



Catholic Maritime News

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“Like the Village Fountain”

A few years ago someone was preaching about St. John XXIII and the person quoted some words of the saintly Pope. St. John XXIII hoped for the Church to have a motherly face. He believed that her task was to keep "her arms open to receive everyone," and be a "home for one and all" that "desires to belong to everyone, and in particular she is the Church of the poor, like the village fountain."

As we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior, it remains striking to see that he wasn't born in a palace or castle. Mary gave birth to a Son in a manger, with the just and humble Joseph protecting her and her Child. The beauty of the art and music that portray this event and the childhood of Jesus shine brightly the mission of the Church. We have come to believe that this Child brings hope and healing to the world, and we go out with energy to proclaim the beauty and potential for every child. Like the village fountain we give water to everyone, with no distinction.

How blessed we are to proclaim this Good News through the Apostleship of the Sea! All of our work and actions are powerful in themselves, and are made even more powerful when connected to the love of God and humanity shining forth from that manger in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

St. John XXIII prayed a simple prayer every day that kept him connected with Jesus. It was a commitment of 10 things each day and is called the daily Decalogue of Pope John XXIII. I think this could be a powerful prayer for us as we celebrate the Christmas season and begin to make our commitments for a new 2020:

1) Only for today, I will seek to live the livelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.

2) Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behaviour; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone

except myself.

3) Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.

4) Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.

5) Only for today, I will devote 10 minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.

6) Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

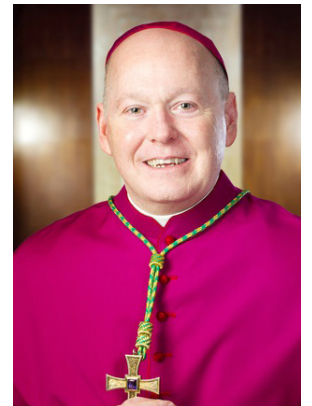
7) Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

8) Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

9) Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.

10) Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed, for 12 hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.

May God bless you and your families with peace and good health this Christmas season and may we be like the village fountain that gives water to all who are thirsty!



Bishop Brendan J. Cahill

+ Brendan Cahill



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Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, & Travelers

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We encourage you to visit our website which has user friendly navigation tools. Check out our interactive map with a list of AOS chaplains and contacts, know about news and events and other relevant information.

Contact Catholic Maritime News

We welcome your comments, feedback and suggestions.
Tell us what you think by sending an email to AOS@uscceb.org.

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Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA) is a professional membership association of chaplains/associates, cruise ship priests, mariners, student mariners and affiliate members.

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Merry Christmas to everyone!

By Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

According to Pope Francis, “Love is constant caring for others, Love is taking responsibility for others...Love is work.” Indeed, love in action that is manifested in work is the mission of the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS), that is, to continue the mission of Christ himself. The chaplains and volunteers of AOS reach out “in love” to seafarers, fishers, their families, port personnel and all who work or travel on the high seas. The key to the success of AOS activities is the work done by dedicated chaplains, lay ministers and volunteers. They carry out their ministry with renewed energy and commitment, providing pastoral outreach in many maritime ports. The AOS work and ministry shows the Catholic Church’s care and concern for those who cannot participate in regular parish life because of the nature of their work.



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

The Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) is organized through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church/Pastoral Care of Migrants Refugees and Travelers (PCMRT). PCMRT works in coordination with and supports the activities of AOS throughout the country. AOS has continued to be a vital ministry of the United States Catholic Church in providing pastoral care to seafarers and all people of the sea. Its mission is to reach out to seafarers, port personnel, fisher men and women and their families, who work or travel on the seas.

AOS centers are places of hospitality, which provides seafarers a place to relax. AOS chaplains and volunteers provide exceptional services: Ship visits, prayer services, shuttle to local stores and shopping centers, provision of phone cards, free phone use, e-mail, computers with internet connections, television, magazines, lounge, snacks and games. Mass is celebrated on board ships, as well as communion services, counselling, confession and other sacraments. AOS chaplains and volunteers also carry out blessing of the ports, ships, boats, and fishing fleets. Getting involved in AOS ministry and activities is love in action for the people of God, and according to Pope Francis, “Being holy means loving people.” AOS chaplains and volunteers not only provide spiritual care for seafarers; much of their work is also about extending practical assistance and advocating for the rights of seafarers. AOS also provides

pastoral resources such as rosaries, prayer cards, and the Catholic Maritime News which is sent to the local AOS chaplaincies, Bishops and other networks.

God calls all Christians to be saints – people who show loving care for others in the simplest gestures. My friends, the Pope continues to challenge us, to love all God’s people and to be holy. He said, “We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.” During this Christmas season, I urge all to use the opportunity to show the love of Jesus to people around you. This is a great time to serve and to share hope. As the National Director of the AOS, I urge you to consider offering services to others by being part of the AOS ministry. Sacrificing and sharing your time and talents for others is an essential element of living a holy life. Time dedicated to supporting AOS ministry, visiting the ships and bringing good news to the seafarers is worth a lot in the sight of God. During this Christmas, I pray that we may radiate the love and hope of Jesus to all hearts we encounter. Merry Christmas!

If you are interested in volunteering with AOS ministry, please contact the national office at 202-541-3359 or aos@uscbb.org

(cf. <https://www.chicagocatholic.com/vatican/-/article/2018/04/09/pope-francis-being-holy-means-loving-people-not-being-boring>. <https://www.ncronline.org/news/vatican/francis-chronicles/love-constant-caring-others-pope-says-parish-visit>.)

WORLD FISHERIES DAY

By Pietro Parravano

Chair, Apostleship of the Sea—USA Fisheries Committee



Pietro Parravano

World Fisheries Day was started on November 21, 1997 in New Delhi, India. It is an outcome of the founding of a global organization—the World Forum of Fish Workers and Fish Harvesters (WFF). As we celebrate World Fisheries Day on November 21, we are reflecting on our gratitude for the fishermen that bring us seafood. This celebration connects us with the oceans, lakes and fishermen.

On November 21, 1997, fishermen from eighteen countries left their

boats, communities and traveled to New Delhi, India. Strangers, bonded by the oceans, met to establish a new organization. The creation of the WFF was founded on the common principles of sustaining the fisheries; sustaining

the fishing communities; advocating for social justice and preserving the cultural history of fish harvesters and fish workers. Fishing representatives from 18 countries signed a declaration advocating for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies. The representatives from the United States that participated in this milestone event were Angela Sanfilippo from Gloucester, MA; Barbara Stickel from Seattle, WA and myself.

