

Apostolatus Maris

The Church in the Maritime World



Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People

N. 97, 2008/I



*If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching;
empty, too, your faith (1 Cor 15:14)*

Inside ...

The Apostleship of the Sea Regional Coordinators Meeting

Page 5

The AOS International Fishing Committee Meeting

8

Pilgrimages of the People of the Sea

12

Message on the occasion of Easter 2008

Dear Friends of the AOS,

The Lord has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

After 40 days of preparation through prayer, penance and charity, this is our joyful exclamation as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Easter, for us believers, is not simply just one feast among others, but it is the "Feast of feasts". St. Augustine describes Christians as "an Easter people and Alleluia is [their] song". This feast is indeed the most important and joyful religious celebration in the Christian liturgical year. In fact St Paul does not hesitate to tell us that "If Christ has not been raised, then empty (too) is our preaching; empty, too, your faith" (1Cor 15,14,).

At each Easter we are reborn in Christ, renewing our faith we become a new creature in Him. As the Holy Father has reminded us many times recently, Faith, certainly is the acceptance of a doctrine, but first and foremost is an encounter with the person of Jesus, dead and risen. This encounter is a source of great joy, hope and enthusiasm which impels us to be tireless messengers and witnesses of this good news through "*proclamation of the Word, Liturgy and Dia-konia*", which was the theme of our last World Congress.

May the Paschal joy that filled the heart of the Apostles and the disciples on the first Easter always be with you, your families and colleagues. Let us share it and be witnesses of the Resurrection to the thousands of seafarers and fishers who come daily to our ports.

As I send my heartfelt Easter greetings, may the Stella Maris, Mother of the Risen Christ, intercede for you.

A happy and holy Easter!

+ Archbishop Agostino Marchetto
Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care
of Migrants and Itinerant People

Vatican Radio interview with Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, Secretary of the PCPCMIP

Why are the Regional Coordinators of the AOS meeting at the Pontifical Council from January 31st to February 2nd?

The AOS is a Catholic “Work”, as the Apostolic Constitution *Pastor Bonus* (1988) defined it, present in almost all the maritime countries. With its 8 Regional Coordinators (North America, Latin America, Europe, Indian Ocean, Atlantic Africa, Oceania, Southeast Asia and South Asia), the AM is involved in the pastoral care of fishers, merchant marines, and crews and passengers on board cruise ships and yachts (inshore navigation). So it is important to meet at least once a year to assess the pastoral situation, listen to one another and share, and in the end draw up the program of pastoral activities. From this perspective, it is obvious that each continent, each ocean, has its specific character, which we have to recognize and respect, while at the same time preserving the overall unity.

What is the importance of this meeting?

This year the meeting takes on special importance because it comes six months after the XXII World Congress held in Gdynia (Poland) in June 2007, on the theme: *In Solidarity with the People of the Sea, Witnesses to Hope Through the Word, the Liturgy and Diakonia*. That Congress, which was generally considered a great success, drew up conclusions and recommendations that must be put into practice now, concerning the future development of the apostleship in a constantly evolving maritime world whose economy is still weak.

For some time, in fact, we have seen that maritime transport, led by the extraordinary economic growth in Asia, with its very favorable prices, is enjoying a certain prosperity, but at the same time we see some clouds on the horizon in the constantly rising price of oil and signs of economic recession in the Western world. But even in these times of prosperity, work at sea continues to be very hard work, and every day we witness tragedies both on land and at sea. Almost every day we hear about shipwrecks, disappearances at sea, and new “boat people”, emigrants who do not hesitate to brave the oceans in order to escape from hunger and unemployment or in the hope of a better life in the developed countries.

So it is in this context that the chaplains and many committed laypersons are called now to promote solidarity and human dignity with the people of the sea,

and to preach and give witness to the Gospel, while paying attention to human promotion as well.

On February 2nd the International Fishing Committee of the AOS will meet. What can you tell us about this?

The world of fishing is in crisis. World fish stock is at its lowest. For the first time in world history it is feared that fish will disappear from the seas. In fact, 75% of the known marine resources are overexploited despite the cry of alarm and the system of quotas that have been imposed, especially in the developed countries. Since more than a billion people depend on fishing for their food needs, and an estimated 41 million people work directly in this activity, the exhaustion of fish resources represents a very great danger for all these people. Entire communities of fishers are threatened with extinction, and so a whole way of life is in the process of disappearing.

One expert from FAO and another from ILO will be with us to help us deepen our reflection and also to set some priorities in our pastoral action that take the changing reality into consideration.

“The chaplains and many committed laypersons are called to promote solidarity and

In this context, then, what will be the AOS’s contribution?

The workers of the sea tend to work and act individually. This is why their voice is rarely heard on the national or international level. It is also AOS’s duty to be the voice of the voiceless by helping them to become aware of the situations they are living and the deadlines they will have to face. It is also a duty to always be close and have solidarity with all the living forces working in this sector for the good and dignity of man.

Naturally, there are some signs of hope too. As a matter of fact, regarding both maritime transport and fishing, the ILO adopted some important Conventions in 2006 and 2007 that represent a great opportunity for the maritime world. Now the AOS needs to carry out a task of advocacy around the world so that these Conventions will be ratified and have force of law as soon as possible.

THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA REGIONAL COORDINATORS MEETING

(Rome, 31st January - 1st February 2008)



The Address of **Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino** President of the PCPCMIP

“To accomplish your mission you will need determination and diligence and I pray that your ministry be fruitful so to bring a new dimension and vigour to all those who are under your pastoral care, confident as we are that ‘perseverance....will secure [our] lives’ (Lk 21,19)”.

Dear Regional Coordinators,

Welcome to Rome, the City of Peter and of his Successors. I am glad that, in spite of the long distances and your many pastoral engagements, you have all been able to respond positively to our invitation. This is the first time for me to preside over an AOS Regional Coordinators meeting and I wish to congratulate you on your appointment or re-appointment to this important task. To accomplish your mission you will need determination and diligence and I pray that your ministry be fruitful so to bring a new dimension and vigour to all those who are under your pastoral care, confident as we are that “perseverance....will secure [our] lives” (Lk 21,19).

In your responsibility as Regional Coordinators you will be guided by the norms set by Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Letter *Stella Maris*. Your main task will be to assist and cooperate with this Pontifical Council towards the implementation of the “Work” that AOS is, the arm of the pastoral solicitude of the Church in the maritime world. We count on you to carry out this responsibility in every part of your region. I am sure that you will spare no effort to achieve this goal, which is to bring the “Good News” of Jesus Christ to every man and woman related to the sea who have been entrusted to our pastoral care by the Church, and to promote their human dignity.

With this in mind and to better address the pastoral challenge in front of us, during the recent XXII AOS World Congress, some changes were announced concerning the constitution of the Regions on the American continent, so as to better take into account the existing cultural and pastoral realities. As you already

know, now Mexico and Cuba will be part of the Latin American region and the English, French and Dutch speaking islands of the Caribbean will join the North American region.

