



Catholic Maritime News

SPRING 2019

VOLUME 90

We Never Walk Alone

This January, a group of 63 people from our diocese of Victoria, Texas joined a pilgrimage to Washington, DC to participate in the annual March for Life. In Washington, we marched with tens of thousands of people from around the nation. This annual event is a non-violent presence to promote the value of every person and challenge our leaders to stand up for a culture of life and respect.

Now we are in the Easter season and my mind goes back to those days. Sometimes we may feel overwhelmed by the challenges we face. I definitely remember feeling during those days in January that sometimes the problems in the world, and even in my own Church, seem so overwhelming. Yet, in the midst of the darkness, the light of Jesus enters in and offers true hope and healing.

Look at the story of the Easter tomb for insight. Mary and the women were overwhelmed with grief – their whole world had fallen apart. The one they loved and followed was no longer with them, and they must not have been able to see the next day (or maybe even the next hour). What to do but to go to the grave and mourn? Can you imagine the difference in their walking between the heavy weight of grief and the lightness of joy on the return home? The difference could be attributed to the personal, real presence of Jesus – not only does he appear risen from the dead, he also promises to walk the road with us.

This seems to me the source of strength and hope each day. Each of us can probably identify with the following: I have my own weaknesses and fears, and sometimes I walk the road with my face down and don't even know what the next hour will bring. Jesus Christ comes to each of us in these times and promises that we never walk alone!

My dear sisters and brothers of the Apostleship of the Sea, in this Easter season let us lift one another up by looking at the presence of Jesus all around us. First, He has given each of us the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are the true presence of hope to one another. Think about how much it meant

when someone prayed for you in a difficult time – or even the humility when someone thanks you for the card or prayer you sent them in a time of need.

Jesus Christ walks the road and makes the path a little lighter each day. Second, He is present in His community, the Church. When we gather and pray in the Eucharist, the power of the Risen Lord is completely present. We carry his presence into the streets and waterways of our life. This reminded me again about the

March for Life in January. We celebrated the Eucharist in a hotel meeting room with our group from Texas, we marched with tens of thousands in Washington and celebrated a large Mass in the Basilica the night before the March. We encountered people at restaurants, on the Metro and at the hotel – all of these were events of carrying the presence of the Risen Lord to the streets of our life.

Well, you've now filled me with hope and joy. May God bless you and your families in this Easter season and may you receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the Pentecost!



Bishop Brendan J. Cahill

+ Brendan Cahill





Catholic Maritime News

is published by the

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) National Office

3 times a year – spring, summer and winter.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church
Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, & Travelers

Bishop Promoter: Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill
Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, TX

AOS National Director: Sr. Dr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ
3211 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017

Phone: (202) 541-3359 ■ Fax: (202) 541-5417
E-mail: jokereke@uscceb.org

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.

Contact Catholic Maritime News

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

DISCLAIMER Statements and opinions expressed in articles and other materials herein are the views of individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Apostleship of the Sea National Office.

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

Collaboration of AOS Chaplains and Leaders



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

The Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers (PCMRT) network of AOS port offices and Catholic chaplains are making remarkable progress in accompanying the seafarers by providing spiritual and practical assistance. This shows the Church's concern to seafarers who are often away from home for many months because of the nature of their work and lifestyle. Indeed, life at sea is challenging with long periods of separation from family, friends and community. As AOS Chaplains and their teams support and fulfil the Mission of Christ there is need for collaboration.

Even St. Paul understood the importance of mutual collaboration among Christians in the mission of the Church to which all of us are committed. Hence, he wrote to the Christian faithful in Corinth in these words: *"I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose."* Corinthians 1:10. He also urged the Christian Community in Rome saying: *"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 15:6-7.

Collaboration is the key to success in AOS ministry and will help us deliver powerful results. It often simplifies a process and I urge all to cooperate with each other to build unity in order to achieve our goal. Every AOS Chaplain will benefit from another's communication, strength, skills and creativity. Our collaborative efforts will enable us to achieve our vision and goal. We can utilize the strengths and skills of everyone involved. More can be accomplished through our combined effort. Everyone benefits because of sharing ideas and working together.