Every day that a fisherman is able to work is a day that she/he celebrates the bounty of the oceans and lakes. Every day that a consumer enjoys wild fish is a day that she/he appreciates the efforts of commercial fishermen to provide us with seafood. We are grateful for their efforts. We are thankful for their seafood that is teeming with nutritional benefits. We appreciate and respect their skills and knowledge. We understand their daily challenges. We are educated by their dependence on healthy oceans and marine ecosystems.

Bringing us the seafood from the oceans and lakes is filled with many risks and challenges. Weather events—hurricanes, flooding, dangerous ocean conditions—create a hazardous workplace. Harmful water quality caused by algal blooms, acidification, runoff from land and oil spills result in closures of fishing areas. Loss of habitat that is critical to the productive life cycles of fish create an unsurmountable ability of the fish to survive. We have witnessed many examples of pollution caused by the presence of plastic in the oceans and lakes.

We are indebted to those working people—the commercial fishermen—who navigate the oceans and lakes so that we can enjoy food that was harvested with pride and hard work. Imbedded in the fisheries, are stories of catching fish. If you want to hear these stories, one needs to hear them from a commercial fisherman.

World Fisheries Day gives us the opportunity to listen to these stories—past and present—from the commercial fishermen and communities around the world and to continue hearing more stories in the future. This is the value of celebrating and sustaining the principles of World Fisheries Day.



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

A synopsis of the *Message on the occasion of World Fisheries Day November 21, 2019* from Cardinal Peter K. A. Turkson, Prefect, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development at the Vatican can be found at: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2018/11/21/181121g.html>

New England Is Not Prepared For The World's Largest Offshore Windfarm

Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership Press Release

Press Contact Angela Sanfilippo (978) 282-4847

Edward Barrett (617) 538-3479

Commercial fishing families, as stewards of the ocean, are concerned that a new industry is developing at a rapid pace without adequate science and risk management. By the end of the year, Vineyard Wind intends to begin construction on its 84-turbine offshore wind farm south of Cape Cod. It will be one of the largest wind farms in the world and it will be built on essential marine habitat.

By the end 2025, Vineyard Wind and other foreign-owned wind energy companies, plan to build over 1,000 turbines in a 1,400 square mile lease area. Combined, they will dwarf other wind farms around the world. And they will build it without adequate scientific understanding of the harm they could cause to the migratory route for millions of marine animals, the feeding grounds for right whales, and the traditional fishing grounds of thousands of fishermen and recreational boaters.

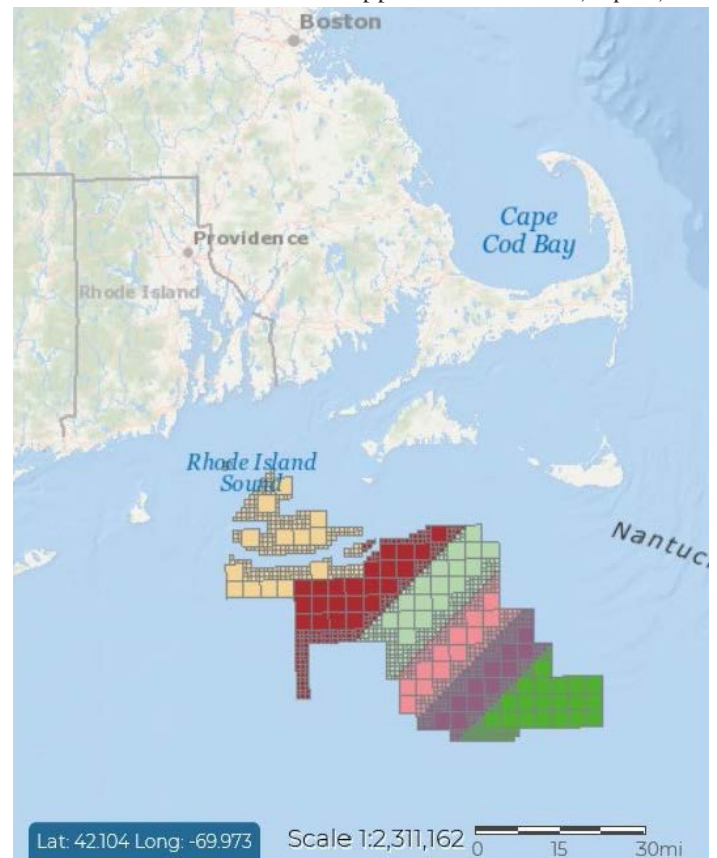
It's true that most New Englanders are in favor of increasing renewable energy sources like wind farms. But it is also true that most New Englanders are not aware of the sheer magnitude and ecological disruption of the industrial development that will soon dominate their coast. For perspective, imagine driving through a wind farm the size of Rhode Island. This will be bigger.

"Fishing families in New England are alarmed that Vineyard Wind has been able to race through its permitting process without answering simple scientific and economic questions about the harm it will have on the ecosystem and traditional fishing grounds," said Ed Barrett, the President of the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership. "There are ways that wind farms could be developed responsibly so that they coexist with the environment and fishermen. But that's not happening here."

Scientists are among the growing group that are concerned with how little research Vineyard Wind has conducted before it begins pile driving and dredging in essential habitat. NOAA, the federal agency in charge of fisheries science and policy recently responded sharply to Vineyard Wind's Draft Environmental Impact Statement: "We determined that many of the conclusory statements relating to the scale of impacts for biological

and socioeconomic resources are not well supported in the document," the 44-page report letter stated. "Related to fish and fisheries, there is limited analysis of areas of mortality, injury, and behavioral impacts, particularly spawning activity for relevant species and potential loss in catch resulting from pile driving activities." (Link to the full letter below)

Basic scientific questions have not been addressed. What are the impacts to New England's marine environment when thousands of turbines are pounded into the sediment and hundreds of miles of high-voltage cable run through fisheries habitat? What will happen to the lobster, squid,



The area of ocean that will be covered with wind farms is massive. At over 1,400 square miles, the combined leased areas are larger than the state of Rhode Island. Created using Data Explorer on <https://www.northeastoceandata.org/>

striped bass, tuna, flounder, cod, whales, sea turtles and other marine animals that migrate along the New England coast when their path to Massachusetts is interrupted by the noise and vibrations of hundreds of turbines? Who will be responsible when New Englanders lose access to local seafood and fishing grounds?

Most New Englanders assume that someone is answering those fundamental questions. They also assume that if Vineyard Wind harms the marine environment or the local economy, then Vineyard Wind will be held responsible.