Coming very soon after the XXII AOS Word Congress, this meeting is very significant as it will enable us to follow up on this momentous event. As I had the occasion to say before, the Congress constitutes a blueprint that will allow us to set our course for the next five years. In its Final Document, it has given us a rich collection of conclusions and recommendations, which is the fruit of the participants’ reflections and sharing, as illustrated in its first part (the event). They are the proposed responses to the many challenges which have been identified by the participants and which need to be put into practice. Now is the time to start to implement them, and we have five years to do so, if we want that the Congress really bear its fruits and not remain solely an academic exercise, a friendly and joyful meeting.

The Regional Coordinators of the nine AOS Regions of the world (Africa Atlantic, Africa-Indian Ocean, East/South East Asia, Europe, Gulf States, Latin America, North America and the Caribbean, Oceania, South Asia) met at the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People office, from January 31 to February 2, for their annual Meeting and for the AOS *International Fishing Committee*.

All Regions were represented, except North America and the Caribbean.



In this regard, you have a key role to play. Time after time we have been able to witness how much the pastoral dynamism in a given region depends on the impetus of the Regional Coordinator and on his pastoral zeal. You must take the initiative in establishing a regular dialogue with the Bishop Promoters and National Directors in your region. One of your priorities will be to establish a regional network of cooperation and solidarity, by building also fraternal relations and good lines of communication with all the personnel in your region and by encouraging the establishment in each country of an AOS structure. The strength of AOS is in its network, and no one should have to work in isolation without the benefit of mutual support and encouragement.

During the Congress it was repeatedly said that Regional Coordinators, National Directors and chaplains must have a clear vision of their responsibilities and that they must be given sufficient time and resources to carry out their tasks. Another of your main concerns will be then, to help chaplains and ship visitors understand their mission, by giving them adequate time and the material means to put into practice the Congress recommendations. Hence the primary importance of training. This is done through meetings, retreats, local and regional conferences, which you will promote and organise. Above all what is needed is a "formation of the heart" which will enable each one to be a true witness of Hope and give testimony through the proclamation of the Word, Liturgy and Diakonia, according to the guidelines set out by the XXII AOS World Congress.

The *AOS Manual for Chaplains and Pastoral Agents*, which has been completely revised and was presented at the Congress, is now available in English, French and Spanish. We believe that it will be of

great help, as it will offer additional guidance to all those providing pastoral care and services to seafarers in ports and onboard. In trying to address the various challenges facing the maritime world and environment today, it has taken into account the latest Church documents and the most recent legislation in the maritime and fisheries sector. It will hence be useful for training and for providing a common ground or reference to all those in the AOS. There are also new chapters on the ministry to Cruise Ships and the Yachting and Sailing sub-sectors, which are becoming every day more important. A section on Inter-religious dialogue has been added as there is an ever increasing presence of people of other religions on the ships, in the ports and in our centres, providing us with a wonderful opportunity to respectfully witness Christ especially through love and hospitality because "love is a language that directly reaches the heart and opens it to trust" according to the Holy Father Benedict XVI.

I offer you my prayerful best wishes for the success of your mandate as Regional Coordinators and I thank you in advance for your loyal cooperation and support. I would like to conclude with this invocation taken from the recent encyclical *Spes Salvi* of the Holy Father: *Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, to hope, to love with you. Show us the way to his Kingdom! Star of the Sea, shine upon us and guide us on our way!* (N. 50).

I pray for abundant blessings from the Lord upon our meeting, and for yourself a happy stay in the "Eternal City" and a safe return to your homes.



The Regional Coordinators with the Superiors of the Pontifical Council and the Officials of the Maritime Sector

THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA REGIONAL COORDINATORS MEETING

(Rome, 31st January - 1st February 2008)

H.E. Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, President of the Pontifical Council, opened the proceedings by welcoming and congratulating the Regional Coordinators present on their appointment or re-appointment to this important responsibility.

The Regional Coordinators presented their reports and shared on their pastoral initiatives and projects for their regions. The following are the main conclusions and recommendations.

Conclusions

- ◊ Australia has imposed visa requirements for every seafarer entering the country. Other countries are contemplating doing the same. However it was observed that in the treatment of seafarers there is a lot of discrimination based on religion, nationality, and "names" .
- ◊ The work of the Regional Coordinators is being made increasingly difficult because of the rising costs of communication and transport. In some regions it is practically impossible to organize regional meetings because of the social and financial situations, unless there are subsidies from outside sources.
- ◊ For some regions the Sea Sunday appeal/collection constitutes a high percentage of AOS revenues.
- ◊ In many parts of the world the lack of knowledge of English, the more common maritime language, is a real obstacle for ship visiting and pastoral communication. An added difficulty is when in a given region there are several languages being used; this renders communication even more difficult.
- ◊ The creation of Port Welfare Committees (PWC) can help solve financial needs. In this connection ICSW has been of great help.
- ◊ Even where there are Chaplains and good infrastructure it is difficult to obtain responses to letters and circulars.
- ◊ Generally Ecumenical relations are good.
- ◊ There are many instances where lay AOS personnel do not receive due recognition and support from the Parish Clergy. Cardinal Martino added that no effort should be spared to establish dialogue and collaboration between Clergy and committed lay people. The Pontifical Council is willing to facilitate this dialogue and also to contact Episcopal Conferences whenever this could prove useful.
- ◊ It was noted that AOS is developing whenever there is good support from the Bishop Promoter and the local Bishops together with an AOS structure, and also good ecumenical relations.

Manual for Chaplains and Pastoral Agents of the AOS

The Manual was discussed during the meeting. All the participants agreed that it is an important instrument, clear and informative and will be very useful for training and everyday reference. The chaplains have already reacted positively.

The Manual will be printed in English, Spanish and French and copies will be sent to all the maritime Bishops and National Directors. All chaplains, pastoral agent and volunteer should also have one.

It was suggested that the Manual be translated in other languages (Indonesian and Russian were mentioned). This is up to each national AOS under the supervision of the Bishop Promoter and of the National Director.

- ◊ The lack of training and limited resources/logistics can be obstacles to best pastoral practices.

Recommendations

- ◊ Whenever an AOS property is sold or re-attributed to some other charity AOS should be compensated or at least the money should be reinvested in seafarers welfare.
- ◊ AOS must stress the pastoral side of welfare work and avoid a commercial attitude and it should be careful not to allow businesses or other associations to usurp its identity and logo.
- ◊ It is proposed that AOS Australia organize on the occasion of World Youth Day (WYD), a Catechesis and information desk to publicise AOS work and inform young people about the mari-

time world and apostolate.

◊ Internet facilities can be very expensive according to the country and region. It has been suggested to facilitate communication that in a given region all e-mail addresses should follow the same format and use the same server. Also it was recommended to make wider use of Skype.

◊ Personal and individual encounters with local Clergy and Church authorities are important.

◊ Seafarers coming from the formerly Eastern bloc countries show a great lack of religious knowledge. It was suggested to print cards/images/icons with the “*Our Father*” and other popular Christian prayers at the back.

