

Apostolatus Maris

The Church in the Maritime World

Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People



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WORLD MARITIME DAY 2008

“IMO: 60 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF SHIPPING”

25th September 2008

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Archbishop Marchetto's interview to Vatican Radio

on the occasion of "World Maritime Day"

25 September 2008



**Your Excellency,
what are the meaning
and the theme of this
"World Maritime
Day"?**

This Day is promoted each year by the World Maritime Organization (IMO), which is the agency of the United Nations, responsible for improving maritime safety and preventing pollution from ships. IMO's role is to focus attention on the importance of shipping safety, maritime security and the marine environment. World Maritime Day emphasizes a particular aspect of this work. This year, it is celebrated on 25 September and the theme is *IMO: 60 years in the service of shipping*. This title has also been chosen in order to connect it with the 60th anniversary of the founding of IMO by the United Nations.

What is the importance of this theme?

One must remember that commerce and maritime transport are vital to all of us. There are millions of people who work in this sector. I think particularly of the seafarers, the fishers, the personnel on cruise ships, coasters, ferries, I think of the workers in the ports and on offshore oil installations. They have a hard and dangerous life; they have to endure loneliness, irregular working hours, in an environment which is difficult, exposed to bad weather.

You will remember, for instance, the recent cyclones and hurricanes which have devastated, the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico and Asia. It is therefore for us the occasion to pray for the people of the sea and to acknowledge

their contribution and sacrifice for the welfare of all.

What are the implications of this celebration for the Pontifical Council?

This year, 2008, has been marked by numerous maritime catastrophes, shipwrecks, like in the Philippines, together with accidents and collisions at sea. There have been tragic events in the Mediterranean, where entire boats of refugees/immigrants whilst trying to reach the countries of the European Union have gone missing, their passengers certainly dead. In the Indian Ocean, piracy on the Somali coast has become rampant, so much so that it is putting in serious jeopardy one of the main sea routes which is being used by 30,000 (thirty thousand) ships each year. These are the hard facts of life by which this Pontifical Council is concerned.

It is today accepted that many catastrophes are caused by "human error". This is why IMO efforts to find solutions to these disasters cannot be limited to technical or material solutions, but on the contrary they must privilege the "human element", that is man himself who must be at the centre of our concern.

These efforts by IMO must not remain isolated. Through its commitment in more than 110 ports, the Apostleship of the Sea, for its part, especially in this year of St Paul, the great voyager and apostle, is duty bound to underline that it is not enough to have good ships from a technical point of view, but that man is the most important element – if we can say so – and that he must remain always our priority.

WORLD MARITIME DAY 2008

Extracts from a message by the Secretary-General of the
International Maritime Organization, Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos

The year 2008 contains a number of key milestones and anniversaries for IMO and March 6th was the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the IMO Convention by a conference held in Geneva in 1948 under the auspices of the United Nations.

The need for an international agency regulating maritime transport stems from the fact that shipping is perhaps the most international of all the world's global industries. The ownership and management chain surrounding any particular vessel can embrace many different countries; it is not unusual to find that its owners, operators, shippers, charterers, insurers and the classification society, not to mention the officers and crew, are all of different nationalities and that none of these is from the country whose flag the ship flies. And shipping's prime physical assets – the ships themselves – move continually between countries and between different jurisdictions.

Shipping is also an inherently dangerous occupation, with ships having to confront the worst that the elements can throw at them. Sometimes, disaster strikes – as witnessed by high-profile incidents of the type involving ships such as the **Titanic**, **Torrey Canyon**, **Exxon Valdez**, **Estonia**, **Erika**, **Prestige** and, most recently, the **Princess of the Stars**. There is, therefore, an over-arching logic in favour of a framework of international standards to regulate shipping – standards which are adopted, recognized and accepted by all.

Moreover, it has gradually become accepted that a situation in which each shipping nation had its own maritime laws, was counter-productive to ensuring the seamless flow of traffic and promoting safety in shipping operations worldwide. Not only were standards different, but some were far higher than others. Conscientious safety-minded shipowners were at an economic disadvantage *vis-à-vis* their competitors who were spending relatively little money on safety, and this was a threat to any serious attempt to improve safety at sea and to international seaborne trade as a whole.

Now, of course, all this has changed. Globalization has transformed international commerce, new powers have emerged in shipping and the plethora and thoroughness of measures established by IMO during its 60 years in the service of shipping have provided the bedrock from which a safer and cleaner industry has emerged, one that can continue to develop and flourish. Furthermore, IMO's work has demonstrated, beyond doubt, that international standards – developed, agreed, implemented and enforced universally – are the only effective way to regulate such a diverse and truly international industry as shipping.

Today, many of the main IMO treaties have been ratified by States that are, collectively, responsible for more than 98 per cent of the world's fleet.

It is because of the extensive network of global regulations that IMO has developed and adopted over the years that we can say with confidence that, today, shipping is a safe and secure mode of transport; clean; environmentally-friendly; and very energy-efficient.

A most encouraging development of recent years is that shipping's environmental consciousness continues to grow.

CHANGES IN VIEW

Dear friends of the Apostleship of the Sea,

Having arrived at the end of his mandate, Msgr Jacques Harel, who was during the last five years the Official in charge of the Sector AOS-International of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, will leave his post on the 20th October and will be replaced by Rev. Fr. Bruno Ciceri, C.S., in January 2009.

