



Catholic Maritime News



WINTER 2017

VOLUME 83

AOS NAC Meets in Conjunction with the North American Maritime Ministry Association Conference

"In August the North American Maritime Ministry Association Conference was held in conjunction with the Apostleship of the Sea North America and Caribbean meeting in Portsmouth, Virginia. NAMMA is an ecumenical association. Of the 99 attendees 20 were Roman Catholic. By combining our resources, it only makes good sense to combine our meetings to get the most out of both. We plan on doing the same next August for the 2017 in New Orleans.

The Conference met the criteria that the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People put forth to the Regional Coordinators to hold a working conference with the theme of Fisheries Ministries. I was able to work with NAMMA's Executive Director, Jason Zuidema, to have significant input on the NAMMA Conference agenda. This enabled the Catholic chaplains to attend both the NAMMA Conference and receive training in fisheries ministries asked for by the Pontifical Council. It was a great cooperative.

We had two special keynote speakers. The first was Ian Urbani of the NY Times who wrote the series, "Outlaw Ocean." He spoke to us on Fishers' Welfare Around the World. I received an email from Mr. Urbani upon my return to Galveston. He would like to hear any stories from our port areas that may be of interest to his series. The second keynote was given by Emmy Award winning filmmaker, Martin Doblmeier speaking about his new documentary on PBS,

"CHAPLAINS: On the Front Lines of Faith." This documentary show stories of chaplains in many walks of life and he is in negotiations with PBS to do a sequel to this film to include Maritime or Seaport Chaplains.

There were many panel discussions and workshops to include ministry to fishers.

Fr. Bruno Ciceri, cs, our AOS representative from Rome was there. He was very pleased with the content of the conference regarding fishers.

My personal gratitude to Fr. Bruno and Karen Parsons. We had an excellent get together in Portsmouth, VA. Together we extend our Christmas Blessing and Greetings to the Seafarers of the World.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ J. Kevin Boland

Bishop J. Kevin Boland
Bishop Promoter
Apostleship of the Sea



Bishop J. Kevin Boland





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Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees & Travelers

Bishop Promoter: Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland
Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Savannah, GA

AOS National Director Contact: Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ
3211 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017
Phone: (202) 541-3359 ■ Fax: (202) 541-5417
E-mail: jokereke@uscgb.org

www.usccb.org/aos

AOS National Office web address has been changed. **If you have linked to us previously using the old www.aos-usa.org address, please remember to change your link to www.usccb.org/aos**

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. If you want to know about Mass schedules in parishes around the country, there is even a link to MassTimes.org.

Contact Catholic Maritime News

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

For AOSUSA membership enquiries:

Doreen Badeaux

1500 Jefferson Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642

Tel. (409) 985-4545 ■ Fax (409) 985-5945

E-mail: aosusa@sbcglobal.net ■ www.aos-usa.org

Christmas Message

Dear Friends,

Our annual celebrations of Christmas reveals God's eternal love for humanity. The mystery of Love Himself becoming flesh. "When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption." (Galatians 4:4). We pray that Christ's light may be renewed in every family, parish and community which receives the love of God made incarnate in Jesus Christ.



Bishop Joseph J. Tyson

With the shepherds, let us bow down in worship. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. With the angels, let us proclaim the glory of God on high; let us announce the gifts of God's peace to all people of goodwill. Our nation and all peoples of the World await with eager longing for the peace which comes from Christ the prince of peace. As Pope Francis reminded us, Christmas is "A day of mercy, in which God our Father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world," "A day of light, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. A day of peace, which makes for encounter, dialogue and reconciliation. A day of joy: a "great joy" for the poor, the lowly and for all the people." (cf. Luke 2:10). (Christmas Message Friday, December 25, 2015 in St. Peter's Square). Let us rejoice for Christ is born for us, let us rejoice in the day of our salvation.

May our Christmas season be one of gratitude and joy lived in a family atmosphere, keeping the spirit of our families alive. Many people, among them seafarers, may have to celebrate Christmas away from their families. They do this as service for humanity; so even their absence from their families is a sign of their commitment to their duties.

I wish a special, joyful and holy Christmas Season to all the readers of Catholic Maritime News and to their families! A special Christmas blessing to all the seafarers throughout the world and their families. I pray that God's blessing be upon you and your families.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Chairman, Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers

A Time of Giving and Sharing

Dear Friends, Happy Christmas!