◊ Many countries are going through a process of secularisation and the maritime ministry/apostolate is considered and judged only by what it can provide in terms of security/safety and material welfare. In many ports where the officials used to be Christians now they are either of other religions or “a-religious”. AOS does not receive nor ask for special treatment. Chaplains should be sensitive and not expose volunteers to situations which could harm their professional situation. Hence AOS in certain countries should abide by the local church directives and keep a low profile until such time as its work becomes known and acceptable to the local population.

◊ Much concern has been expressed on the high cost for seafarers to send money home. The question was asked about finding a cheaper way to do so through the centres.

◊ The progress of AOS is often hampered by the difficulty of finding suitable persons to take charge of new chaplaincy teams or centres. In many parts of the world deacons are more and more being called to become Chaplains.

◊ As far as possible the Regional Coordinator should be consulted before a National Director is appointed. In accordance with the *Motu Proprio Stella Maris*, the same should apply for the National Director whenever a Chaplain is appointed in a local port. A list of suitable candidates should be presented to the relevant authorities.

◊ Whenever there are plans to build a new centre near an already existing one belonging to another denomination, due sensibility should be exercised. We should ask ourselves what is the best way to be present for AOS and for the other organisation.

New developments of the AOS

◊ In **Latin America** the addition of Mexico and of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean Islands has been well received and is already bearing fruits. The cooperation with the Latin America Seafarers Welfare Development Programme has been determinant for the development of AOS. New centres have started and others are under preparation.

◊ In **South Asia** (also in Latin America), the creation of Port Welfare Committees (PWC) has provided new possibilities for financial support and easier access to port facilities. In Goa (India) a “*Stella Maris Fitness and Counselling Services*” has been inaugurated.

◊ In **North America** and **Europe** there are seafarers centres and chaplaincy teams in most of the major ports and the work of AOS is recognized and appreciated by most local port authorities. However the strict security measures are making AOS pastoral involvement more difficult. AOS-Barcelona was specially commended by a City Award for its pioneer work in favour of inter-religious relations.

◊ In the English-speaking Caribbean Islands the cooperation of Canadian missionaries may provide a good starting point to developing the ministry there. The publication of a regional Newsletter was welcomed.

◊ In **South West Indian Ocean**, thanks to regional solidarity and ecumenical cooperation a seafarers centre will open in Maputo (Mozambique) in 2008. In Reunion Island a new centre has been established.

◊ In **Oceania**, AOS-Australia will organize a special desk and catechesis for the “*World Youth Day 2008*”. A visit of the Regional Coordinator to New Zealand is programmed.

◊ In **West Africa** a new centre will be open in Cotonou (Benin) in 2008.

◊ **East Asia** will start a regional Newsletter.

◊ In the **Gulf States**, after the opening of the AOS centre in Fujairah, a new sensitisation programme is planned for the other ports of the Region.

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA REGIONAL COORDINATORS MEETING

During the Meeting, the XXII AOS World Congress was discussed and the following priorities were proposed by Region.

South Asia and Gulf Region

- Intensify ecumenical relations and interreligious dialogue. The chaplains must be trained to be more sensitive to this subject and more printed word on this theme should be made available.
- Increase the involvement with fishing communities.
- Intensify the contacts with Episcopal Conferences, who should be more closely associated with future development plans.



Oceania

- Strengthen the Chaplaincy teams. Too many chaplains work in isolation. Support should be available through a solidarity network set up by the AOS National Committee. Regular contacts are important.
- Encourage permanent deacons to engage in AOS Chaplaincy work.
- Develop the visibility of AOS in the eyes of Governments, Industry and Laity, especially through publications and by showing the maritime community how AOS can benefit them.
- Promote PWC.
- All projects and initiatives must be in coordination with the industry and other partners.

Africa-Atlantic

- Ensure the cooperation and assistance of the Episcopal Conferences. However we should remember that relations work both ways, the chaplain must also report and interest the bishops in his work.
- In each maritime diocese at least one chaplain/contact person be appointed and be given the means to do his task.

Latin America

- Consolidate the development of AOS in the region and start it in the following countries: Nicaragua, Salvador, Guatemala, Cuba, the Dominican Republic.
- Constitute well structured chaplaincy teams with priests and laity, keeping in mind that there is less and less priests available for this apostolate.
- Update and augment the various publications and enhance the visibility of AOS.
- Intensify the exchange/twinning programme.
- However, one must bear in mind that to succeed projects need continued support, encouragement and resources.

East/South East Asia

- Develop new centres/teams in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand and closer contacts among AOS personnel in the region.
- New National directors and chaplains need to be trained and supported.
- Encourage solidarity (also financial) among centres of the region.
- Promote AOS International Website and start a regional Newsletter.
- Update the directory and contact addresses and numbers.

South West Indian Ocean

- Make clergy more aware of the task of the AOS to evangelise the maritime world. There is a necessity to make the “work” of the AOS more visible and to encourage wider participation.
- Appointment of chaplains and of “Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist”.

Europe

- Seafarers, especially those from Eastern Europe, are very influenced by “secularisation”. They must be given the opportunity to receive the sacraments. A regular catechetical training and formation of the heart is also needed.
- Ship visiting, follow ups by referring seafarers to the next port of call chaplains are to be intensified.
- Special attention should be given to Cruise ships.
- Collaboration with the Eastern Rite Catholics should be developed.

THE AOS INTERNATIONAL FISHING COMMITTEE MEETING

(Rome, ^{2nd} February 2008)



Introductory Address by **Archbishop Agostino Marchetto** Secretary of the PCPCMIP

“Our recent World Congress by reflecting on the Hope that makes us live, has enriched our spirituality and reaffirmed the commitment of the AOS towards the fishing sector. This meeting today will enable us to reflect further in order to develop a common vision and an AOS international perspective”.

I welcome you all to this fourth meeting of the *AOS International Fishing Committee*. I would like to express our gratitude to Mr Grimur Valdimarsson of the FAO and Mr. Danny Appave of the ILO, who have kindly accepted to be present and assist us in our efforts to better focus our pastoral outreach to the fishers and their families. I might add that both the FAO and the ILO participated to the “Ad Hoc Committee” which saw the founding of this Committee.

I would like briefly to remind those who are its new members that it was founded in 2003, one year after the XXI AOS World Congress, which recommended its creation. It was given the mission to reach out and intensify the pastoral care to all fishers and fishing communities, without distinction, so that “their spiritual and material welfare be addressed and their human and labour rights respected” (*Ad Hoc Commission on Fishing*, December, 2003. p 4). It was also decided that the AOS Regional Coordinators would be members of this Committee, that as the need arose experts would be invited to attend too and that future meetings would be held once a year in conjunction with the Coordinators one.

Today the fishing sector is battling against the more negative aspects of globalisation and is confronted with a very serious economic, social and ecological situation. The factors behind this looming crisis are well known. Our oceans which occupy 75% of the earth’s surface and which are a major provider of proteins for the population are faced with an unprecedented depletion of the fish stocks, which has been brought about by over fishing, caused by the outsized fleets, improved technology and a doubling of the demand for the sea produces in the last 40 years. Pollu-

tion and global warming are also contributing greatly to this crisis. It is estimated that 75% of the known marine fisheries are currently being overexploited and are under threat. With the result that, both in the developing world and in the industrialised countries, the very existence of many fishing communities is being threatened.