The initiatives and activities in the various ports require our collaborative efforts. Be advocates, witnesses, as well as work in solidarity with other chaplains. I urge you to support one another, to strengthen and develop best practices. Now is an opportune time for us to engage in exchange of ideas, ways and means to improve ministry. The skills and knowledge we pick up from each other can be utilized to make improvements in the ports and in AOS ministry which is a vital part of the Church's work of evangelization.

Bishop Howze dies at 95; was founding bishop of Diocese of Biloxi, Miss.

By Terrance P. Dickson Catholic News Service

BILOXI, MS (CNS) ~ Bishop Joseph Lawson Howze, the founding bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi and the first black bishop in the 20th century to head a U.S. diocese, died Jan. 9. He was 95.

A funeral Mass is to be celebrated Jan. 16 at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral in Biloxi with burial to follow in the new Bishops' Prayer Garden behind the cathedral.

"While we are saddened by the death of Bishop Joseph Lawson Howze, we rejoice in his life," said Bishop Louis F. Kihneman III of Biloxi. "His was a life well lived in faithful service to almighty God and to the people of Mississippi, both as an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson and later as first bishop of Biloxi from 1977 to 2001."

Noting that establishing a new diocese was difficult work, Bishop Kihneman said Bishop Howze was "very proud of what he, with the help of devoted clergy, religious and laity, accomplished during his tenure" and was "forever grateful to the people of the diocese for their unfailing generosity of time, talent and treasure."

Despite deteriorating health in recent years, Bishop Howze remained interested in events in the diocese, Bishop Kihneman said.

"He loved the Diocese of Biloxi and prayed unceasingly for its continued success. He had a genuine concern for the salvation of souls," he added.

Joseph Lawson Howze was born in Daphne, Alabama, Aug. 30, 1923, to Albert Otis Howze Sr. and Helen

(Lawson) Howze. He began his school years at Most Pure Heart of Mary School in Mobile, Alabama, but his first year of school was interrupted in 1928 by the death of his mother, just six days after she bore her fourth child. The eldest, then age 5, young Lawson (Joseph is his baptismal name) was shuttled back and forth between the homes of his grandparents, aunts and father, who later remarried and fathered three more children.

After graduating as valedictorian of his 1944 high school class, a young Lawson Howze graduated with honors and as president of the senior class from Alabama State College. He had intended to study medicine, but instead earned a bachelor's degree in science and education and began teaching biology and chemistry at Central High School in Mobile.

Bishop Howze first had been a Baptist, then a Methodist, serving as a choir director and church organist and pianist. But while teaching at Central High School he was drawn to the Catholic faith through the example of Marion Carroll Jr., one of seven Catholic students in his biology class. Soon he began instruction in the Catholic faith under the direction of Josephite Father Benjamin Horton.

At age 25 on Dec. 4, 1948, he was baptized a Catholic at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church in Mobile. An interest in the priesthood soon developed. After inquiring about becoming a priest with Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh, North Carolina, he later was adopted as a student for the diocese and began studies at the Diocesan Preparatory Seminary in Buffalo, New York.

The young Howze became the first black priest ordained in North Carolina, when he was welcomed to the priesthood in 1959 in the Diocese of Raleigh. He subsequently celebrated his first Mass at the parish in Mobile where he was baptized. He served as pastor of several parishes in North Carolina during his 13 years of ministry there.

In November 1972, St. Paul VI appointed Father Howze as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson, Mississippi. His episcopal ordination followed on Jan. 28, 1973, in Jackson.

Within a year, Bishop Howze accepted the presidency of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus.



Bishop Lawson Howze, the First Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi and former National Episcopal Liaison of the Apostleship of the Sea. Above: Bishop Howze at St. Joseph Church.



Bishop Lawson Howze

On March 8, 1977, Bishop Howze was appointed as the first bishop of the newly established Diocese of Biloxi.