Msgr. Harel will return to his home diocese in Mauritius and will be assigned to a parish on the coast, from where he will continue to serve the People of the Sea. During all these years, Msgr. Harel has spared no efforts to further the cause of seafarers, fishers and their families, coordinating, with the Superiors of this Dicastery, the pastoral outreach of AOS-International with competence and generosity.

Pastoral work and evangelization are an on-going process. Therefore, Fr. Ciceri, who is already known to many of you, will now, with your cooperation, bring forward all this experience.

While we welcome Fr. Ciceri and wish him a fruitful apostolate in his new responsibility, we thank again Msgr. Harel for his commitment and all the services he has rendered, asking God's blessings on him and on his new pastoral assignment.

Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino
President

+ Archbishop Agostino Marchetto
Secretary

Dear Friends,

I have arrived at the end of my five-year mandate and I will retire from my responsibilities at AOS-International, in the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant, leaving Rome on the 20th October 2008.

I would like to say goodbye and express my gratitude to everyone with whom I have collaborated during the time I have been in charge of the maritime sector of the Pontifical

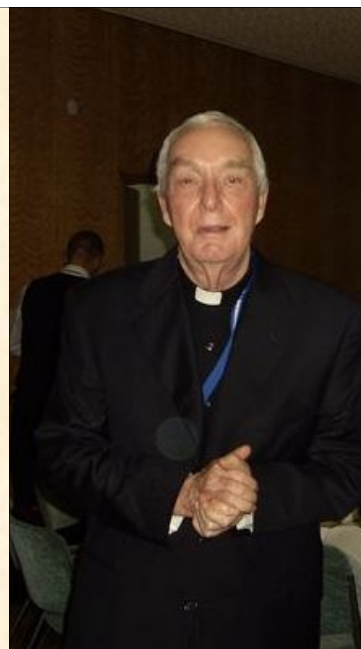
Council. Along the years, I have been privileged to visit most of the Regions. It has been a great pleasure to come to know you and to be able to work with so many committed people, clergy, religious and laity, who so generously give of themselves for the welfare of seafarers, fishers and their families. Thanks to this exemplary commitment to your mission, it has always been a source of great satisfaction to represent AOS at the different forums where the pastoral care of seafarers and fishers and their families was discussed.

I shall be going back to Mauritius, from where I intend to continue to support the work of AOS in the Indian Ocean. I pray for all of us at AOS, for our ecumenical partners and for all the kindred organisations and societies, so that the spiritual and material welfare of the people of the sea and the defence of their dignity and human rights may remain always central to our pastoral engagement. I pray too, that wherever we may be throughout the world, we can continue to accompany faithfully and generously those we are called to serve.

The sea knows no frontiers and, the Lord willing, I sincerely hope that there will be, in the years ahead, many more opportunities for cooperation, mutual support and networking. May Our Lady, the Stella Maris, guide us always and may God bless us in all our endeavours to build His kingdom in the maritime world.

Yours sincerely

Jacques Harel



THE AOS AT "WORLD YOUTH DAY"

Sydney, Australia, 15th-20th July 2008

by Mr. Ted Richardson and Fr. Xavier Pinto

World Youth Day certainly lived up to its theme, as pilgrims came from the ends of the earth to find the Holy Spirit.

Their journey started with their "Days in the Diocese" where they were staying in the week before World Youth Day, with families, learning about our culture and becoming part of our Parishes.



AOS Regional Coordinator Ted Richardson between Sr. Mary Leahy and a visiting Bishop

Then they moved on to Sydney, where they again met with a cultural experience of Australia. The Opening Mass was celebrated by Cardinal George Pell with a unique aboriginal welcome to the Great Southern Land of the Holy Spirit. The Torres Strait Islanders provided dancing and singing. The gifts of the Mass were brought in a canoe by the Taukalauan People, an island North of Samoa.

The following day was the arrival of the Pope with over 150,000 pilgrims filling the waterfront to capacity. It was fitting to see the Pope arrive on a launch stepping foot on to an old dockside, which until recently was a container terminal. It seemed that the opening Mass and Papal Arrival at Bangaroo had a definite flavour of the maritime history of our country with Pope

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit falls upon you and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

Benedict coming ashore on a gangway, like many thousands of seafarers before him.

The next major event was the Stations of the Cross. This was the most moving and emotional portrayal of the Passion of Our Lord that I have ever experienced. This enactment of Our Lord's last days on earth brought out the emotions of everybody. You could not help but feel that you were witnessing the crucifixion of Christ, starting from the Last Supper to the apprehension, to Pilate's decision to grant the Sanhedrin's request to crucify the King of the Jews. The casting of Simon of Cyrene as an Aboriginal, being forced into a role that he did not want to do, but then to also assist in the taking of Christ from the cross and standing with the Disciples was a very powerful message of the spiritual presence of the Aboriginal in our land.

The next day was the Pilgrim's march to Randwick across the Sydney Harbour Bridge for the Papal Vigil and nighttime Adoration and then the sleep out in the cold in preparation for the final Mass with Pope Benedict XVI. On that



Bishop Promoter Justin Bianchini and Ted Richardson

By the very early hours of the next morning they were joined by many more Parishes and communities from Sydney swelling their numbers to 450,000.

During the week, the pilgrims took part in Catechesis each morning and were then encouraged to go once to the Vocations Pavilion and then to the many music and prayer Concerts that were being offered in the centre of the city.

The more amazing aspect was watching the daily news reports, as the media became astonished that there were no drunks or fights breaking out among all these young people and how happy they all were, which the media felt was infectious. One member of the media commented that the pilgrims were drunk, as they were intoxicated with the love of God.