This situation is made even more serious by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing), which is considered by the FAO as a major factor undermining the sustainability of fisheries, estimating that in some areas it accounts for up to 30% of the total catch. It is estimated that 50% of the fish sold in the EU originates in developing nations, and much of it is caught and shipped illegally (Int. Herald Tribune, January 15, 2008). Although there are ships from rich countries who are also involved in “pirate fishing”, most of the fishers implicated in illegal fishing are usually recruited from developing countries as they have few other employment alternatives. Fishers on



IUU vessels, which often are under a flag of convenience, work for low wages and in extremely poor living and working conditions, so much so that their situation has been compared to modern slavery.

We have only to consider the following figures to realise that we are faced with a dangerous situation of global proportion if steps are not taken now to redress the situation :

- > more than 1 billion people rely on fish as their main or even only source of protein;
- > an estimated 41 million people are engaged in capture fishing and aquaculture production worldwide;
- > 95% of fish workers live in developing countries. Many of these are among the poorest people and earn less than \$1 per day.

The next decades will be decisive if we want the ocean to live.

There are however signs of hope and, among them, one in particular, stands out. It is the adoption by the ILO, on the 15th June 2007, of the new labour standards for the world's fishing sector, which is known as the *Work in Fishing Convention, 2007*. This convention has been hailed as a defining moment and a great opportunity to change for the better the living and working conditions of 90 % of the world's estimated 41 million fishers, since these new standards are designed to ensure that:

- > occupational safety, health and medical care at sea

are improved;

- > sufficient rest be given;

- > work agreements are respected;

- > the same social security protection as for other workers are made available for fishers.

This convention has also put into place a mechanism, through the inspections of vessels, which will hopefully remove from the oceans the boats with unacceptable working and living conditions.

Our recent World Congress by reflecting on the Hope that makes us live, has enriched our spirituality and reaffirmed the commitment of the AOS towards the fishing sector. This meeting today will enable us to reflect further in order to develop a common vision and an AOS international perspective, in the context of the existing *AOS International Committee on Fishing*.

In spite of the many difficulties, let us forge ahead and proceed with confidence and Hope. In the words of the Pope Benedict XVI in his recent encyclical *Spe Salvi* (no. 1): "a distinguishing mark of Christians [is] the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness. Only when the future is certain as a positive reality does it become possible to live the present as well."

Once more thank you for your presence and cooperation and may our Lord bless you and the Virgin Mary, the *Stella Maris*, preside over our deliberations.

REPORT OF THE MEETING

The meeting was opened by Archbishop Agostino Marchetto who led in prayers invoking, on the Feast of the Presentation, Mary the *Stella Maris*, Patron of seafarers and fishers. Archbishop Marchetto then gave his introductory address (see page 9), welcoming Mr. Grimur Valdimarsson, of the FAO, and Mr. Dani Appave, of the ILO, who had kindly accepted to be present and participate in the meeting. Previously the Archbishop had given an interview at the Vatican Radio (see page 3), and to Radio Maria after the meeting.

In his presentation, Mr. Valdimarsson, Director Fishery Industries Division, Fisheries Department of FAO, discussed the main issues facing the fisheries sector today. Fisheries are part of the global food industry and are the last sector still harvesting from wild stocks of animals in the world. Wild catch is not increasing any more while aquaculture is growing by 8-10% per year. Fish consumption by humans are on the increase; it has become nutritionally "fashionable" and health authorities recommend its consumption.

The fish market is a one big international one and fish is the most internationally treated commodity. Developing countries furnish 50% of all fish. Today it is earning more money than any other harvest, for ex. more than tea, coffee, bananas, rubber, taken together. Politically and economically it is a very important product.

There are more than 4 million fishing vessels and half of all the fish caught comes from small boats. The problem is that there are too many vessels and not enough fish. The majority of fishing vessels are small and dangerous, making fishing the most dangerous profession with more than 24 thousands known fatalities every year. The underlying reasons for failure to control this situation is: - commonality of resources (every one who has a boat can catch fish); - lack of stewardship; - lack of clear, legal-binding fishing rights.

The solution may rest in the fact that 38% of all fish captured are traded internationally and that the customer is becoming more and more aware of his social responsibility. Consequently "social responsibility" is now very high on the agenda of international corporations, as the fair trade movement is gaining momentum. Hence, more and



Mr. Grimur Valdimarsson

There are more than 4 million fishing vessels and half of all the fish caught comes from small boats.

The problem is that there are too many vessels and not enough fish.



In some areas, like lagoons, because of tourism, a fish in the water is worth more than a fish in the plate.

more international corporations are refusing to buy from “pirate vessels” and will only accept fish guaranteed to come from sustainable sources fished by workers whose rights are respected and who have fair working conditions.

In conclusion, Mr. Valdimarsson asked the AOS to use its influence to encourage Governments to ratify and implement the Conventions covering fish work and recommended to take particular care of the small scale fishers who are politically very weak. Archbishop Marchetto agreed and reminded the meeting that, after the 2007 Convention was adopted in Geneva, all AOS personnel around the world were asked by the Pontifical Council to approach their respective governments in this regard.

In the discussion that followed, other questions were raised concerning:

- Poor small scale fishers who are being pushed out of their traditional fishing grounds by industrial fishing, putting at risk a whole way of life. In this context it is essential that every country formalises the traditional fishing rights and protect them from the excesses of globalisation.
- The extension of territorial limits from 200 to 350 miles. This is a very sensitive political question. The management of the EEC zones remains the biggest problem. Where there is no management and open access to the fishing zones, it leads automatically to overexploitation and IUU fishing.
- Fishing rights. This question touches fundamental questions of justice, equity and fairness. In developed countries, for ex., individual people have a right to the fish while in many developing nations the governments consider that these rights are theirs and do not belong to the fishermen. There are many instances where international fishing agreements are political expedients with consequences which are completely detrimental to the local population.
- In some areas, like lagoons, because of tourism, a fish in the water is worth more than a fish in the plate. A short term solution would be to offer alternative employment or in a more long term perspective, new fishing grounds.
- The special role of AOS towards fishermen, who often are treated in an inhuman way, was stressed. There is a great need to professionalise the sector in terms of safety, respect of the environment, work conditions and social security.

AOS commitment to the Fishing sector was also noted through the regional reports. Most national AOS are already engaged in pastoral work with fishing communities. The Latin American Region in the last years has concentrated on the shipping industry, but now that AOS is well established in many countries, it intends to shift some effort towards the fishing sector. There are already successful initiatives in many countries, for example Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay. Fishing activities are particularly intensive in Asia (86% of all fishing vessels are registered there).