During his leadership of the Biloxi Diocese, Bishop Howze served on several U.S. bishops' committees focusing on justice, peace, interreligious and ecumenical affairs, and black Catholic ministry.

Bishop Howze held several honorary degrees and was a member of the Knights of Peter Claver and the Knights of Columbus.

He retired May 15, 2001, after serving the Biloxi Diocese for 24 years.

Dickson is editor of Gulf Pine Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Biloxi.

© Catholic News Service, 2019. Reprinted with permission.

Photos: Courtesy of the Diocese of Biloxi

Network of port ministries serves the world's seafarers

By Sam Bojarski

Ships carry about 90 percent of the world's goods, according to the International Maritime Organization. But the seafarers who work on the cargo vessels and tankers that crisscross the globe are largely invisible to most people.

Today's mariners come from many regions, including Southeast Asia, Central America and Eastern Europe. As a result, their personal backgrounds are as diverse as the goods they carry.

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS), a Catholic port ministry, meets the personal and spiritual needs of seafarers in nearly 400 ports around the world. With a dedicated network of chaplains and volunteers, the organization fulfills its Christian duty by ministering to all seafarers, regardless of creed.

"As Christians, we're called to be Christ in the world to whomever we come to meet, and so that's a very important part of what we do — just carrying out Christ's mission to work with the poor, the oppressed, anybody that's in need of our help," said Paul Rosenblum, AOS Regional Coordinator for North America and the Caribbean.

Value of a port ministry

The logistical and regulatory frameworks that govern the maritime shipping business create many challenges for seafarers. Rosenblum, based at the Port of Charleston, South Carolina, noted some of the circumstances seafarers face while in port. Due to security measures, they often can't leave the ship unless they are escorted

by an authorized port agent or minister. They have few transportation options, aside from taxis, if they need to shop for personal care products or see a doctor.

Although he hasn't personally witnessed many problems with taxi services, Rosenblum recalls hearing stories about drivers in other ports charging exorbitant rates.

Mariners have limited freedom when they reach port.

In Charleston, AOS has access to three vehicles, a sprinter van and two minivans, which volunteers use to transport seafarers to destinations outside the port, Rosenblum said. The ministry offers this service, and all others, at no cost aside from an optional donation.

AOS also has dockside trailers located at three different terminals in the Port of Charleston, which

seafarers can walk to without an escort. These trailers, Rosenblum explained, have computers which seafarers can use to communicate with loved ones. Most of them appreciate the opportunity to leave the ship.

"They talk sometimes about their ships being floating prisons, because without somebody to help them get out, they are basically stuck," Rosenblum said.

Support in hard times

Seafarers that pass through Charleston usually say they're treated fairly, according to Rosenblum. But elsewhere in its global network, AOS has dealt with more desperate situations.

The cargo ship Trans Gulf has been detained in the Port of Mobile, Alabama, since March 2016, according to an AOS press release. For more than two years, a rotating group of Mexican crew members have maintained the ship.

"It's almost cliché, but they are almost under a house



Deacon Paul Rosenblum Distributes the Holy Eucharist to a seafarer.

arrest. They have food, they have a little bit of freedom, but they can't go home," said Deacon John Archer, an AOS port chaplain based in Mobile.

Archer explained that he has kept in touch with crew members on the ship since the end of last year. The first crew he met, a group of men from Veracruz, Mexico, never received fair compensation for their work. Some grew depressed because they couldn't provide for their wives and children back home, he recalled.

For the past few months, the ship's crew has consisted of just one man, a foreign seafarer who must sit by himself all day, on a "bucket of bolts in a back harbor in Mobile, Alabama," as Archer put it.

The Trans Gulf effectively has no value. The owner doesn't have the money to move it out of port.

Even the International Transport Workers' Federation, Archer said, wouldn't be able to recover its own legal fees if it took possession of the ship.

Despite the lack of financial support for the Trans Gulf, Archer stays in close contact with its crew, making sure they have the supplies they need. If they get permission to leave the ship, he takes them shopping. Last Christmas, he even brought a small group of them to Mass in downtown Mobile.