At the end of the Final Mass when the Holy Father said his goodbyes to the pilgrims and announced that the next World Youth Day will be in Spain in 2011, I felt a little sad that this time had come to an end. But then I thought of all those young people who came through the Voca-

tions Pavilion, who were enquiring, searching and asking about vocations in all areas including our own, and I realized that these young people are our future. They are going to be our priests, our brothers, our sisters. They are going to be our Parish Councils. They are going to be our Centre managers, our volunteers, our supporters. In this way, they will be the future Church in the world.

So, in summing up, our Church is in good hands. The youth of today will inherit the world we create for them. Their challenge is to make it better, to correct our mistakes, to care for the environment and to live in peace.

Ted Richardson
AOS National Director Australia
AOS Regional Coordinator for Oceania

* * *

I felt very satisfied that what we, as AOS, had reflected on in our XXII World Congress at Gdynia (Poland) in June 2007 actually found an echo in the words of the Holy Father (see left) to the WYP.

The AOS was represented at the “Vocations Exhibition” area in the Sydney Convention & Exhibition center, Darling Harbour. AOS Australia had booked a stall therein to showcase the work the Church does in the Maritime world. Through appropriate photos, we explained to visitors the *PASTORAL* nature of the outreach of AOS. We also explained to them the overall aspects of making seafarers feel at home away from home and that we welcome a



Fr. Xavier Pinto, C.Ss.R.
AOS Regional Coordinator
for South Asia

stranger and he/she goes away as a friend! Live exhibits like a sailboat, a divers helmet, a Navy commanders coat and cap (with the AOS Logo on the sleeve!), AOS 'Stoles' used by Chaplain-priests lent a 3-D effect to our stall. Like several other stalls in the exhibition we too had a computer and a laptop running all the time with the DVD of the XXII World Congress of Gdynia.

All stalls were like cubicles in this vast area so one could not count exactly the number of persons who actually came/visited, saw the photographs, read the material, collected some "free bees", chatted, and listened to what we had to say in our stall. There were all-together 150 cubicles. In a visitors book AOS had arranged, we



have collected a list of 450 names with email id's, who wish to hear more from us.

Prominent among our visitors were the Bishop Promoter of Australia, H.E. Msgr. Justin Bianchini, Bishop of Geraldton Western Australia, and H.E. Msgr. Leo Cornelio, Archbishop of Bhopal, India, Member of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.

Ted Richardson, AOS National Director of Australia and Regional Coordinator for Oceania, organized the whole event together with his wife Marcia and those at Wynnum who put everything together. They had come down from Wynnum, Queensland and indeed were dedicated to the task of making known the AOS to all the young people who visited us. Sr. Mary Leahy, from the Sydney AOS Center, was there with other volunteers to share time and views, and also campaign

with us.

We distributed several hundreds of Prayer cards for seafarers and many 2008-2009 calendars, some folders which actually give a birds overview of the work of the AOS worldwide with statistics, a few "Way of the Cross for Sailors" and some scarves with the AOS logo. Most popular of all were the pin-on metal badges that were being made there on the spot by Ted & Marcia and distributed free to all who wanted them!

To conclude, I would like to invite you to lift our eyes towards Mary (Stella Maris), as we pray for the safety and wellbeing of seafarers all over the world, and for those young people who may aspire to maritime life.

Fr. Xavier Pinto C.Ss.R.
AOS India National Director,
South Asia Coordinator and
Gulf States "Ad-Interim" Coordinator

Ukrainian Captain thanks Greek Catholic Church for service to seafarers in Melbourne

On the 1st August, Capt. Yuriy Tykhonin, of the *CSL Pacific*, visited the Ukrainian Cathedral Church of Ss Peter and Paul. He met with Bishop Peter Stasiuk and thanked the Eparchy for serving the seafarers that have been coming to the port of Melbourne over the years, especially those from Ukraine.

Captain Tykhonin presented an icon of Saint Nicholas, the patron Saint of seafarers, to the Cathedral, in gratitude for the years of friendship between the Eparchy and the Ukrainian seafarers. The Chaplain, Rev. Olexander Kenez, runs an internet mission for seafarers www.vmission.net and maintains a connection with seafarers around the world through "skype", thus offering them a chaplaincy service wherever they are.

AOS PRESENCE IN THE PORT OF DUBLIN

by Fr. Padraig O'Cuill, OFM Cap

AOS National Director for Ireland and Chaplain of the Port of Dublin

(Extracts and summary of his triennial report)

Fr. Padraig O'Cuill was nominated by the Capuchin Order to be Chaplain to the Port of Dublin, and appointed to that position by the Archdiocese in September 2004. One year later he became National Director. He operates from the Stella Maris Centre for Seafarers, Beresford Place, Dublin 2, where he meets the volunteers (over 30 of them in all) who take up duty there at various times. Mrs. Rose Kearney is the Director of the Centre. The volunteers are mostly members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, whose President is Mrs. Geraldine Gallagher.

The Centre is open every night of the year (even Christmas night) from 19.00 to 23.00 hours. It has a minibus and usually it is Rose who drives it to the port every night to bring the seafarers from the ships to the centre and to centre city.

AOS operates in the port with the permission and support of the Dublin Port Company. Fr. Padraig O'Cuill was trained in ship visitation by Fr. Paul Boagey, MHM, Chaplain at Tilbury Port in England. There were many factors to be taken into account: how to be dressed; how to deal with Port Security; boarding; introducing oneself; signing on; meeting the captain, a ship's officer or crew members; giving information about AOS and the Seafarers' Centre, and distributing brochures; attending to the needs of the crew as far as possible, and much more.