But these assumptions are not correct. Vineyard Wind, in a race to ensure it receives federal tax credits, is barreling towards starting construction before it answers these questions. And it has every incentive to do so. Federal laws, with few exceptions, are not designed to hold wind energy companies responsible for the harm they cause to the environment.

As an example in fisheries, if the wind farms negatively impact the population of summer flounder (a popular recreational and commercial fish stock in Southern New England); the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provides no means to hold Vineyard Wind accountable. The only action the government can take is to lower fishing limits. In fact, it will be required to do so. Commercial and recreational fishermen would pay the price for something that the wind farms did. And summer flounder is only one of over 50 species that are part of the multi-billion dollar, locally-owned, seafood and recreational fishing economy.

“People need energy,” said Angela Sanfilippo, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership and President of the Gloucester Fishermen’s Wives Association. “But people also need food. We cannot trade one renewable resource for another.”

The Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership is an umbrella organization of fishing community associations throughout the Bay State. “For the last thirty years, we’ve done everything the government has asked of us,” Barrett said about commercial fishermen. “We’ve been good stewards of the environment. As a result, we have productive fisheries that feed millions of people in North America. That is at risk.”

Fishermen are also concerned about the effect wind farms will have on whale populations. “We’ve closed thousands of square miles to lobstering to protect right whales,” said John Haviland, President of the South Shore Lobster Fisherman’s Association. “Why aren’t the wind farms held to the same standard? There are right whales that live in the wind farm lease areas. What will happen to them when their habitat turns into an industrial park?”

Ultimately, offshore wind energy is developing at a reckless pace and scale. What has been clear to fishermen is becoming clear to an expanding group of scientists, politicians, and government officials. There is too much risk to the environment to sit back and trust foreign energy

corporations to decide what is best for New England.

The Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership applauds the recent actions taken by Massachusetts House leadership, including Representative Haddad, Chairman Michelwitz, and the Speaker, during the recent budget debate for their work to bring the issue of mitigation to the front burner in the off-shore wind procurement discussions. Mitigation should be a critical component of any future bid for securing off-shore wind contracts, and the House’s approved amendments provide it an appropriate place in the conversation. Fishing families will continue to work with elected leaders to protect our oceans and New England’s vibrant coastal communities.

The press is encouraged to contact the Massachusetts Fishing Partnership for more information and to be put in touch with fishermen in their area.

Link to NOAA Fisheries Comments to Vineyard Wind DEIS: www.nefmc.org/library/april-2019-offshore-wind-in-the-northeast-region-special-session



North American Maritime Ministry Association

The 2019 Annual NAMMA Conference was held at the Charleston Marriott in Charleston, SC from August 13-16. This event attracted industry professionals, maritime welfare agencies, their chaplains, and volunteers in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. The conference provided networking, discussion of important maritime issues, and training. This year’s conference explored the theme of Connectivity and Connectedness with seafarers and with each other.

Picture and Text Courtesy of the North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA)

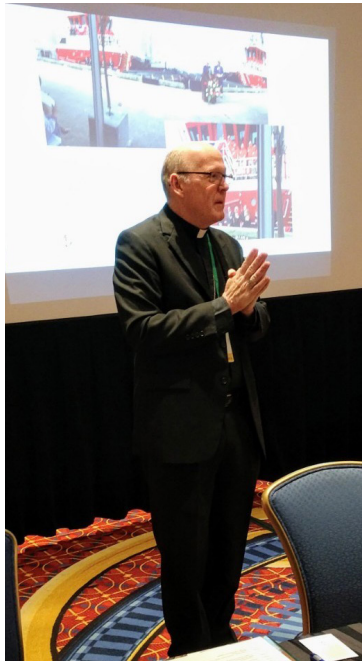
PCMRT Hosted a Successful Stella Maris - AOS Breakfast with the Bishops, November 11, 2019 at the Marriott, Baltimore, MD.

By Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

Monday November 11, 2019 featured a discussion on the role and importance of Stella Maris - AOS ministry in the United States. The National Office of the Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris) was delighted to host this important event. Twenty-one Bishops, eleven AOS chaplains, lay ministers and other USCCB staff were in attendance. It was an opportunity for the Bishops to spend time and share ideas with the Port Chaplains and other lay leaders as well as express the successes and the challenges here in the United States ports.

Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, Bishop of Victoria and the Bishop Promoter of AOS, in his opening remarks welcomed the participants and thanked the chaplains who reach out to the Seafarers, including ship-visits and offering of pastoral care to seafarers, fishers and their families. Bishop Cahill also announced that Cardinal Peter K. A. Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in Rome, sent a letter to announce the XXV World Congress of the Stella Maris/Apostleship of the Sea and its Centenary Celebration from September 29th to October 4th, 2020 in Glasgow, Scotland. Bishop invited the participants to "save the date" and make plans to join in this important event. The Centenary will be an occasion to remember the past and give thanks for all the people who over the past one hundred years have served the people of the sea, to celebrate the present, and to chart the future of our ministry in responding to the evolving needs of seafarers, fishers and their families.

Deacon Paul Rosenblum, the AOS Regional Coordinator



Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, Bishop of Victoria, TX, Bishop Promoter, Apostleship of the Sea, opened the meeting.

and the Chaplain at the Port of Charleston, SC, explored the Seafarers' Ministry and the services rendered. Such services include visiting ships, offering Holy Mass, prayers and communion services on vessels and in the centers, and providing free religious items such as rosaries, medals, prayer cards, religious and secular reading materials, and Christmas-at-Sea gift packages.

Karen Parsons, the port chaplain at the ports of Galveston and Texas City in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, called for the support of AOS ministry and urged the Bishops to appoint more lay ministers to the leadership positions and in the AOS ministry.

Sharing his experiences and ministry, Fr. Lito Capeding said they provide pastoral care to seafarers, including celebrating the Holy Mass and other sacraments on board ships, driving the seafarers to shops, restaurants or doctors, and engaging in ship visits as well as other pastoral care as needed.

Other chaplains who participated included: Fr. John Corbett, Fr. Sinclair Oubre, Fr. Joseph Phan, Fr. Jan Kubisa, Deacon Wayne Lobell, Deacon Jose Deleon, Deacon Patrick Lapoint, and the newly appointed director of the AOS in



Deacon Paul Rosenblum, Ph.D., AOS Regional Coordinator, Maritime Deacon Apostleship of the Sea- Charleston, SC

Baltimore, Maryland, Andrew Middleton.

The AOS breakfast brought together Bishops and chaplains to explore ways in which they might energize chaplains and solicit support for AOS ministry. The breakfast also honored the dedicated chaplains and lay ministers who continue to contribute to the success of the ministry to the people of the Sea. Problems of the ministry were highlighted.