Christmas in many places is a family celebration. It is a time families come together to celebrate the gift of life and of one another. During Christmas, there are lots of fun and activities, songs and Christmas carols, parades in the cities. Many people spend time visiting friends and family members, sharing and giving gifts. It is a time of Joy, Peace, and Happiness. As we reflect on this wonderful time of grace, a celebration of God's greatest gift to the world; the gift of His Son Jesus Christ, we must keep in mind that there are people who might need our help in making the season a wonderful time. During this Christmas, many people will spend time with family and friends, but the fact remains, not everyone like seafarers and all people of the Sea will have the opportunity to celebrate and share the joy of the season with their families due to the kind of work they do.

The work of the seafarers, merchant mariners, fishermen, and all people of the Sea are dangerous and risky. As Pope Francis rightly stated, "Seafarers risk their lives on the open seas because of "the hazards of the forces of nature, piracy and armed robbery" and they risk psychological harm when they are denied regular shore leave or must be away from their families for months, even several years, at a time. (Sea Sunday celebration, July 10, 2016). As the special Year of Mercy concludes, how did we show the mercy of God to others especially all people of the Sea. How did we show love, express our care as well as recognize their needs. For the



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

seafarers, when away at sea, they are separated from their loved ones and do not have regular access to their families. They miss out on participating at Masses and other religious celebrations.

Today, in more than 50 ports around the United States chaplains and volunteers reach out with a message of love and hope to the seafarers. As we celebrate this sacred season, let us keep in mind the words of Pope Francis, "Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this day, which is Christ himself. Jesus is the radiant "day" which has dawned on the horizon of humanity. A day of mercy, in which God our Father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world. A day of light, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. A day of peace, which makes for encounter, dialogue and reconciliation. A day of joy: a "great joy" for the poor, the lowly and for all the people (cf. Lk 2:10)." (Christmas Message, December 25, 2015).

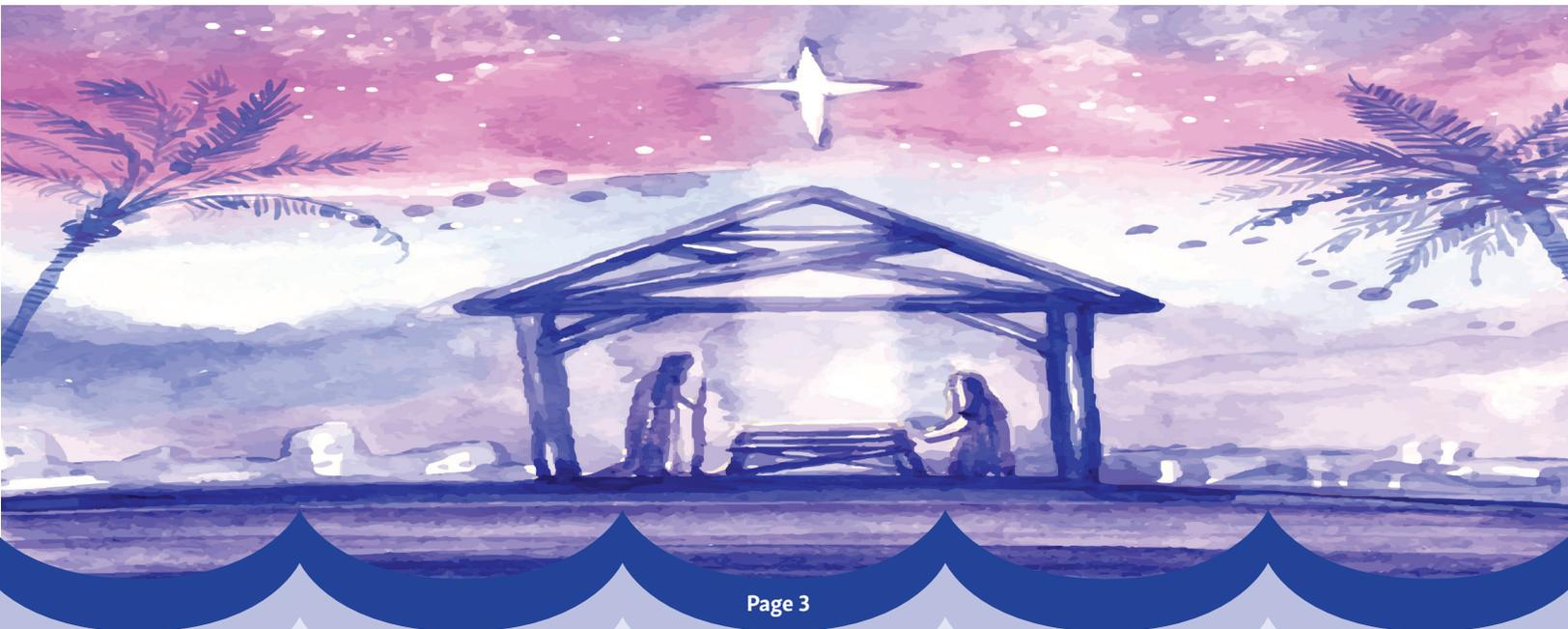
As the National Director, I want to thank the Chaplains and volunteers for their support and care. Seeing how you care for seafarers, gives me cause to celebrate as we carry out our Mission to be present, to support and assist the maritime ministry, on behalf of the United States Bishops' Conference. I thank all those who support the maritime ministry, those who provide for their spiritual and material wellbeing and those who generously provide gifts for seafarers and their families. On this joyous day, I wish you all a merry Christmas, I pray that the Lord may fill your hearts with the joy of sharing and giving. May your lives be filled with love, peace and joy of Christ.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ the Son of Mary, Star of the Sea, we ask her intercession for us and for all seafarers.

Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

National Director – Apostleship of the Sea

Assistant Director, Cultural Diversity in the Church





The Apostleship of the Sea – Port Chaplains Prepare for Christmas

The chaplains, Fr. Peter Lin and Deacon Pepe Chirinos, and volunteers of Port Everglades are preparing their Christmas gifts for the seafarers. We are happy to receive gifts that we can share with them in support of this noble cause. Your gift will bring joy and laughter and will make a difference in the lives of many seafarers who will be away from their loved ones this Christmas season.



Fr. Peter Lin, Deacon Pepe Chirinos and volunteers at Port Everglades, Florida

World Fisheries Day Spotlights Environment, Plight of Unseen Workers

By Rhina Guidos Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Each November, communities around the world celebrate an industry that has provided livelihoods and built strong bonds for coastal communities that depend on fishing. For them, Nov. 21, known as World Fisheries Day, helps to celebrate men and women who have dedicated their lives to the fishing

profession. Increasingly, however, the date also is being used to call attention to environmental concerns, as well as the plight of women and men whose abuse by some in the industry goes largely unseen.

This year, the Holy See and the United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization used the occasion to urge an end to the violation of human rights in the fishing industry.

Jose Graziano da Silva, director general of the FAO, along with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican’s secretary of state, joined forces to ask the fishing industry to combat illegal and unregulated fishing. Fishing

and aquaculture, said da Silva, speaking at an event in Rome in November to address the issue, supports the livelihoods of one of every 10 people on the planet. It helps developing countries create jobs, builds strong coastal communities, and provides food and nutrition to vulnerable populations. “Sadly the same industry that offers so many opportunities also victimizes the most vulnerable,” said da Silva, adding that the International Labor Organization estimates that every year “an average of 24,000 fishermen and women lose their lives” in the industry.

Media reports have called attention to abuses such as forced labor, child labor

and slavery, he said. The stress of migration in recent years also has contributed to forced labor and poor working conditions, da Silva added. As producers, da Silva said, the fishing industry has “to guarantee that the seafood reaching our plates has been produced, not only in an environmentally sustainable manner but also in a manner that supports the socioeconomic well-being of those who harvest and process it.”

Cardinal Parolin said that while the fisheries sector makes a global contribution as it allows many to have access to nutrition and improves human welfare and economic prosperity, “it is vital the economic vision not forget to guarantee a human level of well-being that is compatible with the environmental protection.” He said long-term prosperity must be assured by sustainable practices. Uncontrolled fishing can threaten marine organisms, he said. Cardinal Parolin also called attention to labor practices that have led to a form of modern-day slavery. He said by some estimates, 29 million people around the world continue to work under coercion, largely in an informal and illegal economy.