Generally if a ship is in port for a few days it would be visited once and you would meet the crew again in the Centre later, if it was possible for them to come. It might happen that it would be impossible or too dangerous to go onboard a particular ship. There are areas of the port that are generally restricted for safety reasons. Nevertheless seafarers from these ships sometimes make

their way to the Centre because they are familiar with the city or with the minibus service. During 2004 (September to December) I visited 436 ships, 524 in 2005 and 1,104 in 2007.

When they arrive at the Centre by night, the seafarers' first concern is usually to contact their wives and families in their native countries (the Philippines, Ukraine, India, Russia or wherever). But they are often pressed for time for one reason or another. Sometimes an individual may have a personal problem. Holy medals, rosaries, holy pictures and the Scriptures are available free of charge in the Centre as well as "ordinary reading": magazines, digests, newspapers and books.

In the Centre, there is a bar and a small shop where clothes and shoes are on sale at token prices, as well as essential requirements such as soap, postcards, etc. Television, snooker and table tennis are also available. Tea and coffee are served free of charge. We help seafarers with ordinary things such as posting letters, transmitting money by Western Union, changing currency or directing

them to particular shops. The Chaplain visits seafarers or staff members who are in hospital. Apart from that, it is a case of making friends with them whatever their faith or nationality.

It happens when a ship is arrested that there is a shortage of food on board. In those circumstances we can help to some degree with food. At other times the issue is salary, or the ship equipment may be faulty or even dangerous.

The chaplain celebrates Mass on board ship on request. In the Centre, where there is a nice little oratory, Mass is celebrated for seafarers, usually on Sunday, if they are available. Often it could be several months or half a year since the seafarers previously had Mass.



Fr. Padraig O'Cuill, OFM
AOS National Director



Sea Sunday is observed at the beginning of July. There is a good collaboration with the Mission to Seafarers (Church of Ireland) and also contacts with the Orthodox Church.

As regards the state of the AOS in the rest of Ireland, Stella Maris in Belfast closed down recently, for multiple reasons, although there are people there who are working to bring it back. Stella Maris in Cork closed some years ago and the building was sold. There are other ports in Ireland, for example Waterford, Foynes, Galway and Dublin itself, where Stella Maris could be developed in the right circumstances. I would like, in co-operation with the Bishop Promoter, to develop an awareness throughout Ireland that the seafarers are part of the parish community while they are in port, as is clarified in the Apostolic Letter *Stella Maris* (1997). I hope to be able to report some progress in the next Report.

A tragic accident in the port of Dublin involving a young Polish Officer

The maritime profession is a dangerous one. Chaplains and ship visitors are often confronted with catastrophes and tragic events.

On Tuesday 7th August a traumatic event occurred in the Port aboard the "Dublin Viking", a cargo/passenger ship owned by Norfolk Line. The ship was about to depart about 10.30 at night when a cable attaching the ship to the quayside snapped. These cables are often made of steel or synthetic fibre. The cable sprang back and broke both legs of the Second Officer Patrycjusz Zawadowicz (31), a Pole. He was brought to the Hospital, where his left leg was amputated.

At this time his wife was at home expecting their first child in three weeks time. Thus the full story was not broken to her immediately. Patrycjusz (Patrick) was an only child and therefore his parents were on their way from Poland to Ireland.

A Polish counsellor was made available to them and to the approximately 25 Poles aboard the ship. (The ship had a crew of 36, with about 9 Filipinos and a Scottish Captain.)

I was informed of the tragedy and went to the hospital in the afternoon. Patrycjusz was unconscious in the Intensive Care Unit, but improving a little following his surgery. I prayed for him. Between 5.30 and 7 p.m. I was aboard the Dublin Viking speaking with the crew members who were traumatised and praying with them.

On Thursday I met the parents at the hospital. We prayed. When I visited again the hospital on Sunday however, Patrycjusz had deteriorated and he died on Monday at 2.10 p.m. We had Mass in the Centre for him on Tuesday night and a Prayer Service with everybody aboard the Dublin Viking on the Monday following. Patrycjusz' body had been repatriated to Poland the Saturday previous.

Later on Father Edward Pracz, AOS Director for Poland, was informed of the whole affair, and I gave him the address in Poland of the Zawadowicz family.

Fr. Padraig O'Cuill



Mrs. Rose Kearney
Director of the Centre

NEW WEBSITE FOR SEAFARERS **www.itfseafarers.org**

The ITF has recently launched a new website specifically aimed at seafarers, where they can find out what their rights are, get information on their ship, learn where to get help in a crisis, discover what a union can do for them, link up online with fellow seafarers, get in touch with the ITF.

Initially available in English, the website will soon be in Chinese, Russian and Spanish.

OPENING OF NEW SEAFARERS' CENTERS

Cotonou, Benin

On the 10th July 2008, H.E. Msgr René Ehouzou, the Bishop Promoter of AOS, Benin, performed the opening ceremony of the new Seafarers' Centre at Cotonou. The occasion was attended by Tom Holmer, ITF-ST (Trustee), Rev. Henrik LaGrange, ICMA Secretary General, Mr. Omer Ambeu, representing the ICSW, the Benin Minister of Transport, other local dignitaries and chaplains from the West Africa Region.

The Pontifical Council sent to Bishop Ehouzou the following message on the occasion of the inauguration.