Mr Dani Appave, Senior Maritime Specialist, Sectoral Activities Branch of the ILO, presented the *Work in Fishing Convention, 2007*. For him, the success of this Convention will depend on the grass root support it receives. This Convention is a global labour standard, relevant to all fishers (both male and female), on industrial vessel or on small boats. Consequently the instrument had to be flexible since the fishing industry is not homogeneous and it had to deal with a broad range of situations. The Convention is a compromise and it contains the basic principles and the minimum conditions for decent work in this sector. It is now important to make it active and for this political decisions and actions are needed from the member states in order to translate its measures into national laws and regulations. The Convention will come into force and will change for the best the lives of millions of fishers and their families, when ten countries (eight with coastlines) ratify it.

It has to be remembered that the measures and recommendations propose minimum standards and that the principle of progressive implementation has been accepted. The principle of substantial equivalence is also acceptable but the Governments proposals will have to be supervised by the ILO.

Traditionally in the fishing industry there is no formal/written work agreements or contracts. The present Convention, in order not to “strangle” the profession, has therefore adopted a flexible approach. However the fishers do need protection regarding salaries, repatriation, medical care etc., and the flag state has the right to intervene in these matters. States that ratify the Convention must ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag abide by its measures. Also the Convention provides that ratifying States have a right to inspect foreign vessels visiting their ports and detain them if this proves necessary (Port State Control).

It is however important to remember that in many instances, for example IUU, the fishers are more victims than criminals, and that measures to combat injustice and abuses should not end doing more harm to the fishers themselves.

How to promote the Convention?

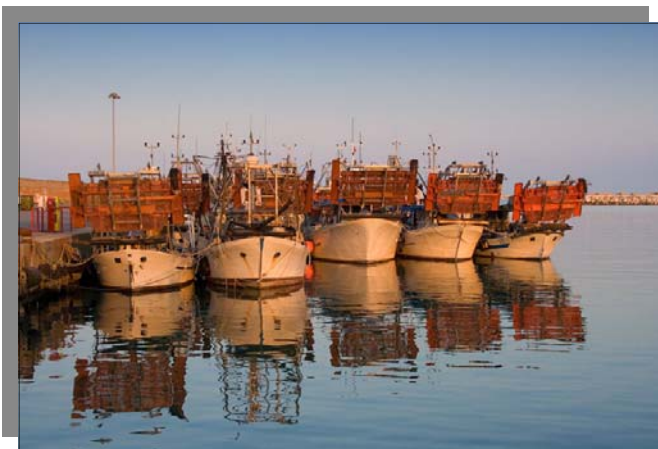
The Convention is a useful instrument to attract attention on the situation of fishers. It must also be brought to the level of the fishermen, through seminars, information meetings, articles and various publications. All the support that AOS can give in this area is important, and to this end a variety of brochure, booklets and posters are available and ILO is ready to give AOS the necessary assistance and material. AOS can also help by:

- giving first hand information about marine incidents;
- supporting and participating in awareness campaigns about the situation in the fishing sector;
- equipping the fishers and educating them about their rights;
- helping the fishermen to bargain collectively like in the shipping industry;
- promoting advocacy with the policy makers;
- contributing to the work of the ILO through ICMA.

It is hoped that this Convention will become a “global label” of decent working conditions and treatment for the fishers and that it will be a powerful instrument towards formalising their rights and promoting their welfare.

The meeting ended with Archbishop Marchetto thanking Mr. Valdirmarsson and Mr. Appave, and also all other participants, for their contribution, adding that the Holy See furthers the cause of fishers also each time it stresses diverse aspects of the Social Teaching of the Church.

It is hoped that this Convention will become a “global label” of decent working conditions and treatment for the fishers and that it will be a powerful instrument towards formalising their rights and promoting their welfare.



PILGRIMAGES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SEA

Vigil and Maritime Pilgrimage in Marseille

All rigged to the same bollard,

All called to live together in fraternity and solidarity.

Like every year in Marseille, Candlemas day was celebrated with a vigil and a night of prayer and fraternal sharing. It was organized by the chaplaincy team of the National School of the Merchant Marine of Marseille, and animated by Deacon Jean-Philippe Rigaud and his wife Marie-Agnès from the « Mission of the Sea ». About forty students and seminarians took part. The sharing was made around the combination of two themes : the theme of the diocese, « solidarity/fraternity », and that of the « Mission of the Sea », « living together ».



Some excerpts from the report :

« For us, living together is not just living among Christians, but also with others, without keeping to ourselves.

In our reflection we took the image of the moorings...that are loosened one after another in order to let us move forward to the open sea . The moorings that hold us to the port are envy, jealousy, love for money, selfishness, etc. But there are also some good, solid moorings that are used to keep us safe when we are tossed about by the passage : prayer and the sacraments primarily, which « rig us to the same real bollard », our God and Lord Jesus Christ»

Everyone had a chance to give his testimony. It is not easy to talk about one's faith on board, but when it is possible, it offers great enrichment to the relations

with others. The encounter on board with crews of different nationalities and religions is like a real change of scenery. In the past, one did not speak about religion or politics on board ; today, on the contrary, the seafarers are curious to discover and get to know one another.

The night continued with a nautical pilgrimage during which the Gospel was brought to Marseille as the first Christians must have done. On the wharf of the Old Port a very large crowd was waiting for us around our Archbishop and the black Virgin, 'Notre Dame de Confession'. Before coming ashore, we stopped at the foot of 'Notre Dame de la Garde' to recite Saint Bernard's prayer, 'Mary, Star of the Sea'. We solemnly gave the gospel over to the assembled landsmen, and then the procession with Most Rev. Pontier, the Archbishop of Marseille, headed towards the abbey of Saint Victor where the Eucharist was celebrated ».

25th Pilgrimage of the People of the Sea to Czestochowa

On the occasion of the 25th Pilgrimage of the People of the Sea from all over Poland to Czestochowa, Archbishop Tadeusz Gocłowski presided over the event and preached on the theme: *Woman, this is your son. This is your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.*

This pilgrimage took place during the National Polish Workers' Pilgrimage. In his homily the Archbishop said that among all the professions, seafaring stands out as one of the most difficult and dangerous, as the seafarers are faced with long separations, loneliness and the dangers of the sea. Their families, for long periods can only contact them through Internet, telephone and by post. Both seafarers and fishers contribute immensely to our prosperity and daily needs. He thanked all those connected to the shipping and fishing industry for their contribution.

He referred to the recent XXII AOS World Congress which was held in Gdynia in 2007. Its theme was *In Solidarity with the People of the Sea as Witnesses of Hope through the Proclamation of the Word, Liturgy and Diaconia*. This theme was providential as "Solidarity"

has been associated in the recent history of Poland, with a great labour movement which has brought freedom to this country.

The Archbishop invoked the intercession of Mary in favour of the people of the sea, of the families, wives and children, naval academies, students, professors, and especially the shipyards in Szczecin, Gdynia and Gdańsk so that in “solidarity” they can be successfully reorganized in order to take their place in



a modern Europe.

The highpoint of the pilgrimage was the invocation and thanksgiving prayer to Our Lady. Some extracts:

“Mary, Our Lady, the Queen of Poland, tonight the whole Christian world is paying tribute to your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ who saved us by His Passion and Death on the Cross.