The AOS breakfast allowed the chaplains to network and share their experiences. The discussion at the tables focused on how to productively tackle the challenges and solve the problems that AOS ministry faces. The Bishops were invited to join in the



Mrs. Karen Parsons, Maritime Lay Leader, Galveston Seaman's Center, Apostleship of the Sea Galveston & Texas City and Author of "Diary of a Port Chaplain-My Journey of Faith with Seafarers",



Fr. Lito Capeding, AOS Chaplain, Center Director, Apostleship of the Sea - Mobile, AL, Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, Bishop of Victoria, TX, Bishop Promoter, Apostleship of the Sea, and Sr. Joanna Okereke, Assistant Director, Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, National Director, Apostleship of the Sea.

efforts to raise awareness of the AOS ministry in their dioceses. There was valuable information exchanged on the success of the ministry to the people of the Sea. AOS is serving seafarers, fishers and their families in 48 ports in the United States with over 100 chaplains and lay ministers. Indeed, it was very good to hear from the chaplains themselves about their work, experiences and challenges. The chaplains had a strong sense of commitment and enthusiasm to continue their work. Many left the breakfast more excited and happier to have attended.

Most Rev. Joseph Tyson, Bishop of Yakima and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT) prayed that Mary, Star of the Sea may guide and bless all chaplains in their work and thanked all who participated in this special event. The AOS breakfast stimulated new ideas to support AOS. We express our sincerest gratitude for the support of so many bishops.



In foreground: Deacon Jose De Leon, Maritime Deacon, Apostleship of the Sea - Seattle, WA with Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson, Bishop of Yakima, Chair, Subcommittee, Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers. Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, Archbishop of Seattle, WA, Fr. John Corbett, Pastor of Stella Maris Church and AOS director in the Port of Newark, NJ, and Most Rev. Nelson J. Perez, Bishop of Cleveland, Chair, Committee, Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.



Deacon Patrick Lapoint, Director of the Stella Maris Center, Lake Charles, LA, with Fr. Jan Kubisa, Chaplain, Port of Houston, TX, Most Rev. Paul P. Chomnycky, OSBM, Eparchy of Stamford (Ukrainian), and Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, Bishop of Mobile. Bishop Chomnycky announced to the group as a whole that he came to the breakfast specifically because so many of the sailors are from the Ukraine, and he wanted his diocese to find ways to become more involved in the Apostleship of the Sea to support them.



The late Most Rev. Paul David Sirba, who served as Bishop of Duluth, MN, Fr. Sinclair Oubre, Director of the Apostleship of the Sea, Diocese of Beaumont, TX.



Fr. Lito Capeding, AOS Chaplain, Center Director, Apostleship of the Sea - Mobile, Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz, Bishop of El Paso, TX, Most Rev. J. Kevin Boland, Bishop Emeritus of Savannah, GA, and former Bishop Promoter of the Apostleship of the sea, Most Rev. Thomas John Rodi, Archbishop, Diocese of Mobile, LA, Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, (Retired), Deacon Paul Rosenblum, Ph.D., AOS Regional Coordinator, Maritime Deacon Apostleship of the Sea- Charleston, SC, Most Rev. Paul David Sirba, who served as Bishop of Duluth, MN, Andrew Middleton, newly appointed director, Apostleship of the Sea, Baltimore, Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans, Deacon Wayne Lobell, Maritime Deacon and Center Director, Apostleship of the Sea - New Orleans, Mrs. Karen Parsons, Maritime Lay Leader, Galveston Seaman's Center, Apostleship of the Sea Galveston & Texas City and Author of "Diary of a Port Chaplain-My Journey of Faith with Seafarers," and Deacon Wayne Lobell, Maritime Deacon and Center Director, Apostleship of the Sea - New Orleans.

Bishop opens cause for sainthood of World War II and Korean War veteran



Most Rev. J. Kevin Boland, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese Savannah, former Bishop Promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea, Fr. Joseph Phan, AOS Chaplain, Apostleship of the Sea-Oakland, CA, Most Rev. Armando X. Ochoa, DD, Bishop Emeritus of Fresno.

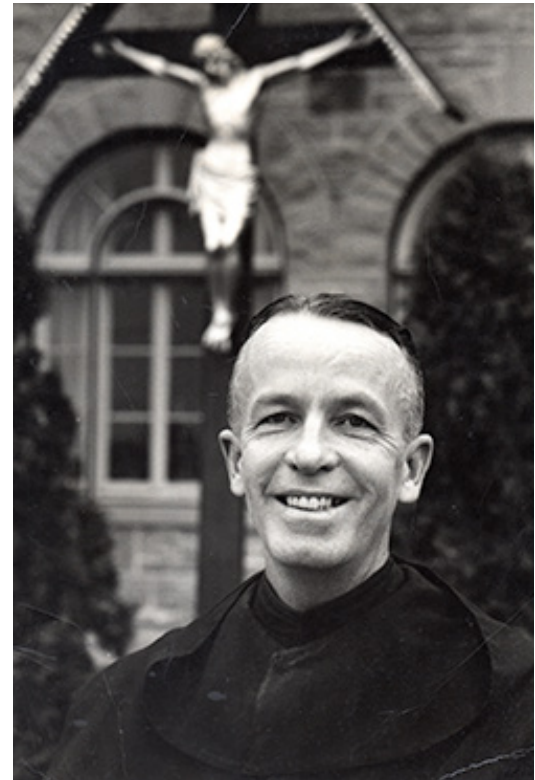


Above: Most Rev. John H. Ricard, SSJ, (Retired), and Most Rev. Jerome Listecky, Archbishop of Milwaukee. Right: Mar Munoz-Visoso Executive Director, Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church and Most Rev. Brendan Cahill.

Other Bishops in attendance: Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ, Bishop of Oakland, CA, Most Rev. Eduardo A. Nevares, Bishop of Phoenix, AZ, Most Rev. Adam J. Parker, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD, Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop Emeritus of Santa Fe, NM, Most Rev. Oscar Cantú, Bishop of San Jose,



Hillary Chester, Ph.D., Associate Director for Anti-Trafficking Programs, USCCB, Fr. John Corbett, Pastor of Stella Maris Church and AOS director in the Port of Newark, NJ, and Most Rev. Nelson J. Perez, Bishop of Cleveland, Chair, Committee, Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church. and Most Rev. Brendan Cahill..



‘SERVANT OF GOD’ U.S. Merchant Marine Capt. Leonard LaRue became Benedictine Brother Marinus of St. Paul’s Abbey in Newton after he and the crew of the S.S. Meredith Victory piloted 14,005 refugees to safety during the Korean War. The mission has been called a "Christmas Miracle."