Your Excellency:

On the occasion of the inauguration of the "Stella Maris" International Seafarers Center of Cotonou, we send you our best wishes and sincere congratulations.

We give thanks to the Lord for all those who were at the origin of this fine initiative and went to such lengths to bring it to a successful conclusion beginning with you, dear brother, for the port authorities and personnel, the civil and political leaders, the ITF-Seafarers Trust and the ICWS, the builder and the workers, the benefactors and the volunteers.

Each of you has contributed his or her stone to the edifice, and through this exemplary synergy this beautiful building was made. In the Lord's name, we thank you!

An inauguration is a beginning, a time of hope and confidence in the future. It is also a time to renew your commitment and will in union with the whole Church of Benin and all your ecumenical partners, to continue to share in solidarity the life of seafarers, fishers and their families in their daily lives. We hope that a great apostolic impulse will come from this Center. May it be the sign of the Church's presence and concern for the poor in this maritime sector that is going through so many difficulties, much injustice and uncertainty.

This center is an open door on the maritime world. So we invite you, using St. Benedict's expression, to receive all the visitors like Christ himself, with no distinction. May it be a center of human promotion and progress in cooperation with all the living forces in order to create a climate of respect and justice everywhere for the sea workers and their families.

This July 10th you will be in our prayers and thoughts in a special way. Happy sailing! Have a safe trip! We entrust this new Seafarers Center to the protection of Mary, the Stella Maris, and pray that the Lord will be with you always!

Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, President

Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, Secretary

South Africa

Saldanha Bay. A new AOS mission has been established in Saldanha Bay, which is about 200 km from Cape Town, on a site within the Harbour, which was given by the Port Authorities. Rev. Deacon Fergus Rogers has been appointed Port Chaplain. Two containers have been purchased and have been converted into a centre.

There will be a small Chapel, an office, a shop, telephones and e-mail facilities. It will be run by the AOS and the MTS has offered the use of a minibus. As in other *Stella Maris*, the centre will be open to all seafarers.



Port Elizabeth. A new Seafarers' Centre has been opened in Port Elizabeth. It is within easy walking distance of the quay, it is a relaxing place, with access to internet, telephones, games room, lounge and a canteen.

It is an ecumenical centre and operated with the collaboration of Biblia, from the Dutch reformed Church, Anglican Mission to Seafarers, International Sailors' Society (South Africa) and the Apostleship of the Sea. Training for the pastoral agents and ship visitors has been organised.

Incheon, South Korea



The AOS Incheon community members

A new Stella Maris Centre has been opened in Incheon. Up to now AOS had only a tiny room in the Diocesan Catholic Centre. The new centre is spacious (45 m²) and conveniently situated near the Port Gate N°1. The seafarers who visit the centre are mostly foreigners. Many are not Christians, hence the importance of inter religious dialogue and of "speaking the language of the heart" (AOS-Incheon Newsletter N° 5)

Some historical background: AOS in Incheon was started in 1991 by a Filipino missionary, Fr. Raymond Savio, MSC. Korea is still a young Church, but now the Korean Catholics are always more aware "that now is their turn to share and spread what they were given freely." The AOS chaplain is Fr. Juanito Jang, msc., assisted by a very motivated chaplaincy team, which privileges the "community aspect" which is a most important concept for the Korean people, and the need for formation and deepening their understanding of their role in the AOS.

The address of the new Stella Maris Incheon is: 105 Incheon Catholic center, 3Tapdong, Chunggu, Incheon Korea, Zipcode 400-900.

Port Chaplain: Fr Juanito Jang You Sung, msc, Juanito1004@hanmail.net, Phone; 032-765-6974/010-3108-8071

Liverpool, England

It will be a “safe port” for the soul. A modern ecumenical hospitality center for those who live and work on the sea and stop now and then in the port of Liverpool will be inaugurated in October during an ecumenical service by the Catholic Archbishop of the city, Most Rev. Patrick Altham Kelly, and the Anglican Archbishop James Jones. The new center was promoted by the Apostleship of the Sea



(AOS) and the Anglican Mersey Mission to Seafarers, which is concerned with those who live and work most of their time on the sea. According to Peter Devlin of the AOS, approximately a thousand people will visit the center each month.

“A minority of seafarers enters the port; most of them never leave the ship. For this reason we go to visit them rather than waiting for them to come. They arrive from the Philippines, the Far East, India, China, Eastern Europe, Russia, the Ukraine and the Baltic countries. The most impor-

tant thing for them is to get in contact with their families”. At the center there will be about thirty phone lines available and as many as ten Internet areas for those who want to use e-mail, in addition to a chapel for Masses and services, a library, a bar and several televisions.

(Radiogiornale, Vatican Radio, September 23, 2008)

THE WAY OF THE SEA

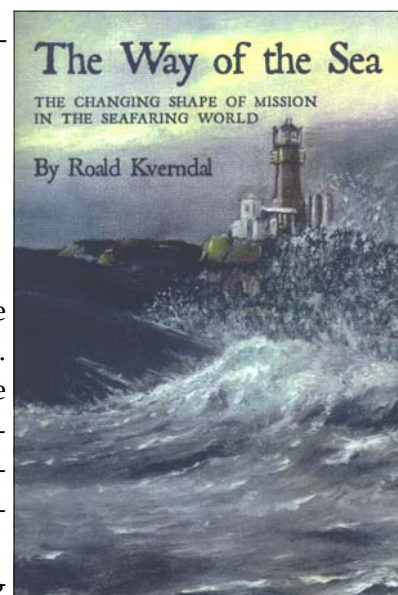
The changing shape of mission in the seafaring world

by Rev. Roald Kverndal

The sea has often served as an object of admiration. Through the ages, it has been both a source of bounty and a bridge of communication. *The Way of the Sea* explores the unique role of seafarers in promoting the revealed plan of the Creator and Redeemer of both land and sea. A comprehensive survey of maritime mission, it presents three different approaches: an updated history of maritime mission; a theoretical and strategic study; diverse perspectives from various experts