“About 90 percent of today’s forced labor is imposed by private agents primarily in labor-intensive industries such as fisheries,” Cardinal Parolin said. Some of these practices have led migrants to become the victims of trafficking or forced labor. “Workers aboard fishing vessels are isolated for long periods being deprived not only of contractual guarantees but also of most basic fundamental rights,” he said.

Many live in confined spaces, in circumstances that are a “tantamount to deten-

tion,” and have their travel or other legal documents confiscated and returned only after forced or underpaid labor, he said.

In many cases, crews are unable to disembark in a port, and even if a worker wanted to flee to report an abuse, “they are unable to escape, to prevent abuse, or to seek assistance,” Cardinal Parolin said.

“This situation is aggravated in the case of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,” he added. “The Holy See considers it crucial to develop capabilities to monitor, identify and rescue fishermen who are victims of smuggling, trafficking and great (abuse).”

In Washington, Sister Joanna Okereke, HHCJ of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Apostleship of the Sea ministry, said World Fisheries Day is an opportunity to reflect on fishing, fishermen and women, coastal communities as well as the status of the oceans and fish stocks. But mostly importantly, she said, it’s a day to focus on those whose work puts food on our tables yet whose lives, which sometimes include suffering, are largely out of sight.

It’s important for people of faith, she said, to learn about the lives of men and women who work in the fishing industry. She urged others to learn about them, to offer prayers for them and to actively do something to help.

The Apostleship of the Sea ministry, she said, celebrates their valuable work and encourages port chaplains to help “the fishers’ faith” as they journey in lonely conditions. Some work 7 days a week and are often far from their families. Chaplains are

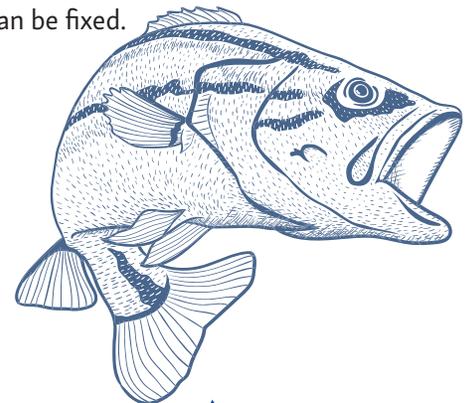
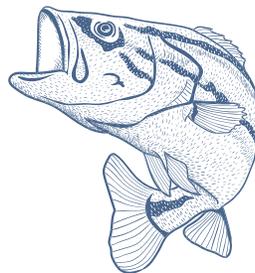
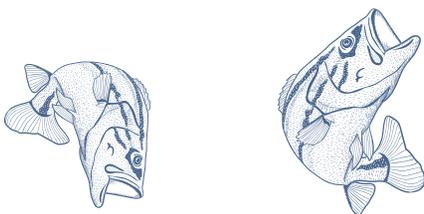
ready to listen to whatever they might be experiencing and provide help, said Sister Okereke, a member of the Handmaids of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus.

“We try to advocate for the spiritual care and the fair working conditions of those working in fisheries around the world,” she told Catholic News Service.

Dioceses in coastal communities, said Sister Okereke, sometimes offer opportunities to volunteer. Some organize Masses or events at ports, others help with letter-writing to advocate for better treatment, and some help put together Christmas boxes for fishermen and women to receive as they reach a port during the holidays.

The Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking invited John Connelly, president of the National Fisheries Institute, which represents a variety of fishing industry entities, for a discussion about the issue.

“We want to solve the problem,” said Connelly, speaking to the coalition at USCCB headquarters Nov. 22. No one wants to be associated with product that comes from abusing others, he said. The fishing industry in the United States is working with a lot of organizations, including some non-governmental organizations, to identify solutions, he said. If there’s a problem, Connelly encouraged others to make the problem known. The industry, he said, wants to know about the problems so they can be fixed.



The Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church/ Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers Celebrates World Fisheries Day

The annual World Fisheries day is celebrated on November 21 throughout the world. Each World Fisheries Day is an opportunity to reflect on the ever-increasing knowledge about fishing, fishers, coastal communities, and the status of the oceans and the fish stocks. In honor of World Fisheries Day, the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity had a display table in the Atrium on November 21, 2016, to highlight the issues facing the fishing sector and their valuable work.

- Fish are among the widely traded food commodities, totaling 135 billion USD in 2015.
- Fisheries and aquaculture employ more than 43 million individuals worldwide
- More than 25% of the world’s dietary protein is provided by fish.
- Human population consumes over 100 million metric tons of fish annually.
- Globally, annual fisheries exports are valued at 85 to 90 billion dollars.