By MICHAEL WOJCIK, News Editor

NEWTON U.S. Merchant Marine Capt. Leonard LaRue peered through his binoculars on Dec. 23, 1950 and surveyed a heartbreaking scene from the deck of his ship. Thousands of Koreans – men, women and children – their eyes filled with fear – were crammed onto the docks of the City of Hungnam, desperate to flee the invading Chinese communist forces that were closing in quickly during the early months of the Korean War.

Time was of the essence for Capt. LaRue, who after the war became Benedictine Brother Marinus of St. Paul’s Abbey here, and the brave crew of his U.S. Merchant Marine cargo freighter, the S.S. Meredith Victory, to save as many of those ragged and frightened refugees as possible. Artillery fire roared above them, as they wasted no time

in loading their new passengers, who took only what they could, into the ship's hold and on deck and then steamed out of port and imminent danger. Armed with courage and compassion, the captain and crew risked their lives to transport their precious cargo — 14,005 refugees — on a perilous 450-mile voyage through treacherous mine- and submarine-infested waters to the safety of Goeje Island on that Christmas Day. The mission — undertaken against all odds — has been called a “Christmas Miracle.”

“I think often of that voyage. I think of how such a small vessel was able to hold so many persons and surmount endless perils without harm to a soul. And as I think, the clear, unmistakable message comes to me that on that Christmastide, in the bleak and bitter waters off the shore of Korea, God's own hand was at the helm of my ship,” Brother Marinus, a Benedictine monk at St. Paul's Abbey from 1954 until his death in 2001, said in a reflection.

Recognizing that heroic voyage of Brother Marinus and his crew and his profound faith in God, Bishop Serratelli has opened his cause for sainthood in the Diocese of Paterson.

On March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, the Bishop signed and sealed a decree that opens “the informative process for Beatification and Canonization” to “study the heroic virtues and reputation of the holiness of the Servant of God, Brother Marinus” — the first step in his cause. With this historic decree, also signed by Sister of Christian Charity Joan Daniel Healy, diocesan chancellor, Catholic faithful can pray to God through the intercession of Brother Marinus, who has been bestowed with title “Servant of God.”

In 2017, the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America, a non-profit, private association of Christian faithful, based in Port Arthur, Texas, had petitioned Bishop Serratelli to open his cause for sainthood. Recently, the Bishop announced that he planned to open Brother Marinus' cause during a meeting of the N.J. Catholic Conference — another part of the first step.

Bishop Serratelli's signing of the decree, in part, also recognizes the providence of God, who sent a group of monks from South Korea to Newton in 2001 to save St. Paul's from closing — nearly 51 years after Brother Marinus and his crew of the S.S. Meredith Victory rescued those desperate refugees at Hungnam. By 2000, the number of monks at St. Paul's had declined, causing discussions about closing the abbey and transferring the rest of the monks to other abbeys. The next year, six monks from the Waegwan community in South Korea accepted St. Paul's invitation to live and serve in Newton, arriving two months after Brother LaRue died on Oct. 14, 2001 at 87. St. Paul's has

become a dynamic spiritual center for the Korean Catholic community.

“The heroic account of Capt. LaRue saving 14,000 Korean refugees under such perilous conditions is most impressive. That the ship, the S.S. Meredith Victory, has been called the ‘Ship of Miracles’ is truly appropriate,” Bishop Serratelli wrote in a letter dated May 9, 2017, to Father Sinclair Oubre, past president of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America and director of the Apostleship of the Sea for the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, in response to an earlier letter from the priest, suggesting the cause. Later that year, Father Oubre visited the Diocese to meet with the Bishop and the monks of St. Paul's to discuss a cause. “I totally agree with Brother Marinus' later reflection of that voyage: ‘God's own hand was at the helm of my ship.’ This statement is an example of Brother Marinus' humbleness. I do not think it is a coincidence that Capt. LaRue saved 14,000 Korean refugees and, decades later, Brother Marinus' abbey is saved from closing by the arrival of Korean monks,” the Bishop wrote.

CAUSE FOR SAINTHOOD

The decree states that Bishop Serratelli has appointed Father Pawel Tomczyk, diocesan director of Youth Ministry and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and chaplain at William Paterson University in Wayne, as the postulator, who will represent the cause of Brother Marinus. The Bishop also named Msgr. Edward Kurtyka, judicial vicar of the diocesan Tribunal and pastor of St. Paul Parish in Prospect Park, as the episcopal delegate, who will oversee all aspects of the diocesan inquiry.

The first part into the inquiry of Brother Marinus will involve proving his heroic virtue — “that he was a holy man” — which will include testimony from the three surviving shipmates of the S.S. Meredith Victory. If the Vatican accepts that evidence, he will be given the title “Venerable.” Then, bishops in Rome will review Brother Marinus' writings for theological errors. If they do not find any heresy, the Diocese will investigate claims of possible medical miracles that took place with the help of Brother Marinus' intercession. The verification of one miracle would qualify him to become beatified with the title “Blessed.” A second miracle would make him eligible to be canonized as a saint, said Dr. Mary Mazzarella, diocesan Respect Life coordinator, who has been assisting with the cause.

“I was surprised that we reached the first step so quickly,” said Father Oubre, who credited Bishop Serratelli for being receptive to opening Brother Marinus' cause so swiftly. In 2016, Father Oubre devised the idea of promoting Brother Marinus' cause, after reading a book about his heroic

voyage, “Ship of Miracles” by Bill Gilbert, and talking with one of his shipmates, retired U.S. Rear Adm. Robert Lunney. “This enables us to move to the next step: building a history of Brother Marinus to send to the Congregation for the Cause of Saints in Rome,” he said.

With the opening of the cause, Brother Marinus will follow the footsteps of another notable local Catholic – Blessed Miriam Theresa Demjanovich, a Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth from Convent Station, whose cause was opened by Bishop Thomas McLaughlin of Paterson in 1945. She was beatified in 2014.

THE HEROIC MISSION

The mission of the S.S. Meredith Victory in early December 1950 involved delivering supplies to anti-communist forces in Korea, which included a stop in Hungnam, now part of North Korea. In the midst of the heavy fighting on land, Brother Marinus, also a World War II veteran, volunteered the ship to participate in the rescue operation – the refugees’ last hope of escape. To accomplish this, the crew had to dump much of its cargo of weapons and supplies. On Dec. 23, they boarded the 14,000 refugees who were forced to stand shoulder to shoulder in the hold and on the deck of the unarmed ship. This all happened under the threat that stray artillery fire could hit the passengers or the 300 tons of fuel on board and cause mass fatalities, according to recollections by Adm. Lunney.