The Way of the Sea provides a much-needed tool for the developing field of maritime missiology—in the midst of today’s emerging church movement at sea. This is what Cardinal Martino and Archbishop Marchetto wrote about the book:

“*The Way of the Sea* is an important contribution to the field of Maritime Missiology and to the history of maritime ministry. All those engaged in the pastoral work of seafarers welfare still remember gratefully Rev Kverndal’s *Seamen’s Missions: Their Origin and Early Growth* which was published in 1986, which has helped in the formation of countless chaplains and pastoral agents and has given a great encouragement to the history of maritime mission. One of Rev. Kverndal’s most outstanding qualities is his ecumenical approach to this ministry and his readiness to dialogue and support every initiative that benefits seafarers, and this is certainly evident in his new publication”.



NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN FOR THE CRUISE SECTOR



Costa Marina, an Italian cruise ship, had been visiting the Indian Ocean Island ports of Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros, Seychelles and Kenya (port of Mombasa) since December 2007. It carries more than 1,000 passengers, mainly Europeans and has a 400 member crew of different nationalities.

The onboard chaplain is Fr. Luca Centurioni, an Italian priest, active member of AOS-Italy. He is responsible for the spiritual and moral well-being of the crew and organizes also social activities for the crew on board and in visiting ports.

Since January this year, a number of activities have been realized while in Port Victoria such as tours of Mahé, football and basket ball games, barbecues and dancing ... These activities were organized jointly

by Fr. Luca and Albert Napier, AOS National Director of the Seychelles. Thanks to the AOS, the minibus, sponsored by the International Transport Federation—Seafarers Trust (ITF-ST), helped to transport seafarers to and from the above location where the activities took place.

It should also be noted that while in the Indian Ocean, the home port of the *Costa Marina* ship is Mauritius. There also, thanks to the cooperation with the local AOS, the crew was able to visit regularly the center and the various tourist sides.

This cooperation between ship based and shore based chaplains for the welfare of the seafarers deserves to be highlighted and imitated.



The desire for cruises is growing

Costa Cruises ranks first in the European classification. With a fleet of 12 ships, 5 new ones to be delivered by 2012, a total of 1,100,000 guests in 2007 and 1,500,000 expected by 2010, Costa Cruises proves to be the leading company in the cruise sector in Europe. This sector, according to the most recent data from the European Cruise Center (ECC), is stepping up its growth beyond expectations as well as its impact on the rate of employment.

The Merchant Navy Welfare Board “Ship Welfare Visitor Course”

The “Ship Welfare Visitor Course” was originally developed and established in the United Kingdom by the “Merchant Navy Welfare Board” (MNWB). In the UK all ship visitors representing the MNWB member societies are required to undertake the course. The course is accredited by the Nautical Institute (an international professional association) as it was considered important to gain proper recognition for the course and to establish an appropriate standard for the training.

The course aim is to equip ship visitors with a full appreciation of protocol, personal safety and security issues relating to port facilities and ships. The course provides an overview of shipping organisations, introduces Marine Industry custom and practice, describes ship types, shipboard organisation, trades and specific hazards, highlights the current security issues, facilitates personal safety of people visiting port facilities and ships, demonstrates delegate’s suitability to operate in port facilities and onboard ships

Following extremely positive feedback from hundreds of delegates, the MNWB offered the course for wider dissemination to ship welfare visitors throughout the world under the auspices of the International Committee on Seafarers’ Welfare (ICSW).

MESSAGES AND LETTERS OF CONDOLENCES FROM THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL

These last months have been marked by catastrophes and shipwrecks. Also we have learned with sadness of the passing away of many friends.
AOS-International assures all concerned of its sympathy, solidarity and prayers.

24th June 2008

H.E. Msgr. Martin S. Jumoad
AOS Bishop Promoter, **Philippines**

Your Excellency,

We have learnt with great sadness the news of the terrible loss of the ferry "The Princess of the Stars", as it was hit by Typhoon Fengshen.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have perished, who are still missing and with the injured. We remember especially those families who are grieving and who now will never see their loved ones again. Please convey to them our profound sentiments of sympathy and solidarity in their terrible loss.

We also remember and pray for all those who are engaged in the rescue operations and with the care of survivors and grieving relatives.

In prayer and communion, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, Secretary

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17th September 2008

H.E. Msgr. John Kevin Boland
AOS Bishop Promoter, **USA**

Your Excellency,

We have learned with great sadness of the serious damage inflicted by hurricane "Ike" to the Gulf coast of the USA. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are in these devastated areas, especially with the AOS Chaplains, the staff and the ecumenical partners in the cities of Houston and Galveston, which have been particularly affected.

We remember especially the seafarers, fishers, oil platform workers and their families who have been caught in the hurricane. We pray for those whose loved ones have been killed, injured or are missing and for those who have been separated from their families or lost their homes and their work.

We assure you of our solidarity and pray for strength and perseverance for the emergency services and all those involved in rescue operations and for the prompt recovery of these populations.