Let us continue to advocate for the spiritual care and the fair working conditions of those working in fisheries around the World.



AOS, The Church for People of the Water

by Fr. John Jamnicky

Whenever we talk about the Church, we usually always think about a building or a people, and in many cases these buildings and people are located on some section of land that is a part of some country on the planet we call our world, a world comprised of 25% and 75% water. Since most of our planet is water, therefore most of the people are water people, and since less of our world is land therefore less of the people are land people. The church should and must be where the people are. When we think about the earliest Church, in most cases Jesus walked from town to town and village to village to proclaim the good news and to be among the people. Only later in His ministry was He not on land. Only on some occasions He was on the water and on the shores of various lakes and streams, and yet there are many people who derive their livelihood and work on water their whole life and are associated with water and streams nearby. They would be water people, and the Church historically has not been as involved with water people. It has been more involved with people of the land.

AOS came into being 100 years ago because members of the Church realized they had to give more attention to the water people who have been forgotten, and those of us who have become involved in the ministry of Apostleship of the Sea must continue to bring the good news, to bring the love of God, especially to people who live, work, and travel on the waters of our world, and so I recommend and encourage you to try to make as many people you come in contact with aware of the importance of our Church's ministry in the Apostleship of the Sea to the people of the water. The Church

needs to be available to all seafarers, all workers and captains and those who work on vessels of all sorts and types throughout the world. To those who are passengers, to those you own and travel on recreational vessels, those who work on and supply oil rigs, and fishermen, and all the world's water people. We need to support and encourage all those involved in this ministry, those who volunteer, and all interested parties that want to bring the presence of the Church to the people of the water.

The primary responsibility of the Apostleship of the Sea is to make the sacraments available to all people of the water, to all people on water and along the shore, not just the people of the land. That is why it is so essential that we have many, many people involved in this special ministry. It is essential that in every Apostleship of the Sea ministry there is a priest affiliated with it no matter where it is located in order to have the sacraments available. In that way we can make sure the people of the water are brought to where the sacraments can be celebrated with them or we must see that a priest is brought to where the people of the water are so they can celebrate and, therefore, receive the grace, the life, and nourishment of the seven sacraments of the Church.

AOS ministries must be engaged with all the needs of the people of the water. Only through that engagement and relationship can they truly offer the blessings and the nourishment that God is providing for them. The Church must be where God's people are. Those of us who call ourselves AOS must be about caring for those that are seeking the Lord, and people of the water are definitely seeking the Lord.

So that we are could provide quality AOS ministry here in the USA, we formed a Catholic Membership association called AOSUSA. The members of AOSUSA are

seafarers, captains and deckhands, shore workers, agents, Chaplains, deacons, men and women religious, and catholic laity all working together, sharing together, learning together and ministering together all over our country and because of this membership association that is all about supporting and following the guidelines and ministry of the Apostleship of the Sea we have been able to expand AOS ministries even to cruise ships for their passengers and crew throughout the U.S.A. and the world.

I encourage you to join this membership group, AOS-USA, so that you can be part of supporting and furthering AOS in our country to the people of the water. I have now been involved in the Apostleship of the Sea since the year 2000. I am now retired from all my assignments as a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, but in retirement I still remain active as the AOS chaplain to the Port of Chicago, Waukegan and the maritime ministries in Lake County, Illinois, and I regularly serve as a cruise ship priest through AOSUSA.

There are so many options and so many ways that we can help and assist each other in helping and assisting all of God's people who live, work and depend on the waters of the world that we live on. You know where there is water there is life, there is God, and where there is God, there is the Church and where there is the Church for the people of the water, there is the Apostleship of the Sea.

Christ was born on Christmas of water and the Spirit. May the life giving water of our world bring you Joy, Hope, and Salvation for this Christmas Season.

Rev. John A. Jamnicky, retired, past National Director of AOS, Board Member of AOS-USA, AOS Chaplain, Chicago

A Place of Refuge and Hospitality this Christmas at the Baltimore AOS

Since September 20, 2016 the ship Newlead Granadino, A Malta based asphalt tanker has been anchored in the water at the entrance to the Baltimore Harbor. It has a crew of 14 Filipino, 3 Romanian and 1 Greek seafarers restricted to the ship. The ship experienced a major engine failure near Baltimore. Coast Guard officials inspected the vessel and found engine problems and safety violations. The owners have financial problems and were behind in pay until the third week of November, 2016.