As the last vessel to leave port, during the evacuation mission, the S.S. Meredith Victory set sail on Dec. 23. The passengers on deck were subjected to freezing temperatures. The vessel steamed to the City of Pusan, which was overcrowded with refugees and U.N. forces. Once he received food and supplies for the refugees, Brother Marinus pointed the ship to Goeje Island, 38 miles southwest of Pusan, where the ship arrived on Christmas Day. The crew unloaded the passengers – which now included five babies born in transit – by amphibious landing craft because the island had no pier. The heroic voyage is considered the greatest rescue mission by a single ship, Adm. Lunney said.

Over the years, the heroism of Brother Marinus and his crew has merited them countless honors for their rescue, such as the Gallant Ship Award from the U.S. Congress and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. In 2017, Mon Jae, president of the Republic of Korea, visited the National Museum of the U.S. Marine Corps, Quantico, Va. for a wreath-laying ceremony at a monument for the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War. He told the audience that the crew of the S.S. Meredith Victory had rescued his parents and sister, two years before his birth. He added, “Had it not been for the valiant warriors of the Chosin Battle and the success of the Hungnam Evacuation, I

would not even exist today.”

LIFE OF PRAYER AT ST. PAUL’S ABBEY

In 1954, Brother Marinus entered the Benedictine order at St. Paul’s to pursue a quiet life of humble prayer – influenced by Benedictine priests he met in Brazil and Japan – and professed his first vows in 1956. Taking his religious name in honor of the Blessed Mother, he performed the menial tasks of washing dishes, working in the gift shop and ringing the abbey’s bell each morning. After having suffered for years from a lack of mobility and dementia, Brother Marinus died on Oct. 14, 2001.

“We are so happy – Brother Marinus was our brother!” said Prior Samuel Kim, superior of St. Paul’s community, who had seen the new Servant of God on a visit to the abbey in 2001. “He was a hero but also was a humble monk,” he said.

In his homily for Brother Marinus’ funeral, Father Joel Macul, abbot of St. Paul’s community at the time, said that the monk “left the sea with all its drama and heroic opportunities for the intimacy of a daily sustained relationship with the Lord and his Mother.”

“In his own way, Brother Marinus was sharing the cup of the Lord’s suffering until he comes again in glory. In the Eucharist, he believed that he was joining the inhumanity he had witnessed around the world to the saving humanity of Christ, who died that all might be free and all might have a lasting homeland,” said Father Joel, now prior of the Benedictines’ Christ the King Priory in Schuyler, Neb.

For years, Adm. Lunney visited Brother Marinus at St. Paul’s. The monk, he said, once gave a simple yet profound reflection on how he was able to muster up courage to lead that daring and dangerous rescue in 1950 – “The answer is in the Holy Bible ‘Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend.’ ”

[The Diocese directs any member of the faithful who has “useful knowledge” about Brother Marinus LaRue to bring that information to Msgr. Edward Kurtyka at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 777 Valley Rd., Clifton, N.J. 07013.]

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NOTES from the SEA PORTS

Port Visit to Charleston Port and Seafarers Society

By Gerard E. Baldwin

As we discussed during the port tour, the Charleston Port and Seafarers Society is very fortunate to receive tremendous support from the South Carolina Ports Authority.

It is by the SCPA that we have the ability to have our seafarer centers located on the dock within a couple hundred feet of the vessel berths. The SCPA, working hand in hand with CBP and the Coast Guard have permitted a walkway for the crew members to walk from their vessels to the seafarer centers at Wando, North Charleston, and Columbus Street Terminals without violating CBP or Coast Guard regulations. Of course the crew members cannot walk into the terminals any further than our centers.

The SCPA also has provided us with trailers to operate as the seafarer centers, thereby saving us considerable expense and allowing us to concentrate on helping the crews even more.

My involvement with the Seafarers started during my time with Mediterranean Shipping Company. I started



Jerry Baldwin, one of the ministers at the port, showed us around the port.



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ with Aleksandr Seaennik and Maciej Koztonski came with the PRIMAVERA, Container ship, and Mike Hantmann, one of the ministers at the seafarers center.

in the shipping business with a local steamship agent in 1972. When they closed in 1984, I joined Containership Agency, the agent for Mediterranean Shipping Company. MSC later purchased Containership. In 2010 I retired from MSC as the Office Manager and Regional VP. In 2013 Sergio Fedelini, of the MSC Charleston and on the board of ChaPPS, called me and asked if I would like to take a part time position with the Seafarers as the Administrator. After discussing this with my wife Martha, I accepted and served with them until the end of 2018. My background in the shipping business was extremely valuable since I already knew most of the companies and waterfront leaders in Charleston.

During those five years we were able to grow the amount of donations we received from local churches, businesses and individuals. This has allowed us to operate with the idea of not charging for our services including transportation to local stores. We staff two or three centers daily with our 50 or so volunteers, who work one or two shifts a week.

Our volunteers are primarily retired men and women who enjoy helping the crews. They come to us through churches and clubs and are members of all religions. We are truly an ecumenical group. The bringing together of all faiths for a common good plays a large part in the support we receive from the churches.

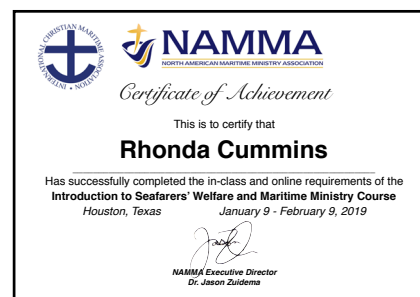
Port Lavaca-Point Comfort, Texas

From: Rhonda Cummins to Bishop

Bishop Cahill and Fr. Tommy,

I have good news to report to you! I made the first two ship visits yesterday and the ball is finally starting to roll for the new port ministry for Point Comfort.

I have been slowly working on details since attending



the Houston School the end of January. I made five ship visits at the Port of Houston with a Catholic Deacon and another visit last month with a Seaman's Center driver in Corpus Christi. Those six visits completed my Ship Welfare Visitor Course from the Merchant Navy Welfare Board.

NOTES from the SEA PORTS cont.....

This was one of the online components of the Houston School. I have also visited with the directors of the Corpus Center and the AOS in Lake Charles. Many questions have been answered by Doreen Badeaux and Fr. Sinclair in Port Arthur.