Mary, the Queen of Poland, today the people of the sea come gladly in their traditional pilgrimage to thank you for your perpetual care. Our life is diversified, though we all call ourselves the people of the sea, there are seafarers, fishers, port workers and shipyard workers among us. Our brothers who have come from distant Asia and work in the Gdynia Shipyard also pray with us today.

There are also students of maritime academies, employees of maritime institutions, but above all there are our families among us and they are those who often experience the difficulty of separation with the loved ones. Frequent absence in the family of a father, husband and other family members, who are often away from home for a long time, causes great problems and difficulties for the families.

Today, we come to you, to thank you for the XXII World Congress of the Apostleship of the Sea, which took place in Gdynia since 24th to 29th of June. There were 35 bishops from all over the world with us, over 120 priests and many lay Christians, who undertook the task to be the apostle of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the people of the sea as witnesses of hope by proclamation of the Word, liturgy and diaconia”.

MORE TRAGEDIES AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE SEA

After the accident that occurred on January 18th in the port of Marghera in which two workmen were killed, Archbishop Marchetto sent a telegram with condolences to H.E. Cardinal Angelo, Scola, the Patriarch of Venice. The two men who were working in the hold of a ship to unload the cargo died of asphyxiation.



After learning the sad news of the tragic death of two workmen in the port of Marghera, the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, with competence for maritime pastoral care, asks Your Eminence to express its sincere condolences to the victims’ families and co-workers.

It assures their remembrance in prayer and hopes for ever more effective measures to avoid similar accidents.

In communion with Your Eminence, Patriarch of Venice.

+ Agostino Marchetto, Archbishop-Secretary

MESSAGE OF THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA OF PUNTARENAS COSTA RICA

Convoked by the Human Mobility Section of the Department of Justice and Solidarity of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), we, the delegates from the A.M. and some fishers' organizations from 13 Latin American countries, met from **December 2-4, 2007** in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, to take part in the First Meeting on the theme of attention to the fishing sector in light of the Aparecida document which states "that God loves us, accompanies us in tribulation, and constantly encourages our hope in the midst of all trials" (DA, 30)



It is important to point out the awakening of the Latin American and Caribbean Church to the reality of the men, women, youth and children of the fishers' communities, with the firm hope of giving pastoral care to all the families that depend on the fishing activity. This challenges us to know and work more and better in the organization, animation and accompaniment of their life of faith and expressions of religiosity, their culture, and their economic difficulties in order to be "the expression of a love that seeks the integral good of the human being because love is the service the Church gives in order to take constant care of the sufferings and needs, even the material ones, of these communities" (DCE 19).

In our meeting we observed:

- The need for the social and political awareness of the Church and the different organizations of civil society and governments in order to interact with the seafarers and fishers.
- The slight concern of most Latin American and Caribbean States for the small scale fishing sector despite the fact that this social group contributes to the development of those countries.
- The legislation of some countries favors large economic capital to the detriment of the quality of life of the smaller scale fishers' families.
- The lack of viable economic alternatives for the small scale fishers and their families who are affected by the restriction policies that increase the protected areas more and more and the periods closed for fishing.
- In some ecclesiastical jurisdictions some improvement has been achieved in attention to the pastoral

care of fishers and their families.

- In many countries the fishers cannot fight because they are the owners of the work tools; they depend on the large consortiums that pay them their meager salaries which do not allow them to live in a dignified way and in which they are compelled to carry out extenuating work days with no recognition for their efforts.
- The prices and marketing of the products of the sea are in the hands of intermediaries and the activity of the small scale fishers is worsened by this.

In view of the lights and dark spots of our continent, we urge the pastoral workers to turn their attention to the reality of the people of the sea and thus to face the following challenges:

- To achieve an effective formation of religious, laypersons, seafarers, fishers and their families in the Apostleship of the Sea in order to incorporate them actively into this specific pastoral care.
- Preparation, training and qualification of chaplains and pastoral workers of the sea.
- Openness of the parish pastoral care to the A.M. in the places where there are seafarers and fishers.
- To motivate the Bishops' Conferences to collaborate with the particular Churches involved in the Apostleship of the Sea.
- To use the means of social communication and other communication systems effectively in order to motivate the sectors involved in the A.M.
- To denounce the human rights violations whose victims are seafarers and peoples of the sea.
- To promote before the governments the approval, implementation and/or ratification of the International Conventions that protect seafarers, peoples of the sea and their families, as well as observance of the ones in force.
- To promote a Christian vision with solidarity regarding maritime and port activity.
- To give importance to the celebration of the day dedicated to the people of the sea.

May Mary, the Star of the Sea, guide and encourage the work of those who are dedicated to and accompany the fishing activity.

Costa Rica, December 2007

WORKSHOP ON THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA IN INDONESIA

The Pastoral Commission on Migrants and Itinerant People of the Bishops' Conference of Indonesia, held on 3-5 October 2007 a *Workshop on Apostleship of the Sea* in Bitung- North. It was attended by 28 participants, who came from 5 dioceses namely: Diocese of Pangkajene, Archdiocese of Jakarta, Diocese of Purwokerto, Diocese of Amboina and Diocese of Manado. During the *workshop*, all the participants were involved in the process and had the chance to meet the seafarers directly, to hear their stories and testimonies. On the basis of this experience, the participants shared their reflections and "with one heart and one mind" made the following recommendations in order to develop AOS in Indonesia:

- Report the conclusions of the discussions to the Bishops.
- Develop a pastoral ministry for seafarers/fishers and their families, and to build small groups/communities of seafarers/fishers and families as basic ecclesial community in parish/port of origin of participants.
- Make a translation in Indonesian of the *Manual for Chaplains and Pastoral Agents of the Apostleship of the Sea* as an instrument for training. The translation is under the responsibility of Ms. Josephine Tuty of the Archdiocese of Jakarta (coordinator of this project).
- Provide pastoral training (also in languages) for the personnel who will work in seafarers/fishers ministry. This will be coordinated by Fr. Benny Salettia (Diocese of Manado) with the support of the Pastoral Commission on Migrants and Itinerant People of the Bishops Conference of Indonesia.
- Campaign for the ratification by the Government of Indonesia of MLC 2006 and of the *Work in Fishing Convention, 2007*: - make available an Indonesian translation of the two Conventions; - organize a meeting in Jakarta for all those who have participated in ICMA's & ICSW's seminars in Singapore in 2007, for discussing seafarers welfare in Indonesia and the Government's involvement and responsibilities.
- Assess conditions and situations of each Indonesian port from a pastoral point of view.
- Celebrate Sea Sunday.
- Develop communication, networking and actions of solidarity in pastoral ministry, by developing *mailing list*: migran-kwi@yahoogroups.com

"We remain confident ... that the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus" (*Philippians 1:6*).