"They're very appreciative. It's almost impossible to say no to them because they're really, really appreciative," he said.

Growing the AOS network

AOS doesn't deal with situations like the one in Mobile very often, Rosenblum explained. Still, most seafarers have demanding jobs, even under normal conditions.

On Sept. 19, Captain Pero Ljilja of Croatia got a brief chance to relax at one of the three dockside trailers that AOS Charleston shares with the Charleston Port and Seafarers Society, an ecumenical group.

"The hardest part, in port, is to get some shore leave, which is very seldom and difficult to arrange, so that's why we appreciate very much this service here," Ljilja said as he reclined in the well-furnished trailer during his seven-hour port stay.

Ljilja indicated that AOS Charleston is unique in the level of service it provides. Although many major ports have a ministry, some are more active than others.

Sister Joanna Okereke, the National Director for AOS based in Washington, D.C., said her organization has grown dramatically since the 1940s, when it started in the United States. Still, she admits more work has to be done.

"Some of our ports, they don't have chaplains there, so my goal is to make sure that in the next two years, all of the ports have a chaplain and all of the ports have volunteers," Sister Okereke said.

As Regional Coordinator, Rosenblum encourages AOS representatives in other port cities to grow their ministries and draw volunteers from surrounding parishes. He has experienced the impact of local support firsthand, as he first heard about AOS through his home parish.

Even in cities like Charleston, where nearly 40 volunteers help out at the port, Rosenblum said Apostleship of the Sea always needs more people to serve seafarers.

"It's a way of saying thank you to them and recognizing their importance," he said. "Everyone wants to be recognized that they're doing something important and worthwhile, and one of the ways that we can do that is to minister to them."

This article was originally published in *OSVNewsweekly* and reprinted with permission of the author, Sam Bojarski, who writes from Pennsylvania.

PA community helps Coast Guard affected by government shutdown

On Jan. 24, the Port Arthur International Seafarers' Center, the Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce, and Apostleship of the Sea announced that they have raised almost \$26,000 for the local Coast Guard men and women due to the government shutdown.

"Part of what we do here at the Seafarers' Center is to make sure we are concerned about the spiritual, physical and psychological welfare of our people of the sea," said Father Sinclair Oubre, Diocesan Director of the Apostleship of the Sea.

Funds were sent to the Coast Guard Foundation for gift cards for each member of the Coast Guard units from Sabine Pass to Port Arthur.

"That is a small way for our community to say thank you," said Doreen Badeaux, Secretary General of Apostleship of the Sea.



Fr. Sinclair Oubre, JCL - Diocesan Director - AOS Diocese of Beaumont, Executive Director Port Arthur International Seafarers' Center

On Jan. 16, the organizations announced the start of the fundraiser with a goal of \$22,000. Within 48 hours, the fund was at \$21,400.

The organizations also announced plans of the next phase of their efforts to help local members of the Coast Guard. Further donations will be sent to the local offices, including the Golden Triangle's chapter of the Chief Petty Officers Association.

"The Chamber tackled this the way we do everything else, through partnership, because we have limited resources ourselves," Bill McCoy, president of Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce, said.

For information on how to make donations, please contact Badeaux at 409-985-4545 or through email at aosusa@sbcglobal.net.

© East Texas Catholic, 2019. Reprinted with permission.