Barbara Shipley, of the International Trade Workers Union has spear headed negotiations with the owners, and the mortgage holders. Barbara has received support for the crew from the Apostleship of the Sea's Stella Maris Center, directed by Msgr. John FitzGerald and the Baltimore International Seafarers Center directed by the Rev. Mary Davisson, a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. Elizabeth Brown, the Port Agent from the Seafarers International Union in Baltimore has offered a space at the Union Hall to store and sort out the many donations made to the crew of the Newlead Granadino.

Supplies of food, toiletries, clothing, reading materials, and religious articles, prayer books and Bibles have been taken to the ship courtesy of Moran Tugboat Co. and the Urban Pirates Company ship "Fearless".

The State Deputy Steven Cohen of the Maryland Knights of Columbus donated a flat screen television. The State Deputy sent out a message to the Knights of Columbus Councils to come to the aid of the Newlead Granadino. The response was overwhelming. Msgr. FitzGerald said that several Baltimore area Filipino organizations

responded to appeals for aid from Fr. Pete Literal of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. In addition, to the above mentioned items, the Filipino groups have collected financial aid to assist where the crew's families were in urgent need.

Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who are Stella Maris Volunteers Andrew Middleton and Shawn Day have scheduled Communion services. Captain Eric Nielsen, President of the American Pilots Association is arranging for Msgr. FitzGerald to be taken out to the ship on a tugboat for Confessions and Mass.

Christmas Shoe boxes from parishes and schools of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, are waiting to be delivered by Santa Claus on his reindeer tugboat! The Apostleship of the Sea is planning the arrival of Santa Claus and an Elf with gifts of caramelized popcorn, boxes of chocolates, assortments of Christmas Cookies, and a pop-up Nativity scene for everybody and prayer books in the Tagalog language of the Philippine Islands.

Msgr. FitzGerald said that the above agencies, groups, and individuals standby to continue aiding the crew as long as they are in need while in Port of Baltimore.



Fishing Partnership Support Services

by John Hahey

A Massachusetts-based non-profit organization with links to the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) has been recognized for the quality and effectiveness of its services for commercial fishermen, as provided by community health workers deeply rooted in fishing communities.

Fishing Partnership Support Services (the Partnership) has been named the 2016 Community Health Worker Program of the Year by the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers. The award honors the Partnership for optimizing the work and impact of patient navigators, a category of employees within the field of community health work.

The Partnership employs patient navigators at four coastal sites in Massachusetts and one in Maine, where they help fishermen obtain affordable health coverage, enroll in free safety trainings, get tested for various health risks, and connect with providers of services that run the gamut from legal aid and financial counseling to substance abuse treatment and family counseling.

All Partnership navigators reside in the communities where they work; in most cases, they have resided there for years, if not for their entire lifetimes. The navigators also have personal histories that relate directly to the fishing industry. Their ranks include women who are spouses, partners, siblings and children of fishermen. One navigator is a fisher herself.

Angela Sanfilippo, of Gloucester, MA, who has served as a navigator since the

inception of the Partnership, interacts frequently with the AOS in her other major role as president of the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership, an organization of commercial fishermen's associations from all gear and geographic sectors of the state's fishing industry.

Angela has collaborated with the AOS in advocating for more federal support for fishermen and their families. And, together with Nina Groppo, another Partnership navigator from Gloucester, Angela has organized a large delegation of Catholic laypersons from Massachusetts that has traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the annual Maritime Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the past three years.

"The work of the Fishing Partnership and its navigators closely matches the work of the church," said Angela. "We go to where the fishermen are, and we meet their needs for care and support with direct one-on-one support. We have great love and respect for these workers who risk their lives to provide our society with the best source of protein there is."

In designating the Partnership as its Community Health Worker Program of the Year, the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers recognized the deep community roots of the organization's navigators.

"Fishing Partnership navigators are visible and trusted members of their communities," said association director Lissette Blondet. "They know their communities well and are well known in their communities. This makes them especially effective and productive."