XX SEAFARERS WEEK IN BARCELONA

From November 13th to 17th, we had in Barcelona the XX Seafarers Week, organized by *Stella Maris* together with the Welfare committee of the Port of Barcelona. We started on November 13th 2007 with an inter-religious celebration at *Stella Maris* with the participation of the Islamic Council of Catalonia and the Israelite Community of Barcelona. Every community made a prayer for peace and brotherhood among people with a special mention to seafarers. We finished sharing typical food, prepared by each community.

On Thursday 15th, we had a round table about the Working group for Corporate Social Responsibility, promoted by the Port Authority of the Port of Barcelona. *Stella Maris* Barcelona is a member of it. The concept of "corporate social responsibility" means an obligation assumed voluntarily by the companies and corporations to recognize and to integrate in its management social, labor and environmental the preoccupations, so that these preoccupations are satisfied, taking care of therefore the necessities of the interest groups. In Spain each port should have in the future such a working. As member, *Stella Maris* tries to defend that the efforts for offering welfare facilities to seafarers cannot be more considered an activity of good will, but an obligation to be assumed by the whole port community. The celebration of this round table with participation of different people of the port of Barcelona, was an opportunity to underline it.

On Saturday, 17th morning we had a football championship among following teams: fishers, ship agents, customs, tugs and students of the nautical faculty. In the evening we had a holy mass, with the participation of a group of Filipino seafarers and after it we had a cold dinner and a "flamenco fiesta".

This "Jornadas" are an occasion not only for discussions and celebrations, but also for make the port community aware about seafarers life and needs and also about AOS activity.

Ricardo Rodríguez-Martos
Diocesan delegate for the Apostleship of the Sea in Barcelona

NEW GYMNASIUM AND MEETING POINT FOR SEAFARERS IN INDIA

On Saturday 1st March 2008, in the premises of the Redemptorist Fathers, in Goa, H.E. Msgr. Felipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa and Damão, will bless and inaugurate the

“NEXT VOYAGE - Stella Maris Fitness and Counseling Services”

It is a gymnasium and meeting place for local seafarers waiting for their next voyage. Their families and well wishers will be welcome too. Seafarers will not have to pay fees for the whole year, but only for the months they will use the facilities. In this way it is hoped to raise funds to finance some form of counseling for seafarers and their families. Counseling will not be done at the gymnasium, but only the monitoring and referring of people in need to various centres in Goa.

The Pontifical Council has sent the following message of congratulations to Archbishop Ferrao.



Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the inauguration of the new “Next Voyage”- *Stella Maris Fitness and counselling Services*, I send our cordial greetings to Your Excellency, to Rev. Fr. Xavier Pinto C.Ss.R, and to all the volunteers and pastoral workers of the Apostleship of the Sea and wish to assure you that on that day you will be in our thoughts and prayers.

I also wish to express my congratulations to all those who have made this new service centre possible and my best wishes to those who will be in charge of this project. I pray that the Centre renders a valuable service and benefit all the seafarers preparing for their next journey.

May Our Lady “Star of the Sea” be “always a beacon of hope”, and may she intercede for all her sons and daughters, that they may be protected on their voyages from all dangers and return in safety to their homes and friends.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Renato Raffaele Cardinal Martino
President

+ Archbishop Agostino Marchetto
Secretary

SHIPPING, ONE OF THE OLDEST INDUSTRY IS BECOMING A NEW REALITY

The shipping industry has become one of the biggest sectors of the global economy. There has been a technology revolution regarding the loading and unloading of the containers. The information technology is now being applied to maritime transport, to the ships themselves and also to the organisation and management of terminals. The industry may seem old fashioned still to some people, but in fact it is a completely new reality.

Northern Europe has understood that logistics and the transport of goods is the key for economic development in the years ahead. The countries there have been quick to adapt to the new realities. Once the most important route was the North Atlantic one, but today the more important exchanges are with the emerging economies. In Hamburg for example the first trading partner is China, second Singapore and then Russia. North America is dropping far behind because of its stringent security measures on arriving containers..

In Northern Europe in 2006 in terms of tonnage the more important ports were

Rotterdam	9,600,482	Hamburg	8,861,545	Antwerp	7,018,799	Bremerhaven	4,450,000
Le Havre	2,130,000	All the Ports in UK	4,500,306				

(Corriere Economia, 11 February 2008)

GIBRALTAR SEAFARERS' WELFARE EVALUATION REPORT 2007



The Gibraltar Port Welfare Committee (PWC) was established in 2004. Since then it has met regularly and expanded its membership to include the key players in the local maritime community. During that period, the AOS and MedMtS have trained their volunteers on the Merchant Navy Welfare Board (MNWB) Ship Welfare Visitors course and to continue to work closely together to provide seafarers' welfare services.

The port of Gibraltar has a wide range of repair facilities, cruise and cargo handling facilities and three 'panamax' size dry docks, which includes the largest covered dry dock in the Mediterranean.

There are presently two societies actively providing welfare support to seafarers visiting Gibraltar: the Mediterranean Mission to Seafarers and the Apostleship of the Sea. The Sailors Society is expected to join in the near future.

Subject to society and PWC approval, here are some recommendations which will form the backbone of an action plan for improvement:

- A) Investigate further provision of ship welfare visiting to ships at anchor.
- B) Continue to work on producing a joint leaflet advertising the services of the seafarers' welfare organizations to include a map of Gibraltar.
- C) Investigate the provision of a room or site to place a number of seafarers welfare telephones and email facilities to be accessible on a 24/7 basis.
- D) Ship visiting organizations should establish better communications with Pilots, Port Control, Shipping Agents and Cruise lines.

E) Investigate a duty Ship Welfare Visitors Roster or Contact list to be displayed in the GPA and Pilots offices.

F) Maintain simple Ship Visiting Logs.

G) Where possible continue to arrange and encourage seafarer's participation in sports/social events with the local community.

H) Ensure all Ship Welfare Visitors have completed the necessary local Health & Safety Induction Courses and have appropriate security passes.

I) Identify potential sources of grants income to cover capital and running costs to facilitate the above.

Gibraltar is acutely aware of the difficulties surrounding the busy lifestyle of the modern day seafarer. To their credit AOS Gibraltar and MedMtoS are working together to help alleviate problems such as loneliness, isolation, limited shore leave, lack of communication facilities etc., by looking to improve the seafarers welfare services they currently provide. Both societies have trained teams of ship visitors and positive relationships with key maritime organizations. Size wise, although Gibraltar is a relatively small port and

near a town centre, seafarers access to dedicated communication facilities are limited and often require a taxi journey. Paradoxically, a phone call must be made to the only Taxi Company should one be required. Taxis are virtually unobtainable when a Cruise Liner is alongside. Walking in Gibraltar can be dangerous for non locals due to traffic congestion, narrow roads and lack of pedestrian walkways.

Notwithstanding the need to increase ship visiting to vessels at anchor and provide better, more accessible communication facilities, it should be noted that the port is already ahead of many ports in terms of the quality of welfare services it provides and how societies work together.

Gibraltar is generally thought of as a port that provides a warm welcome to seafarers from all over the world and its proactive approach to seafarers' welfare helps maintain that reputation.