*Doreen M. Badeaux - AOS-USA, AOS
Diocese of Beaumont, Port Arthur
International Seafarers' Center*

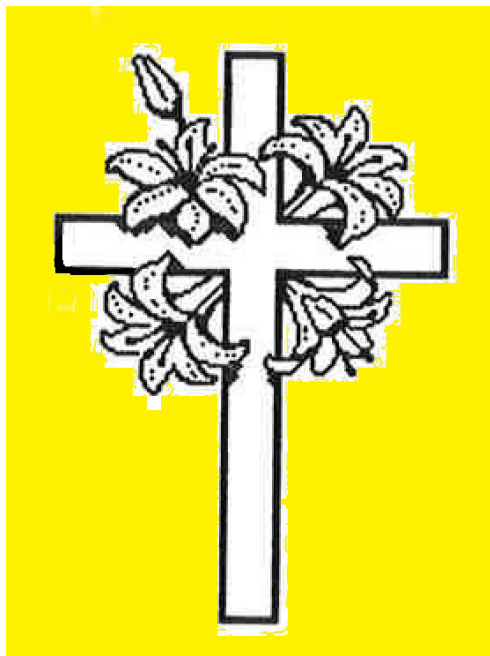
Growing in Service at the Houston School 2019

by Kevin Walker

On the week of January 27, chaplains, ship visitors, center administrators, and others involved in maritime ministry from all over the world convened on the Houston International Seafarers' Center (HISC) to take a NAMMA-led course on serving seafarers. Students of the Houston School this year were given many reasons to thank God: learning more about how to serve seafarers, worship that emphasized the unique spiritual aspects of maritime ministry, friendships made with colleagues from many different cultures and ministries, and the exceptional hospitality shown by the Houston maritime community.

The course was organized by NAMMA this year, as part of a larger professional development programs supported by The TK Foundation and in partnership with worldwide members in the International Christian Maritime Association. NAMMA is deeply indebted to the HISC itself for the success of this year's course, which for many years previous had not only hosted the event but designed and taught the curriculum. "The school started 44 years ago," says chaplain and first-time local assistant Tom Edwards. "We were the first ecumenical center in the United States, and we knew that we wanted to share that model. Historically, we have been blessed with many denominationally-supported chaplains and were the largest port ministry in North America. It wasn't that we thought, 'we know how to do it better than everyone,' but we saw that there were a lot of people trying to do this ministry who needed somewhere to get some training. We knew that we could do it, so we started doing it and have kept doing it."

The week's events were officially kicked off with a short prayer service in the HISC's chapel, as was every day thereafter. Students read scripture passages especially pertinent to seafarers, took turns praying for maritime workers and different aspects of their lives, and heard short homilies about the work of ministry to them. Worship was intentionally ecumenical, welcoming and building up all the diverse kinds of Christian present. Hymns were sung for the most part a capella, and were a mix of familiar hymns like "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" and short prayers from the French Taizé community that were sung repeatedly and meditated upon. Many remarked on the beauty of the sound when the group sang together, due in part to the chapel's acoustics and in part to the fullness with which the students joined their voices in worship.



He is risen.

Alleluia!



Students at the Houston School - Photo courtesy of NAMMA

Learning Together

Many different regions were represented among the students, both from within NAMMA and without. On the North American side, students came from British Columbia, Ontario, Nova Scotia, California, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida. On the South American side, students came from Panama, Brazil, and Argentina. A few students were from relatively nearby in Texas, while one attendee had travelled from relatively far away in the United Arab Emirates. There was also a great diversity of denominational affiliations – there were large contingents from the Catholic Apostleship of the Sea and the Anglican or Episcopalian Mission to Seafarers, and Reformed, Presbyterian, Baptist, and non-denominational churches were also represented.

Greater even than the attendee's diversity with respect to denomination and place was the attendee's diversity with respect to experience. Everyone brought a different perspective on maritime ministry – there were several priests, a captain, a former coast guard officer, a former missionary, a seminarian, a bishop, and people experienced in business, charity, journalism, and politics. Some were board members in their local seafarers' centers, some were one-person operations, others were experienced chaplains, and still others were just starting to work in maritime ministries (or working at starting new ones).

These different expertises complemented each other nicely in group conversations. In a discussion of difficult pastoral situations, for example, the case of a stowaway's accidental death aboard a ship was brought up. In addition to feeling for the bereaved and the crew, many of the

students worried about the young captain and whether he would have been fired for such an unfortunate circumstance he could not have foreseen. The captain among the students was able to reassure them that things would have likely turned out alright for him. On several occasions, a business perspective helped students consider how they could best implement the lessons they were learning practically, and of course experienced clergy gave invaluable advice. Less experienced students enjoyed the opportunity to learn from their colleagues, but also contributed as sources of inspiration and reminders of the challenges that face ministries and chaplains as they begin their work.