This week with the help of Matagorda Bay Pilot David Adrian, I made my move into Point Comfort working with the Port Director Charles Hausmann. He understands what we are trying to do and is helping a great deal. My current plan is to make visits to the ships, asking the seafarers what kind of services they would like to see in Point Comfort in the future. Once I have a better idea of the needs, I can focus on how to meet those needs and build a larger team, including at least three people, to serve as officers, on the non-profit paperwork to establish the needed 501c3. This will be a critical step but needs to wait until we have a clear vision and mission for our "center" which may be very small and different from the old tradition centers. Times are changing in the shipping industry and Point Comfort is a bit quirky. Flexibility and dedication will go far to serve all seafarers visiting this port.

I will also be establishing the relationships we need with our local Coast Guard and the various shipping agencies. No doubt there is much more to share with you but to be respectful of your time I will not make this a super long and rambling message today. I do want you both to know that I have been asked by AOS-USA (Doreen) and Jason Zuidemna with NAMMA (North American Maritime Ministries Association) to write an update on my efforts for their respective newsletters. I hope that is acceptable to you.

More later, Rhonda



After completing the 2019 Houston Maritime Ministry Training Program, Rhonda Cummins started making ship welfare visits at the Port of Point Comfort, Texas. She is shown with two Chinese officers aboard the Fan Zhou 6.

Christmas comes to the Port of Point Comfort

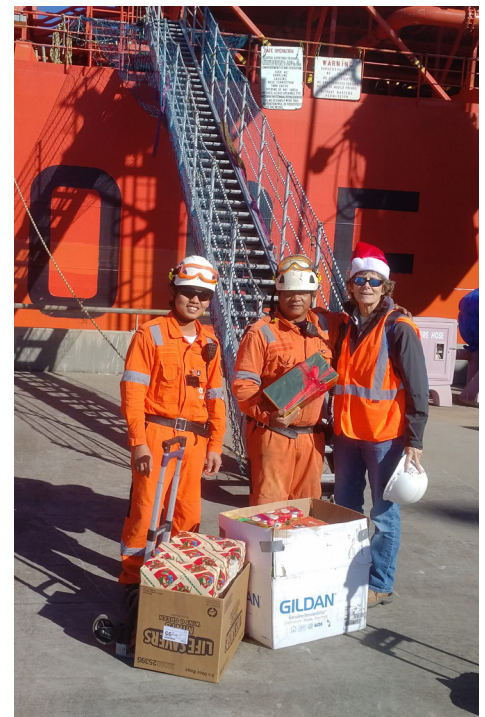
By Rhonda Cummins

For years the world has come to a small port at the end of the Matagorda Ship Channel, roughly halfway between Houston and Corpus Christi, in the center of the Texas coast. Filipinos, Russians, Greeks, Chinese, Turks, Ukrainians, and numerous other nationalities have crewed the arriving chemical tankers and general cargo ships. American crews have also come from around the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast on towboats and barges for crude oil and caustic. Relatively unnoticed by the local community, the ships have come and gone with little fanfare or support. Until now.

For the last several months, the Diocese of Victoria in Texas has been developing a new Apostleship of the Sea ministry in Point Comfort.

With assistance from the port employees, pilots, and agents, ship welfare visits started in April with the Fan Zhou 6. Boarding the vessels to check on the crew, trained visitors provide a friendly face, conversation, magazines, books, sim cards, rosaries, and a human connection. They laugh and joke with crew members, some who have not seen anyone but each other for weeks at sea. They welcome both domestic and foreign workers on their brief break from traveling around the country and the world.

A top activity of seafarer ministries around the world



Rhonda Cummins poses with two crew members as the first Christmas gifts were delivered in the Port of Point Comfort to the chemical tanker Bow Saga on December 2, 2016. The 26 member crew included 3 Norwegians and 23 Filipinos. The crew will be at sea for the holiday as they travel to Asia to unload their cargo.

is gifting crews that arrive in port during the month of December. Welcoming the crews at Christmas is even more important since the holidays can be a particularly difficult time for crews that spend months separated from their family and friends. The seafarers greatly appreciate the care packages filled with a variety of useful items that come in colorfully wrapped shoe boxes or drawstring ditty bags. While large ports like Houston may distribute around 10,000 gifts, with an average crew of 22 this calculates to about 450 ships. This is not a small feat but rather a tremendous effort that leaves the port chaplains and volunteers both exhausted and exhilarated.

With generous donations from local churches, families, and individuals, AOS in Point Comfort is on target to give over 600 gifts in this first-year effort. They are joining a long tradition that dates back to 1898, during the Spanish American War, when volunteers of the Seamen's Church Institute first gifted mariners who were miles away from home during the holidays. Hopefully from now on, volunteers across the Diocese of Victoria will collect, pack, and share gifts with the seafarers that find themselves up the Matagorda Ship Channel during the month of December.

Port of Mobile

From : Deacon John Archer

Attached is the press release related to the crew that was kidnapped off the coast of Africa. They had been in regular service between Mobile and Mexico for a few months. Several trade magazines picked this up as has our Diocesan Newspaper Catholic Week

Port chaplain shocked at kidnapping of seafarers

22nd August 2019

Press Release

A Stella Maris port chaplain has spoken of meeting the crew of the cargo ship that was attacked near the port of Douala with eight crew kidnapped.

According to media reports on August 15, west African pirates, attacked the MarMalaita in the dead of night near the port of Douala, Cameroon.

'It's shocking to hear that the crew of the MarMalaita are still being held captive after the ship had been attacked.' said Deacon John Archer, Stella Maris port chaplain in the port of Mobile, USA. 'The vessel was in Mobile for a few months running between Mexico and Mobile and I got to know the Chief Cook during their short visits to Mobile and I knew they were heading to the coast of Africa.'

'I'd been on board the ship a number of times when it had visited the port of Mobile, Alabama. On my last visit I

did what I usually do, such as asking the crew if they wanted to visit the town, go shopping, or offer to shop for those unable to go shore due to visa restrictions.'

The International Maritime Bureau recently noted that of the 75 seafarers around the world who were kidnapped and taken hostage for ransom in the first six months of 2019, 62 were kidnapped in the Gulf of Guinea.

Paul Rosenblum, Stella Maris North America regional coordinator said 'this kidnapping highlights the high price that can be paid by seafarers when things go wrong. This tragedy is a reminder of the dangers seafarers face each day to bring us the various goods and food we rely on'

The abducted crew are from Russia, the Philippines and Ukraine.

John Green, Stella Maris director of development said 'Today our thoughts and prayers are very much with those who are still being held captive and their families'.

Stella Maris continues to monitor the situation.