The moves to improve and better organize current seafarers' welfare services will only enhance that reputation to the benefit of the entire maritime community, including Ship Owners.

PROMOTIONAL TOUR OF THE A.M. IN SICILY

From November 18-28, 2007, Migrantes chose the Region of Sicily for the awareness building task in Italy regarding the mobility of the five sectors. The particular features of the territory, the recent creation of the Sicilian Commission for the Sea, and the increased awareness regarding the people of the sea led us to propose a "Tour of Sicily" to build the awareness of the cities, schools, dioceses and parishes on the theme of maritime pastoral care.



The purpose of the initiative was to demonstrate life on the sea visually through images and art, but also through a personal encounter with the people of the sea and a photographic exhibition in an attempt to:

- recognize the seafarer, in the various religious, political or economic concerns, as a prime subject and unique denominator of our reflection;
- to build the awareness of the port workers, truck drivers that transport the goods to and from the port, law enforcement agencies, the ship-owners themselves but above all the citizenry that revolves around and lives from the work of these people who are more and more invisible and hidden by the sheet-metal of the hulls.

The Tour of the Sicilian Sea tried to put special emphasis on some important themes such as: • to favor knowledge and cooperation between associations and both religious and lay groups which, for different reasons, are connected with the people of the sea; • to encourage the already existing experiences to cooperate locally and nationally in building a great "national network".

The main purpose of this Tour was therefore to begin the awareness building, at least from the ecclesial communities, the dioceses, movements, groups and parishes.

The National Committee for Maritime Welfare recently recommended the creation of a local Welfare Committee in every port so that seafarers and fishers, together with their families, can receive a welcome suited to their identity as persons, children of God, and "foreigners but also family members in every port".

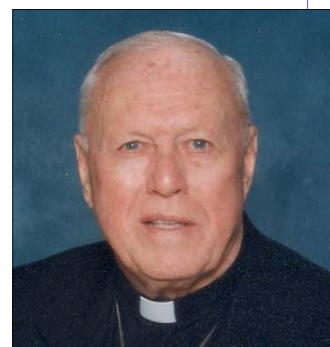
Rev. Giacomo Martino

(From *Stella Maris*, nos. 1-2-3-4/2007)

AOS grieves the passing away of two great servants of the People of the Sea

Rev. James P. Keating, former AOS National Director for the USA, died on Sunday, February 10 at age 83 in Chicago. Fr. Keating has been an AOS Chaplain since 1965. The Pontifical Council sent the following message of sympathy to Fr. Sinclair Oubre, President of AOS-USA.

"In the absence of Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, Secretary of the Pontifical Council, who is at the moment in a meeting in Vienna, I have learned of the sad news of the death of Fr. James Keating, who has been National Director of the Apostleship of the Sea of the USA for so many years, contributing greatly to its development. He was a great servant of the people of the sea and we give thanks to the Lord for his ministry and pastoral commitment. On behalf of this Dicastery, I send our most heartfelt condolences to the AOS-USA, to his family and to all those who mourn him. You can be assured of our prayers in this moment of sadness and grief. May his soul rest in peace.



Msgr. Novatus Rugambwas
Under-Secretary

Msgr. Vincent M. Patrizi died on the 24th January. He spent more than 30 years listening and offering a helping hand to sailors as the director of the Diocese of Corpus Christi's Apostleship to the Sea. R.I.P.

PORT BASED WELFARE SERVICES FOR SEAFARERS SUMMARY REPORT 2007

For many years the ITF Seafarers Trust has been providing funds for seafarers welfare. In 2006 the Trust celebrated 25 years of operation, £125 million spent on seafarers welfare in 91 different countries. These union based funds, set up under my predecessor Harold Lewis, have enabled seafarers to enjoy their time in port, through the local contacts of missions, unions and other welfare providers. The Seafarers Trust sees itself as part of a network of welfare provision for seafarers, and recognises the immense effort and resources put into this from many other organisations.

It has been an abiding concern that traditional port based welfare services (i.e. seafarers centres) reach only a small proportion of active seafarers. Historically, on average, Trust sponsored port based facilities reach two seafarers per ship calling in the port. The Trust has made efforts to improve welfare provision for as large a number of seafarers as possible by engaging in projects with a global reach, such as encouraging communication facilities on board ship (Crewcall), or through the freephone service of the International Seafarers Assistance Network (ISAN). This desire is fuelled by our desire to improve conditions of life for the 1.2 million seafarers in the world.

In response to feedback we have been receiving from unions and welfare agencies, grant making for the Trust has switched from funding for major building projects to an emphasis upon small, mobile work coupled with

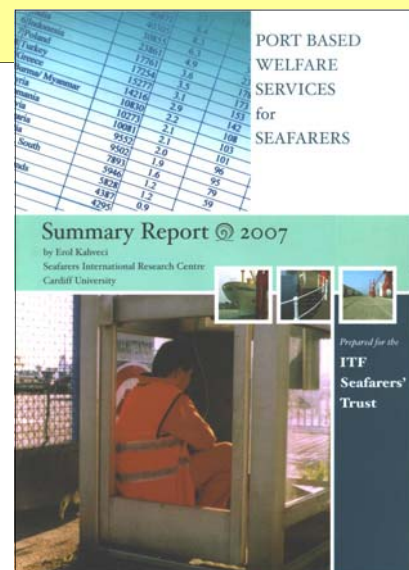
This report is based on the findings of a research project funded by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Seafarers' Trust. The project was started in April 2006 and finalized in March 2007.

The report is organized by themes, with each section covering a different aspect of welfare services and facilities for seafarers, including: port based welfare services and the changes in them over the last 10 years; contacts with seafarers' welfare workers; usage of seafarers centre; usage of port based facilities; communication with family and friends whilst on board; shore-leave; alternative seafarer welfare provisions; spiritual needs of seafarers; how seafarers welfare could be improved; and company policies on seafarers' welfare.

This is a summary report and it contains the main findings of the study. It provides simple descriptive statistics supported by first person accounts. The full research results are available on request from the ITF Seafarers' trust.

intensive ship visiting. While we recognise that every port is different, we recognise that welfare services in any one port need to be well coordinated, ideally within the port security zone, providing a basic range of services with a particular emphasis on transport and communication facilities. The welfare provisions of the new Maritime Labour Convention will also need to be implemented.

In February 2006 the Trustees of the ITF Seafarers Trust decided to commission research which will help the Trust to target grants more effectively. This report in the outcome of research carried out independently of existing welfare network, in the hope that it provides a true and representative picture of the current needs of working seafarers in a post-ISPS world.



We hope that everyone in the maritime welfare community will find this a useful tool in determining areas of greatest need.

David Cockroft
General Secretary of the ITF
Secretary to the Trust



**Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care
of Migrants and Itinerant People**

Palazzo San Calisto - Vatican City

Tel. +39-06-6988 7131

Fax +39-06-6988 7111

e-mail: office@migrants.va

[www.vatican.va/Roman Curia/Pontifical Councils ...](http://www.vatican.va/Roman_Curia/Pontifical_Councils...)