The course this year was especially honoured to be the site of the first regional meeting of the Anglican Mission to Seafarers in Latin America. "It has been wonderful for all our chaplains to finally meet each other," said Fr. Ian Hutchinson Cervantes, the Regional Director. "Although we have had a presence in Latin America for well over a century, the various chaplaincies have never had a direct relationship between each other. In the past, each mission's relationship has been directly with London. It now makes more sense for missions in Latin America to be in relationship, support each other, and pray for one another, particularly as all of our chaplains are Latin Americans themselves."

As many of the Latin American missions are quite new, Fr. Ian found it fitting to organize the regional meeting to coincide with a chaplaincy training. "Learning history has been invaluable for locating the Mission to Seafarers' own story and finding a sense of our region's unique identity. But I am also hoping for cross-pollination here. I would

like to think that the North American students are being challenged by facing a reality that is not North American. I suspect that this will help them too think and grow, and enrich their interaction with other cultures in ports.”

Equipment for Ministry

Course curriculum covered all of the major issues involved in ship visiting and running seafarers’ centers. Although classes were held over a week in Houston, students came into the classroom having already learned new things about ministry to seafarers through NAMMA’s online learning materials over the previous month. For the students’ first unit, they took the ship welfare visitor course to learn the basics of navigating ports, entering ships, and having valuable conversations with seafarers. In the following weeks, they got to know Jason, [Dr. Jason Zuidema, Executive Director, North American Maritime Ministry Association], over the internet through weekly video presentations on sea blindness, the shipping industry, and the preparation that make ministries successful. Students also got to learn a bit from each other from answers to content questions posed online.

During the week in Houston, students were treated to many engaging and informative guest speakers. Many of the speakers were pastoral experts and veterans of maritime ministry, and students learned from them how to turn difficult ministry situations into growth opportunities, how to minister to seafarers over long distances, how to listen actively, and how best to run a ministry organizationally. Some other lessons were featured by experts in pertinent fields outside maritime ministry, including coast guard experts on smuggling, an excursion to the Seafarers’ International Union Hall to visit with SIU Gulf Coast VP Dean Corgey and ITF inspector Shwe Tun Aung, and a workshop on the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 from Douglas Stevenson of the Center for Seafarers’ Rights. Class time was not exclusively serious, either – learning was enlivened by role-playing chaplaincy situations, competition between small groups on questions of law, and not infrequent banter about rival sports teams.

The online component of the course made for a good background resource for ship visitors, as April, a seminarian and HISC intern, noted. “Learning about the different ships, flags, and other sides of the shipping industry was very valuable in solidifying my understanding. The necessity of preparation before ship visits was another important lesson. As ministry leaders our attention is really on the spiritual side and being there for the seafarers, but there is a lot of preparation that goes into that. One of my biggest fears getting on a ship is having a conversation with

someone without knowing some important background information about that ship. What if I say something that is offensive? The lesson on preparation taught me how to address that worry.”

April also noted the value of the in-class lessons and the excursions to key institutions in Houston’s port community. The online and in-person lessons balanced and enhanced each other. “In class we learned about the different laws and regulations, whose jurisdiction we are under and why. That way I know, if there is a problem, whom to call first.”

The class on maritime labor law and the excursion to the Seafarers’ International Union Hall were particularly relevant to April, because a local ITF inspector had recently helped her secure pay for an unpaid crew. She enjoyed the opportunity to meet the people who had helped her help seafarers in person. “It is really important to know whom to contact, where they are, and how to create these relationships. Our ministry is for community, and we need to be a community working in partnership with one another. There is no such thing as individual ministry. Serving seafarers in my way means me serving them with the support of all these different organizations.”

