grant these rights in a spirit of transparency and responsibility, and to set up a socio-economic base for world competition in the maritime sector. The three constituents of the ILO—governments, employers and employees—are fully taken into account in the Convention. We note that this Convention will be applicable to all the ships engaged in commercial activities with the exception of fishing vessels and traditionally built boats. Moreover, it contains a long definition of a seafarer.

The general structure of the new Convention differs from that of ILO's traditional conventions. It is made up of fundamental provisions, Articles and Rules, followed by a Code in two parts, A and B, divided into five titles, one

of which is dedicated to compliance and application. The Rules and the Code, which contain the Norms—Part A, mandatory norms—and the guiding Principles—Part B, which must be taken into consideration by the ratifying State but are not mandatory—are regrouped under five headings: Title 1: Minimum requirements for seafarers to work on a ship; Title 2: Conditions of employment; Title 3: Accommodation, recreational facilities, food and catering; Title 4: Health protection, medical care, welfare and social security protection; Title 5: Compliance and enforcement.

The instructions related to the welfare of the people of the sea are found by parts in Title 3 for the facilities on board, and in Title 4 regarding welfare on land. Rule 4.4, “*Access to welfare facilities onshore*”, specifies: *Each Member shall ensure that shore-based welfare facilities, where they exist, are accessible. The Member shall also promote the development of welfare facilities, such as those listed in the Code, in designated ports to provide seafarers on ships that are in its ports with access to adequate welfare facilities and services*”. The norm and the guiding principle take up again most of the provisions of Convention No. 163 and Recommendation No. 173. The broad ratification foreseen for the new Convention should thus universalize what only a handful of countries has made possible in this area until now.

Title 5 contains provisions regarding implementation of the instrument. So ships that are larger than 500 GT and engaged in international voyages or voyages between foreign ports will be required to carry a “Maritime Labor Certificate” and a “Declaration of Maritime Labor Compliance”. The Declaration sets out ship-owners' plans for ensuring that applicable national laws, regulations or other measures required to implement the Con-



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AM World Directory

AOS-USA

Fr. Donald Zarkoski, SDB passed away on Saturday, Jan.4th at age 75. Fr. Don cherished his membership in the AOS-USA and worked about two cruises a year for many years. He was preparing for a cruise to Alaska last May when his doctor discovered a brain tumor. Following surgery to remove the tumor, Fr. Don suffered a brain hemorrhage from which he never fully recovered. R.I.P.

THAIWAN

(new port chaplain)

KAOHSIUNG

Bro. José G.F. Vargas, C.S.

GREAT BRITAIN (England)

(new chaplain)

BRISTOL

Fr. Noel Mullin

Bristol Seafarers' Centre, Royal Portbury Dock Road
Portbury, Bristol BS20 7XJ

(Scotland)

(new chaplains)

ABERDEEN

Sr. Marian Davey (07758 356372)

& Deacon Brian Kilkerr (07757 042722)

CLYDEPORT

Fr. Daniel McLoughlin (07757 042724)

GRANGEMOUTH

Richard Haggarty (07757 042723)

richardhaggarty@aosgrandemouth.co.uk

A 3D graphic of the words "Happy Easter" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are white with a grey shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance as if they are floating or standing on a surface.

(continued from page 17)

vention are complied with on an ongoing basis. Shipmasters will then be responsible for carrying out the ship-owners' stated plans and keeping proper records to provide evidence of compliance with the Convention. The flag State will review the ship-owners' plans and verify and certify that they are in place and being implemented.

Other novel features of the Convention include the accelerated amendment procedures making it possible to adapt to the rapid changes in the sector; onboard and onshore complaint procedures to encourage rapid resolution of problems, if possible; provisions ensuring that should a flag State delegate certain inspection and enforcement functions to a recognized organization (such as a classification society), the organization will have to meet specific criteria for independence and expertise.

The new Convention constitutes the long-awaited "fourth pillar" of international maritime regulation along with the three key ILO conventions: the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Convention), the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping (STCW Convention), and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention). The new Convention will enter into force one year after its ratification by 30 Members States of ILO representing at least 33% of world gross tonnage.



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