Blondet said that her association regards the navigators as "living witnesses to the value and the dignity of their neighbor-

hoods, their towns, and the people they serve." She added, "We have many good community health workers and community health programs in Massachusetts but very few of them adhere to best practices, across the board, the way the Partnership and its navigators do."

The Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers is a statewide professional organization for community health workers from all disciplines. It is dedicated to strengthening the profession of community health work and raising awareness and appreciation of the vital roles community health workers play in society.

Established in 1997, Fishing Partnership Support Services was originally a provider of health coverage to fishermen. It continued in that role until 2011, when it transitioned to being a provider of a various services to fishermen, acting like a virtual human resources bureau within the industry.

The dilemma of a fisherman whose wife lost her job in 2013, and with it the family's health insurance, is typical of those solved by navigators.

"Due to the nature of my business, my wife being close to retirement, and having some family assets, we did not 'fit' into the application scenarios envisioned by the Massachusetts Health Connector," this fisherman recently recalled. "We ended up in a seemingly unending nightmare of red tape...Without your help, I would never have been able to find my way through this process - and I am a well-educated person. Words cannot express my gratitude and appreciation for your work and dedication in helping my family over the past 15 months."

There are many instances when a Partnership navigator, due to her knowledge,

[Continued on page 10](#)



FISHING PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PATIENT NAVIGATORS/COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

contacts and high local profile, is asked to help a person or a family from her community who is not a fisherman or a member of fisherman's household. They always respond affirmatively.

A case like this, cited in the Community Health Worker Program of the Year award documents, involved a navigator who donated six hours to helping a homeless family of six enroll in MassHealth, the state and federally supported health coverage program.

"Our community health workers, our navigators, see their role as more of a calling

than a job," said J.J. Bartlett, President of the Partnership. "They don't stop helping at 5 o'clock. If someone is badly in need of assistance, they'll see them on a Saturday or a Sunday. They always go the extra mile."

The Partnership has its administrative office in Burlington, MA, and its patient navigator offices in Gloucester, Plymouth, New Bedford and Chatham, MA, and in Kennebunk, Maine. In addition to Ms. Sanfilippo and Ms. Groppo, its Massachusetts navigators are: Lori Caron of Plymouth; Debra Kelsey, Verna Kendal and Monica DeSousa of New Bedford; Morgan Eldredge and Shannon Eldredge of Chatham.

The patient navigators/community health workers of Fishing Partnership Support Services are shown gathered outside the Partnership's Plymouth, MA, office with two of the organization's leaders. From left, are: Angela Sanfilippo, J.J. Bartlett, president; Lori Caron, Shannon Eldredge, Nina Groppo, who is holding the Community Health Worker Program of the Year trophy; Lauren King, the organization's director of community health; Morgan Eldredge and Monica DeSousa. Navigators Debra Kelsey and Verna Kendall were not present.

"The work of the Fishing Partnership and its navigators closely matches the work of the Church."

Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People

World Fisheries Day Message

World Fisheries Day since 1998 is celebrated each year on November 21 to highlight the importance of conserving the ocean and marine life that provides food for billions and employment opportunities for over 50 million people worldwide.

Pope Francis in his Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* mentions some of the threats which are affecting and destroying the natural marine resources: "Many of the world's coral reefs are already barren or in a state of constant decline. "Who turned the wonder world of the seas into under-water cemeteries bereft of colour and life?[1]" This phenomenon is due largely to pollution which reaches the sea as the result of deforestation, agricultural monocultures, industrial waste and destructive fishing methods, especially those using cyanide and dynamite (No. 41)".

Since these are a common patrimony of humanity, Pope Francis calls everyone to: "...cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents (No. 14)".

For this reason, we appreciate and wait with expectation for the implementation of The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA), adopted as a FAO Agreement in 2009. After several years of diplomatic efforts finally it went into effect, last June 5, and is now legally binding for the 29 countries and one regional organization which signed it[2]. Through the adoption and implementation of effective port State measures, the PSMA is the first ever-binding international treaty seeking to prevent, deter and eliminate the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, a major environmental problem which causes great economic damages and threaten food security in many countries[3].

However, our concern is not only for the marine resources. The fishing industry

has been widely recognized as one of the most unsafe for the frequency of occupational accidents and high death rates. On this World Fisheries Day we would like to call our attention also on the many fishers which find themselves in situation of exploitation and abuses.