On September 19th, John Green, Stella Maris director of development, wrote to John Archer:

I yesterday was with Monica Döring, the Stella Maris Hamburg chaplain who'd be in contact with the German Seaman's Mission chaplain in Douala, they'd visited the vessel which has now sailed and is off the coast of Nigeria awaiting orders. There is no news to date of the kidnapped crew beyond this Russian news article <https://tass.com/world/1077326> which seems positive.

We continue to monitor this vessel in our weekly 'concerns' meeting reviewing those vessels with Stella Maris involvement that is ongoing.

Editor's Note: *No news beyond this, has been received about the fate of the kidnapped seafarers. Please keep them in your prayers.*

Port of Corpus Christi

From: Fr. Roy Kalayil,

AOS Chaplain, Diocese of Corpus Christi

The diocese of Corpus Christi in association with Seamen's Center Corpus Christi is planning to celebrate the 100 years Jubilee of AOS. It is a great opportunities for us to reach out the people and help the Seafarers.

Our Bishop Michael Mulvey supports and greatly interested the service we do for our Seafarers. Just for your information I am sending the program we are planning.

We are planning to dedicate every first Saturday of the Month for Seafarers during this year of 100 Jubilee.

We will have a grand closing ceremony in our Seamen's center in September 2020. Please keep us in your prayers.

Port of New Orleans

Blessing of the Fleets of Delacroix and Shell Island

From: Deacon Wayne Labell

These are pictures of the Blessing of the Fleet from Delacroix and Shell Beach with Archbishop Gregory Aymond.



Deacon Norbert P. Billiot Jr., Most Rev. Gregory Aymond, and Deacon Wayne Lobell at Blessing of Ports in Archdiocese of New Orleans.



Blessing of the Boats, Boat from the fleet, and celebrating the day with a party and dancing.

Port of Lake Charles

From : Deacon Patrick Lapoint

Stella Maris Seafarers Center, Director

Reminiscent of pageants and feast day celebrations of the past and around the world today, the FÊTE-DIEU (French for feast of God) on the Lake was celebrated by three parishes in the Diocese of Lake Charles with a Eucharist



procession on the lake, Saturday, November 23, 2019. The parishes celebrating milestones this year include; Our Lady of Prompt Succor, where Deacon Patrick Lapoint, director of the Apostleship of the Sea of the Sea in Lake Charles, is assigned, is celebrating 100 years, Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lake Charles is celebrating 100 years and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles is celebrating 150 years. The procession was a combined celebration of



all three parishes. The AOS flags were flown during the procession around the lake. There were 11 boats in the procession which started at the Civic Center at the lake front and finished

back at the sea wall. There was also a foot procession from the sea wall to the Cathedral where mass was celebrated by Father Rommel Tolentino, Pastor of the Cathedral and also Port Chaplain for the Stella Maris Seafarers Center in Lake Charles, con-celebrated by Fr. Edward Richard, M.S, pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor and Fr. Richard Uche Adiwku, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus and also past Port Chaplain of the Stella Maris Seafarers Center in Lake Charles. The FÊTE-DIEU was featured on KPLC News: <https://www.kplctv.com/2019/11/25/three-catholic-churches-celebrate-significant-anniversaries/>

Port of Baltimore New director, home for seafarers

By Lisa Harlow, Special to the Review

With the retirement from active ministry of Monsignor John L. FitzGerald, the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS), a Catholic ministry for seafarers, has its first lay director. Andy Middleton is hardly new to the ministry, having served as its right hand man for more than a decade.

Monsignor FitzGerald established the AOS in Baltimore in 2003. Middleton, a former Baltimore City police officer, began volunteering in 2006. He has held various positions in the ministry, and was most recently deputy director. As his retirement neared, Monsignor FitzGerald asked Archbishop William E. Lori to appoint Middleton as the new director.

“I have all the confidence in the world Andy will move this ministry forward,” said Monsignor FitzGerald, who continues as its chaplain. “He’s committed, and he knows more about the port than I do.”

In addition to a new director, the AOS Stella Maris International Seafarer Center has a new location in the former rectory of St. Rita Parish, across Dunmanway from its former storefront location in Dundalk.

According to Middleton, the new building has more useable space and includes offices, a library, computer stations, a conference room and a lounge, all of which help better meet seafarers’ needs.

“When I first started here, a lot of seafarers came to use the computers and phones,” Middleton said. “With the price of technology decreasing and with more phones having SIM cards that can work in the U.S., they are not coming in to use our equipment as often.

“Now the big draw is Wi-Fi, and we will have a lounge where they can sit and FaceTime with their family and friends back home. This will give them privacy, something we didn’t have in the old space.”

According to Middleton, seafarers have contracts ranging from four to 10 months, and don’t get vacation or bereavement leave. While many ships have satellite service, it is cost prohibitive for anything other than business.

“If there’s a birth or a death in the family, there’s no going home for a week,” he said. “Our job is to create that link, to help them communicate back home.”

AOS’s 12-15 volunteers, many of whom are Knights of Columbus, currently visit ships Monday through Saturday, dropping off rosaries, scapulars and prayer cards, along with secular magazines and fiction books. Most international seafarers come from the developing world; about 65 percent are Catholic.

(The ministry is in need of religious/ secular magazines; small paperback books; rosaries/ scapulars; prayer cards; travel sized toiletries, playing cards and note pads. For more information, email aosbalt@gmail.com.)

“If you would

like to travel the world and never leave home, this is the place to do it,” Middleton said. “I’ve met people from all over the world and I’m only 10 minutes from home.”

Ship visitors are also authorized to escort workers to the Seafarer Center and destinations such as Arundel Mills, a popular choice where they can purchase clothes, bikes and electronics cheaper than they could at home.

Middleton’s goals include starting a prayer group. Ship visitors will gather intentions from seafarers, which Middleton will share with the group.

“Think how comforting it would be to be away at sea and know that people in Baltimore are praying for me and my family,” he said.

Middleton often refers to a quote from Pope John Paul II, who called seafarers “the invisible strangers in our midst.”

One of his most memorable moments as a volunteer came when a vessel was detained by the Coast Guard for safety violations, and seafarers’ shore passes were expired. Middleton and AOS volunteers got wish lists and money from the crew, ran their errands and returned the next day with their purchases.

“One of the crew members,” Middleton said, “walked up to me almost crying and said, ‘We appreciate this so much. It helps us to know we are not forgotten.’ This is why we do this. This is why this ministry exists.”

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Andrew Middleton
Photo by Kevin J. Parks, courtesy of Catholic Review Media.



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*May the
Glorious Miracle
of the
Birth of Christ
fill Your Heart
with Joy and Love
this Christmas
and always*