A Warm Houston Welcome

The students were very warmly welcomed and well-taken care of by the HISC, local churches, and other port institutions. Drives and suppers were provided by the HISC’s chaplains. Faith Presbyterian, Memorial Drive Presbyterian, the Norwegian Seamen’s Church, Mercy Ships, and St. Alphonsus Catholic Church took turns providing rather lavish lunches, including delicious cultural fare and 28” pizzas. The recently relocated Houston Maritime Museum also opened on a Monday specifically to give the chaplaincy students tours, and the course ended with a ride on the Sam Houston Tour Boat. One of the most special gestures was the HISC’s inviting the students to its 50th-anniversary party on January 31, where they got to enjoy cake, learn the history of the center, and meet many of the people involved in it.

“The industry and the port have always been very supportive of the school,” said Tom Edwards. “Because Houston is one of the largest ports in America by tonnage, I cannot think of a place with more resources to put a school on and expertise available to make available to students.”



Ministry with the Fishing Community

By Pietro Parravano

Chair, AOS-USA Fishing Committee

Half Moon Bay, CA

Marc J. DelMonico, Ph.D., Assistant Director for Certification of Ecclesial Ministry, at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, attended the Apostleship of the Sea -USA (AOS-USA) annual convention held at the AMO facility in Dania Beach, Florida on February 26-28, 2019. The attendees were enlightened by numerous topics which covered many issues emanating from the maritime ministry served by the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS). Dr. DelMonico, focused on the processes and requirements to request approval for certification of chaplains and other lay ecclesia ministers.

Another agenda item featured a focus on the connection between the maritime ministry services offered by AOS and commercial fishing. We have seen an increase in situations that a maritime ministry is needed to assist fishermen and families as they encounter circumstances that alter their ability to pursue their profession of commercial fishing.

Fishermen have a passion for their work. They are proud of the fresh seafood that they provide for us. Yet, they encounter many hardships. We have seen weather events like hurricanes and floods create closures for fishing. We have seen events like oil spills and declining water quality create closures for fishing. Fishing is managed by state and federal government regulations. Sometimes fishing is restricted due to low fish stocks. In some harbors and marinas, fishermen have been displaced by development that restricts the berthing of fishing vessels and the elimination of supply services like ice and haul out facilities.

Whenever fishermen and coastal communities encounter these hardships, there is an elevated risk for the fishermen and their families. Their inability to provide income for their family becomes a looming tragedy. Unfortunately, depression and suicide are common results from these hardships. Maritime ministry offers the values that are needed to heal and comfort. Who do they contact?

Being an established and respected leader in maritime ministry, AOS is in a strategic position to offer ministry services to fishermen. Through outreach and communication to fishermen and their families, AOS can fulfill its mission of offering ministry to mariners. We have read many references to fishing and fishermen in the scriptures. Jesus offered optimism and hope to fishermen because of their faith and devotion. AOS leaders and

chaplains can be in a similar situation of offering optimism and hope to fishermen and their communities.

On the panel for the agenda items addressing the needs for ministry to fishermen were four speakers.

1. Ana Zangroniz University of Florida Sea Grant. Her presentation was on the effects of hurricanes on fishing.
2. Juan Duque. US Coast Guard Marine Safety Examiner. His presentation covered the search and rescue procedures. He highlighted the FishSafe program monitored by the US Coast Guard. This program is required for all commercial fishing vessels. It ensures that the vessels are equipped with proper safety items and communication devices.
3. Vincent Encomio. University of Florida Sea Grant. His presentation was on the effects of red tides and algal blooms on fish.
4. Terri Symonette. Terri's spouse was a commercial fisherman in the Bahamas and now resides in Miami. Unfortunately, her husband has since passed away. Her presentation brought out a personal insight into the life of a spouse of a commercial fisherman. She explained the many challenges, the uncertainty of consistent income and how she was able to raise her family during the absence of her husband. She stressed how her faith kept her hopeful and strong throughout her marriage.