In communion and prayer

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, President

+ Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, Secretary

* * * *

22nd September 2008

H.E. Msgr. Joseph Aké
President of the Episcopal Conference
Abidjan, **Ivory Coast**

Your Excellency:

We were sad to learn of the death of the Most Rev. Barthélémy Djabla, the Promoter Bishop of the Apostleship of the Sea for the Ivory Coast.

I would be grateful if you could express our solidarity to his family, his clergy, the AOS and the faithful of his diocese in this moment of sorrow.

With the assurance of our deepest sympathy, I am,
Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Archbishop Agostino Marchetto
Secretary

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*THE PASSING AWAY OF TWO MUCH LOVED AND RESPECTED CHAPLAINS
OF THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED*

Fr. John Dermody, former AOS chaplain at Pembroke Dock, West Wales (GB), died on the 2nd August 2008. For many years Fr. John has served thousand of seafarers, establishing a dedicated and generous team of volunteers ship visitors and drivers.

Bro. Jim Horan, S.J., AOS port chaplain in Baltimore, died on the 29 August 2008. His sister Franceline Horan of Connecticut was with him at the time of his death. The cause of death was melanoma. In memory of Bro. Jim, a true friend of seafarers, the AOS Baltimore new communication and computer center for seafarers has been named "The Brother Jim Horan Communication Center".

CLIMATE CHANGE WILL HAVE STRONG IMPACT ON FISHERIES

FAO holds scientific symposium

Temperature and other variations resulting from climate change will have a strong impact on fisheries and aquaculture, with significant food security consequences for certain populations, FAO said.

The UN food agency's note of caution came at the start of a four day scientific symposium on climate change and marine fisheries being held at its Rome headquarters (8-11 July 2008). The event, which involved over 200 experts and policymakers from around the globe, aimed to paint a fuller picture of the challenges that climate change poses to marine fisheries and the millions of people who depend on them for food and income.

High degree of vulnerability

Wild capture fisheries are fundamentally different from other food production systems in their linkages and responses to climate change and in the food security outcomes that result, according to FAO.

Unlike most terrestrial animals, aquatic animal species used for human consumption are poikilothermic, meaning their body temperatures vary according to ambient temperatures. Any changes in habitat temperatures significantly influence their metabolism, growth rate, productivity, seasonal reproduction, and susceptibility to diseases and toxins.

Impacts already being felt

Impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture already being observed include:

In marine waters, climate processes and extreme weather events will increase in frequency and intensity – the most well known of these is the *El Niño* phenomenon in the South Pacific. The ongoing warming of the world's oceans is likely to continue, but with geographical differences and some decadal variability. Warming is more intense in surface waters but is not exclu-

sive to these, with the Atlantic showing particularly clear signs of deep warming.

Changes in fish distributions in response to climate variations have already been observed, generally involving pole ward expansions of warmer-water species and pole ward contractions of colder-water species.

Shifts in ocean salinity are occurring, with near-surface waters in the more evaporative regions of most of the world's oceans increasing in salinity, while marine areas in high latitudes are showing decreasing salinity due to greater precipitation, higher runoff, melting ice and other atmospheric processes.

And the oceans are becoming more acidic, with probable negative consequences to many coral reef and calcium-bearing organisms.

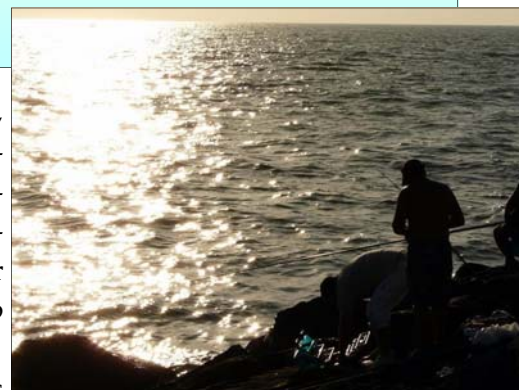
Implications for food security

Although large regional differences exist, the world is likely to see significant changes in fisheries production in the seas and oceans, FAO said.

For communities who heavily rely on fisheries, any decreases in the local availability or quality of fish for food or increases in their livelihoods' instability will pose even more serious problems.

Fishing communities located in the high latitudes and those that rely on climate change-susceptible systems, such as upwelling or coral reef systems, will have the greatest exposure to climate-related impacts. In addition, fisheries communities located in deltas, coral atolls and ice dominated coasts will be particularly vulner-

(Continued on page 17)



able to sea level rise and associated risks of flooding, saline intrusion and coastal erosion. But countries with limited ability to adapt to the changes, even if located in low risk areas, are also vulnerable.

FAO also noted however that the impacts of climate-related physical and biological changes in fisheries on the communities that depend on them will be as varied as the changes themselves. Both negative and positive impacts are likely, depending on local circumstances and the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of the affected communities.

A key sector at risk

At both the local and global levels, fisheries and aquaculture play important roles in providing food and generating income. Some 42 million people work directly in the sector, the great majority in developing countries. Adding those who work in associated processing, marketing, distribution and supply industries, the sector supports several hundred million livelihoods.

Acquatic foods have high nutritional quality, contributing 20 percent or more of average per capita animal protein intake for more than 2.8 billion people, again mostly in developing countries. Fish is also the world's most widely traded foodstuff and a key source of export earnings for many poorer countries. The sector has particular significance for small island states.

Accordingly, FAO is increasingly focusing its attention on how climate change will affect fisheries and aquaculture.