Unfortunately, it is not well known the tragic reality that, within the fishing industry, there are hundreds of thousands of internal/transnational migrants who are smuggled/trafficked for forced labor on board of fishing vessels.

This is favored by a network of criminal organizations and individuals who prey on people coming from situation of poverty, eagerly seeking an employment that could help them to break away from the circle of misery. Instead, they end up in a situation of trafficking, debt bondage and slavery often without a way out. In fact, the fishing vessels stay out at sea for long periods (from a few months to several years), and the victims of these crimes find it difficult, if not impossible, to report their predicaments.

VIDEO



Pietro Parravano on Life as a Fisher



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Capt. Pietro Parravano, professional fisher and fisher representative on the AOS-USA board, presents on the challenges and importance of life as a fisher at the 2016 NAMMA Annual Conference Portsmouth, Va.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AJQmngKZyw&t=1042s>

Challenges and Importance of Life as a Fisher

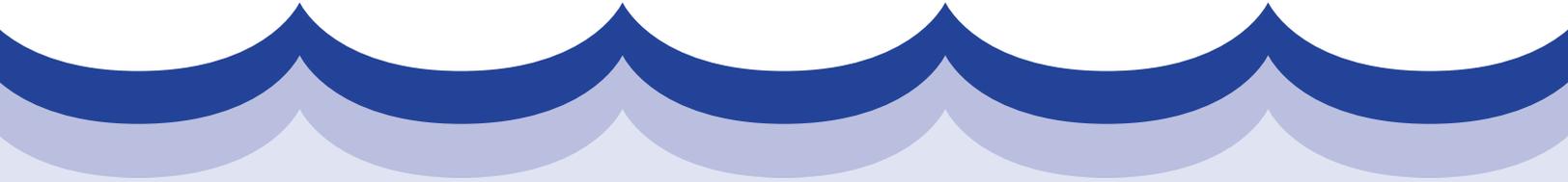
Capt. Pietro Parravano, professional fisher and fisher representative on the AOS-USA board, presents on the challenges and importance of life as a fisher at the 2016 NAMMA Annual Conference Portsmouth, VA.



Apostleship of the Sea, National Office
 Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church
 Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers
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Up Coming Events 2017

FEBRUARY 12 - 24, 2017

Houston Maritime Ministry Training Program @ Houston International Seafarers' Center

APRIL 18-20, 2017

AOS-USA Annual Conference, Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies, 692 Maritime Blvd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

MAY 19-21, 2017

Maritime Day Celebration

AUGUST 8-11 2017

North American Maritime Ministry Association Conference, Annual Conference New Orleans LA

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea,

NOVEMBER 21, 2017

World Fisheries Day

Do not miss the golden opportunity for Maritime Ministry Training, February 12 - 24, 2017 in Houston, TX. Scholarship is

available for the Roman Catholic chaplains and pastoral team who minister in the U.S.A. through the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS). To apply for scholarship, contact Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ; Assistant Director, Cultural Diversity in the Church/Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers; United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at 202.541.3359 or Jokereke@uscbb.org.

The scholarship application deadline is November 15, 2016. The scholarship is limited and will be granted on a "first-come, first-serve" basis. For additional information, please contact the School Coordinator (Deacon Allan Frederiksen) at deaconallan@comcast.net.

Deacon Allan Frederiksen, Coordinator, Houston Maritime Ministry Training Program, Houston International Seafarers' Center. P.O. Box 9506. Houston, TX 77261-9506. Email: deaconallan@comcast.net; Cell Phone: 832.398.0679; Office Telephone: 713-672-0511, Fax: 713-672-2444. Download application @ www.houstonseafarers.com

A Seafarers' Prayer

O God, I ask you to take me into your care and protection along with all those who sail ships. Make me alert and wise in my duties.

Make me faithful in the time of routine, and prompt to decide and courageous to act in any time of crisis.

Protect me in the dangers and perils of the sea; and even in the storm, grant that there may be peace and calm within my heart.

When I am far from home and far from loved ones and far from the country that I know, help me to be quite sure that, wherever I am, I can never drift beyond your love and care.

Take care of my loved ones in the days and weeks and months when I am separated from them, sometimes with half the world between them and me.

Keep me true to them and keep them true to me, and every time that we have to part, bring us together in safety and in loyalty again.

This I ask for your love's sake.

Amen.