Christ on the Road to Emmaus c. 1725/1730
Gift of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch
Curtesy of National Gallery of Art (Collections)

Fr. James F. Heyd, explores the Cruise Ship Ministry of the Apostleship of the Sea

Reporting on his experience Fr. Jim said "I will be on the Queen Victoria from Southampton to the Canary Islands, visiting Cadiz as well, and Lisbon. I plan to do mission work at each of the ports I visit.... the early missionaries and explorers left from these islands to the Americas...so



The Royal Theatre on levels 2-3 where we had the Christmas Vigil Mass and Christmas Day Mass. Captain Simon Love lead us in Lessons and Carols on Christmas Day. here. We had about 250 people attend the Christmas Vigil Mass

there is much Catholic history". There is a definite ministry going on in the high seas, and I believe, our team work is essential to see things grow. Evangelization does take place on these ships and in ports, and just like in the Roman Empire, the Lord has given us this means of transportation to spread the gospel and to care for souls".

Along with the other chaplain, Rev. John Von Heisen, I would say we had a visible and positive presence on board the ship. There were about

20 people for daily Mass and they formed their own little community for daily prayer. I was able to provide them with the Magnificat Books for their daily prayer. This is given complimentary by Magnificat. For Christmas day, I was able to provide a gift for each participant: a very nice Miraculous Medal, which everyone eagerly took. It is a nice keepsake for Christmas and I appreciate the generosity of those who provided these medals free of charge, friends from the Archdiocese of Chicago. Also, I brought along other reading materials. I did my usual engagement with the ship's crew: I always try to encourage and support them by listening to their stories and being present to them, especially at meal times.

I provided the religious services requested practically each

day, except for the day after Christmas when I did not find myself on the list of daily activities. We had a very active praying community who insisted in having daily Mass.

We visited many wonderful places on this cruise, many sites that have religious importance. Lisbon is a city full of rich religious history with many churches, as well as Cadiz. The Canary Islands were centers of evangelization for the Western world. For the religiously-minded traveler or cruise-goer, there was much to encounter. I often referred to these places and their religious history in my homilies and talks and while socializing with people. All of this enriched our overall time together.

I hope and pray that our maritime ministry will be blessed by God and will receive the necessary graces to continue the work.

A message from Fr. James, Chaplain, on the Queen Victoria to Luke Chinyadza, Sailor, on the Queen Victoria, going from Southampton to the Canary Islands. "The question is, how can we utilize these experiences to not only offer ministry to serve people on the ships, but also advance the spread of the gospel on shore?"



Welcome aboard AOS Pastoral Team

Raymond Fontenot
Assistant Director Seafarers Center
150 Marine St. Box 10
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Fr. Roy Kalayil
AOS Chaplain
Port of Corpus Christi
1109 N. Staple Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Gary J. Vrazel
Apostleship of the Sea - Mobile
PO Box 1588
Mobile, AL 36633



Mass supplies which were in the storage area.. We had all the necessary supplies..

2019 MARITIME DAY MASS

In observance of the National Day of Prayer and
Remembrance for mariners and people of the sea

Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 12:10 p.m.

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
(Crypt Church)
400 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC 20017-1566
(located near Metro Red Line—Brookland CUA)

For more information or to RSVP, please contact:
Jokereke@usccb.org or 202-541-3359

Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill

Bishop Promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS)
Principal Celebrant and Homilist



Sponsored by the National Office of the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS).
For more information, call 202.541.3225 or visit www.usccb.org/aos

All are welcome



Apostleship of the Sea, National Office
Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church
Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers
3211 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20017

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Upcoming Events

MAY 19, 2019

Mass of Prayer and Remembrance for
Mariners and People of the Sea
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate
Conception
Washington, DC

MAY 22, 2019

National Maritime Day Celebration
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington DC

AUGUST 13-16, 2019

NAMMA Annual Conference
Charleston, SC
<http://namma.org/conference-2019/>

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

Feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea

NOVEMBER 11, 2019

AOS Breakfast with the Bishops
Baltimore, MD