In April, the agency convened a workshop of experts to look at climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture in advance of the June 2008 summit on food security, climate change, and bioenergy. That group generated an overview document which looks at the issues and risks involved, and also outlined possible responses governments and policymakers could make to begin to adapt as well as highlighting the responsibility of the sector vis-à-vis its role in minimizing its carbon footprint.

This week's symposium was intended to deepen and broaden scientific knowledge on

how climate change is affecting marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

The symposium was co-sponsored and co-organized by FAO, Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (GLOBEC) and European Network of Excellence for Oceans Ecosystem Analysis (EUR-OCEANS).



CHANGES IN THE AOS WORLDWIDE

CELAM

Sr. Maria Izabel Arantes, MSCS, has left her post at the CELAM (where she was also in charge of the maritime sector) as she has been appointed Provincial Counsellor of the Congregation of the Scalabrinian Sisters. She has been replaced by Sr. Erta Lemos, of the same Congregation.

Poland

Following the retirement of Archbishop Tadeusz Gocłowski, during the 344 Plenary Meeting of the Episcopal Conference, which was held in Katowice on June 17th and 18th, Aux. Bishop of Gdansk Ryszard Kasyna was appointed as the new Bishop Promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea.

Our very special thanks go to Archbishop Gocłowski for his outstanding welcome and support to the XXII AOS World Congress.

SADC MINISTERS MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Conference on Illegal Fishing

The declaration signed at the end of the SADC Inter-Ministerial Conference on illegal fishing (from July 2-4, 2008 in Windhoek, Namibia) follows the same logic of the international efforts to eliminate unreported and unregulated illegal fishing (IUU). The Ministers for Fisheries of the SADC countries met to apply the 2001 SADC Protocol on Fisheries correctly in a context where fish stocks are disappearing rapidly.

While civil society pointed out that 200 million Africans depend directly on the resources for their survival, the Ministers for Fisheries of the SADC countries recognized the need to attack the problem on the regional level. In his intervention, Arvin Boolell, the Minister for Agro-industry and Fisheries, highlighted the measures taken by Mauritius to fight illegal fishing. He referred to the agreements signed by his country as well as the *monitoring* of all the fishing boats that come into its territorial waters. He stressed in particular that each country has its own specific characteristics; the problem of illegal fishing has to be addressed on the regional level, and initiatives are needed in favor of a Vessel Monitoring System.

Civil society is in favor of tough actions (seizing boats and catches) as in the Seychelles with international cooperation. The fight against illegal fishing must be carried out with the cooperation of the coastal communities on land and the fishers.

In the context of the world food crisis, the explosion of oil prices and uncertainties linked to climate change, it is essential now to reduce the *by-catch*, manage the stocks appropriately, and use precautionary principles. The spokesperson of civil society pointed out, moreover, that from the viewpoint of the coastal communities, it is imperative to get access for them to the markets and carry out a shared management of the resources that concern them.

“Week-End” (Mauritius), July 13, 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

Houston Training School

To be held at the Houston International Seafarers' Center

February 8-20, 2009

For an application click the following link:

<http://www.aos-usa.org/files/Houston%20School%20Application%202009.pdf>

FRANCE WILL PROPOSE TO THE UN TO CREATE A "SEA POLICE FORCE"

France will submit a draft resolution before the Security Council to combat maritime piracy during the United Nations General Assembly that opens on Monday, September 22nd in New York. President Nicolas Sarkozy announced an "initiative" along these lines on Tuesday, September 16th when he was reporting the circumstances of the liberation of the two navigators from the sailboat "Le Carre d'As" that were held hostage by the Somalian pirates.

This text will have a dual purpose: to alert the international community about the new wave of maritime attacks in the Gulf of Aden region and the Indian Ocean, and strongly encourage the State Members to take part in a "force to safeguard" this region by making war ships available. One diplomat explains that many countries are reluctant to take part in an operation of this kind for lack of a "political and legal cover", which is what this new resolution is supposed to offer. France will give the example starting this week by entrusting the mission to the dispatch boat "Commandant-Birot" to escort merchant ships that cruise in this area.

Mr. Sarkozy expressed the hope that "some form of sea police force" will be created to fight the "real crime industry" that maritime piracy has become. "In addition to this preventive action", he added, "I hope there will be punitive actions". In June, shortly after the hostages were taken on the sailboat "Le Ponant", the UN adopted a French-American resolution authorizing the States that

had the agreement of the Somalian transition government to pursue the perpetrators of the act of piracy in the Somalian waters. In Brussels, the creation of a unit to coordinate the efforts of the European Navies as well as the launch of a plan for a possible EU military naval operation in the region go in the same direction.

However, the countries that agree to mobilize ships are rare. The Director of the World Food Program (WFP) for Somalia, Peter Goossens, issued an "urgent appeal" on Tuesday to find escorts for the cargos that transport humanitarian aid to Somalia. Since November 2007, many countries (France, Denmark, the Netherlands and Canada) have taken turns escorting these ships, but Canada's mission must end on September 27th and no other country has offered to do this.

(Le Monde, 17.09.08)

INCREASE IN ACTS OF PIRACY

The increase in piracy off the coast of Somalia is threatening one of the planet's principal maritime routes where 30,000 ships navigate each year.

In 2007 the acts of piracy increased by 10% compared to the preceding year and they have become more violent. This was announced by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) explaining that the attacks have grown considerably, especially in the Nigerian and Somalian waters.

At present, 12 ships have been captured in Somalia by pirates since July 20, 2008, whereas in the first six months of 2008 there were 24 acts of piracy. It is believed that more than 340 seafarers are hostages of the pirates in Somalia.





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